

## **GSA General Body Meeting**

December 11, 2020

*Conducted via Zoom*

**Present:** Dr. Kevin Miller, Dr. Frederick Floss, Amiyah King, Jessica Trainor, Sartu Abdukadir, Michelle Merrill, Katlyn Keane, Eric Gersbacher

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Meeting was called to order at 5:33pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Icebreaker Activity
- V. Officer Reports
  - A. President's Report
    1. Gab with Grads Highlight
      - a) Dr. Gordon did an excellent job.
      - b) Amiyah played a 2-minute clip of the privilege game
      - c) All those in attendance thought the interactive piece was great
      - d) Next topics are grant writing, crucial conversations, and interview skills
    2. Update on COVID testing emails
      - a) Testing is still mandated, but the college will "loosen" the language
      - b) If any student feels overwhelmed or is unable to get tested, the GSA can direct them to Dr. Gordon
    3. Update on outdoor lighting
      - a) Dr. Conway-Turner is looking into installing new lighting in the spring when the ground thaws, but until then she is looking into getting a MAP van for necessary locations
      - b) Dr. Floss brought up the issue with labor management and they did a walkthrough of the areas in need of lights

4. Update on Senator projects

- a) Amiyah loved that Erica brought up an issue related to her major; would like senators to start thinking about conferences/sessions directly related to the school they support

B. Executive Vice President's Report

1. Update on Gab with Grads (future)

- a) Most of the E-Board met today with Denise from the Career Development Center
  - (1) very productive; the E-Board loved her energy
  - (2) We are anticipating scheduling her for March -- she may get an employer to speak with her
  - (3) She is willing to help us out with April and either find someone else to speak or speak on a different topic
    - (a) Dr. Zintec is likely out until the very end of the semester if at all -- Dr. Miller will reach out.
  - (4) Agreed to a recorded session -- this will allow us to post the session
- b) The forum for February is set
  - (1) Grant writing
  - (2) The executive director and grant director at Jess' place of employment agreed to speak
  - (3) Both agreed to a recorded session
- c) Holiday charity event
  - (1) Checked with the International Institute -- it is very likely we will be able to set something up. Waiting to hear back about drop offs/drop box locations and a list of needed ideas.
  - (2) If we cannot set up a "charity drive" with an organization, the GSA can always encourage its members to donate throughout the winter season.
  - (3) Will be finalized over the weekend either way

C. Vice President of Finance's Report

1. Update on GSA Fee
  - a) As per last meeting, the GSA will ask for 50% of the "regular" fee, just like the Fall 2020 semester
2. Update on available GSA Merit-based scholarships
  - a) Accepting applications until 2/12 at 5pm
  - b) Offering 4 part-time and 6 full-time scholarships
  - c) Dr. Miller needs a formal document about the number of scholarships offered by Tuesday morning
3. Logistics about Zoom conferences
  - a) Will try to get a feel next semester about how many people would actually use the GSA account next semester and will present when there is more information

D. Vice President of Administration's Report

1. Update on Social Media
  - a) Will increase the use of social media with the next Gab with Grads forums -- especially since they are lined up and scheduled

E. Senator Reports

1. Senator Keane
  - a) Apologizes for not posting the first Gab with Grads to Facebook (log-in error)
  - b) Not much to report since we are fully remote
  - c) Attended the Sustainability Committee meeting -- if anyone else wants to and is able to attend, Dr. Gordon encourages that someone from the GSA attend

F. Dean's Report

1. Dr. Miller needs someone to come to the Graduate Advisory Committee – Jess and Michelle will try to pop in
2. Jess will send information about Gab with Grads and Sartu will send information about scholarships

3. SUNY is likely going to lose a significant amount of money due to financial constraint
  - a) SUNY is only authorizing about 25% of normal SUNY funding, which will affect GEOP and the graduate school diversity fellowships
    - (1) There may be some money for GEOP students
    - (2) Reduction in some GA positions
    - (3) Buffalo State likely will not have any new graduate diversity fellows and we need to figure out if we can do anything for those students
  - b) Funding for graduate students for the 2021-22 academic year will not be at the usual level and if we want to advocate for keeping funding if possible, we should send an inquiry to Dr. Miller sooner rather than later
    - (1) Dr. Floss offered to meet with the GSA and eventually legislatures
    - (2) Encouraged the GSA to think of a student who exemplifies the benefits of GEOP
    - (3) The budget will probably come out the second week of January
  - c) Expansion of GSA Digital Footprint & Accessibility
    - (1) Discussed the possibility of creating a YouTube and/or TikTok account to house forums and recorded meetings, as well as increase student engagement
    - (2) A Buffalo State-affiliated account would need to follow and meet certain parameters
      - (a) Drs. Miller and Floss could speak with the Communication and iTech Departments

## VI. Closing Comments

### A. Eric wants to create and finalize an advocacy committee

1. Amiyah will email him and talk about dates

VII. Adjournments

A. Michelle motions to adjourn; Jess seconds

B. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm