



## Graduate Student Association Meeting

Friday, December 8, 2023

### AGENDA

Start of meeting 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of the Agenda - Adopted

Attendance: Shenese Patterson, Clivens Fresnel, Desiray Slaughter, Julia Lange, Cinnamon Morris, Katherine Miromonti, Layla DuBose, Lisa Michael, Donald "DJ" Hardwick, Navya Mehta, Veroncia Golden, Itoko Kobayash, Dominique Parke. Guests: Joseph Todicro, Dr. Miller (GSA Liaison), Dr. Floss (GSA Faculty Advisor)

- III. Approval of November 10, 2023, GSA Meeting Minutes
- IV. Remarks of the President, Shenese Patterson
  - a. Meeting with Interim President – 12/07
  - b. Planning for Spring 2023: Schedule Committee Meetings and GSA Executive Board
- V. Remarks of the GSA Administrative Liaison, Dr. Kevin Miller, Director, Graduate Studies
  - a. Graduate Advisory Committee – participation – Senator Michael will represent at next graduate advisor meeting
  - b. New president to start summer 2024 - Dr. Chance Glenn
  - c. Merit-Based applications – open
  - d. Eligibility Criteria reviewed and available on GSA website
  - e. Submission Deadline:
    - i. All materials must be submitted online by February 9, 2024.
  - f. Graduate Student Research Fair & Capstone Contest – planning
- VI. Remarks of Vice President of Finance, Clivens Fresnel
  - a. Presentation of the Budget plan – The plan is based on VP Fresnel's review of the GSA budget for the past 5 years. The plan was shared with Budget Committee members. All expressed support for plan.
  - b. Budget Plan unanimously approved to serve as a guide for budget expenditures.
    - i. See Budget Plan document for details.
    - ii. The plan is to, as much as possible, spend out current carry over funds over a 5-year period. This would equate to 20% each of the next 5 years.
  - c. Discussion of Proposed Changes to the GSA Constitution:
    - i. Adjust Academic Line allocation from 90% to 85%.
    - ii. Adjust Student Welfare Line allocation from 10% to 15%.
    - iii. Remove specific mention of a \$3,000 funding limit, reducing confusion. The yearly limit will still be set by GSA.
    - iv. Purpose is to maintain a balance in the amount of the average of the previous 2 years of GSA Fee Revenue to spend out should GSA Fees in the event GSA fees are not approved. Currently fee is voted on every 2 years.



- v. Consensus reached in support of advancing the proposed changes in the form of an amendment.
  - vi. Next step is to draft an amendment to the GSA Constitution to present at the next GSA meeting. If amendment is approved by Senate, it will be presented to all graduate students for the opportunity to provide comment and feedback to their School GSA Senators. The amendment vote is anticipated to occur at the March GSA meeting.
  - vii. The impact will be additional funding for graduate students, sponsoring of professional development workshops, and support for existing student organizations to partner/collaborate with GSA on events.
  - viii. Merit Scholarships last year received \$1,200 if FT and \$700 if PT. The number of scholarships to offer is yet to be determined.
- VII. Remarks of Executive Vice President, Julia Lange - Julia will attempt to meet with Dr. Miller next week.
- VIII. Remarks of Vice President of Administration, Desiray Slaughter
- a. Planning Committee update
  - b. Spring 2024 Planning: Winter Break Overview, Availability, and Group Chat Setup - Reviewing and Reviving Successful GSA Events
  - c. GSA Possible Events
  - d. Past Participation has varied over the years from 25-50 participants.
  - e. Cinnamon asked to set up a meeting with the Planning committee.
  - f. Committee Volunteers: Desiray, Lisa. Cinnamon, Katherine, Dominique, Joe, Shenese, Dr. Miller
  - g. Dr. Miller expressed willingness to check companies in the Seneca Tower if determined appropriate for a PD topic.
- IX. New Business
- a. Additional VP position? Vision of the Constitution for the Spring 2024
  - b. Remarks/Thoughts from Senators – constituent questions/comments
  - c. Fall Semester Round-Up
  - d. Other
- X. Closing Comment
- XI. GSA Senate Meeting Reminder: February 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., March 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., April 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., May 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.: Graduate Student Research Fair & 3-Minute Capstone Contest Finals
- XII. Adjournment at 6:42pm