

GSA General Body Meeting

November 13, 2020

Conducted via Zoom

Present: Dr. Kevin Miller, Dr. Frederick Floss, Amiyah King, Jessica Trainor, Sartu Abdukadir, Michelle Merrill, Senator Matt Burch, Senator Katlyn Keane, Senator Erica Seymour

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM.
- II. Icebreaker Activity
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Michelle motions to accept the agenda; Jess accepts.
- IV. Reports
 - A. President's Report
 1. Invitation to all graduate students to get involved in campus committees, Dare to Care; Office of Student Health Affairs
 2. "Gab with Grads" Overview
 - a) First Gab with Grads will be 11/19 at 6pm with Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Gordon and focuses on restorative justice.
 - b) The forum will begin with playing the privilege game, then Drs. Rodriguez and Gordon will speak for ~20-30 minutes. Discussion (possibly in breakout rooms) will follow.
 3. Amiyah would like the GSA to participate in a holiday or charity event or fundraiser before the end of the year.
 - a) Not planning a new event, just facilitating or partnering
 - b) Michelle, Jess, and Erica will reach out to inquire about possible partners.
 - B. Executive Vice President's Report
 1. Future Gab with Grads
 - a) Next event will be focused on "crucial conversations"

b) Dr. Miller will reach out to Dr. Zientek to see if she is interested in speaking.

c) Jess, Erica, Katlyn, and Sartu will organize.

(1) Next flyers should have a short description of the event's focus.

C. Vice President for Finance's Report

1. The GSA has purchased a Zoom account. This will allow the GSA to hold longer meetings and use more features; we also will not have to regularly use the Graduate School's Zoom account.

a) Possibility of recording meetings in the future for transparency

b) Also possible that individual GSA members could request to use the account for school seminars or gatherings, but that will be explored further in the future as necessary

D. Vice President for Administration's Report

1. The E-Board has discussed needing a Social Media committee. For Gab with Grads and other events the GSA will need social media "blasts" and we need an established set of people willing to post.

a) Katlyn -- Facebook

b) Michelle -- Instagram

c) Sartu -- Twitter

2. Social Media usernames will be added to the current and future Gab with Grads flyers. The GSA will be using the hashtag #gabwithgrads.

E. Senator Reports

1. Concern over the tone of the information being sent out about COVID-19 testing. Dr. Miller indicated that any concerns can be directed toward him; testing is mandatory and not something that the GSA or the university has much control over.

2. Lighting on campus, particularly by the tech building, is poor or non-existent. This is a concern, especially for graduate students whose classes are still being held on campus and are held at night.

- a) MAP van should be available -- Dr. Miller will look into it and make sure it is where it needs to be.
- b) Campus safety can be requested as well.
- c) Dr. Floss will raise the possibility of installing new lights in areas of highest need.

F. Dean's Report

1. GSA Fee for the Spring 2021 semester needs to be decided upon. Last semester, the E-Board made an executive decision to cut the fee in half due the half-online semester and financial concerns amid the pandemic.
 - a) UGS kept fees at "full price" in the fall.
 - b) Michelle motions to keep the fee at 50% its usual amount. Jess seconds.
 - (1) Discussion -- not waiving the fee could be seen as tone-deaf during a time of financial constraint. Waiving the fee could set a precedent for no GSA fee; the full price fee is very reasonable to begin with.
 - (2) Vote -- 6 yeas, 1 nay. The fee will remain at 50% in Spring 2021.
2. Focuses for Spring 2021
 - a) The GSA should have a representative at the advisory council. Schedules are busy; Amiyah will attend the upcoming Tuesday meeting and we will revisit it in the spring.
 - b) SUNY-wide funding concerns -- Graduate assistantships, GEOP, and SUNY diversity fellows are expected to take a hit financially. Suggestion to look at the GSA constitution and see if the GSA could sponsor a few students (2-3) who would normally receive funding from one of the above organizations.
 - c) Planning the Graduate Research Fair and Capstone Competition will be a priority. The GSA will need to decide what platform(s) to use and how to generate interest. Funding should not be an issue given the remote nature of the events.

V. Closing Comments

- A. Marnie will be asked to resend the information about the upcoming Gab with Grads to all graduate students.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Jess makes a motion to adjourn. Katlyn accepts.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.