

## **GSA General Body Meeting**

February 12, 2021

*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, Christina Reich, Mariana Pavic, Robbie Spofford, Sharnelle, Shaniah

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.
- II. Icebreaker Activity
- III. Approval of the Agenda
  - A. Jess motions to accept the agenda; Sartu seconds.
- IV. Reports
  - A. President's Report
    1. Gab with Grads Updates
      - a) We would like to encourage attendance at our upcoming Gab with Grads (February 18th). Amiyah is requesting that all GSA E-Board members and senators attend and promote the event throughout the week.
      - b) The E-Board will edit the Zoom link so that the same one can be used multiple times and posted on the website/social media.
    2. Advocacy Committee
      - a) The Advocacy Committee works with Dr. Floss to advocate for funding and works with elected officials. The GSA needs representation at these meetings.
      - b) Amiyah would like a point person from the GSA to attend the meetings and regularly respond to Dr. Floss. Erica volunteered; Amiyah encouraged others to volunteer if possible.
    3. Semester Goals

a) Due to the nature of the semester, it is imperative that graduate students feel as though they have resources on campus. We need to encourage outreach and communication among graduate students.

(1) New attendees were directed toward today's meeting through the GSA email (which is encouraging).

b) Amiyah inquired about forming a stronger relationship with the undergraduate student government (USG). The USG has a solid foundation for outreach and events, and that would benefit the GSA.

(1) Mariana indicated that a relationship with her graduate peers while she was an undergraduate student would have benefitted her and increased her connection to the school. Even if students enter the workforce after graduation, they may still be more likely to return to Buffalo State for an eventual graduate program.

(2) Katlyn inquired as to whether the USG could help with outreach if they are a space for undergraduates and we are a space for graduate students. Amiyah clarified that her vision is for more of an internal connection, but perhaps with one event for both sets of students.

(3) Erica suggested the idea of a mentorship program -- there are many undergraduate students who are unaware of what a graduate program entails.

(4) Michelle suggested that it could be a group/school-based mentor/mentee program. Instead of one individual person paired with another, a person or group of people could work with undergraduate students from their school.

(5) Sharnelle suggested a monthly meeting with graduate and undergraduate students to share experiences and form a community.

(6) Dr. Miller already goes into undergraduate classes -- but he agrees that a partnership with current graduate students would be beneficial. He will bring this idea to the Graduate Student Advisory Council on Tuesday. If students are interested, they should email him.

B. Executive Vice President's Report

1. Research Fair Updates

- a) Screen recording instructions have been sent to Dr. Miller.
- b) Dr. Miller will work on scheduling a meeting with the library, Jess and Michelle work on attending.

2. Capstone Competition Updates

- a) Screen recording instructions have been sent to Dr. Miller. Screencastify and Screencast-o-Matic would work for the Capstone Competition due to the three minute time limit.
- b) Dr. Miller has started to set up a judging panel from faculty and outside members. The option for a "People's Choice Award" is still on the table for after the formal judging has taken place. The final products will be housed on Digital Commons.

C. Vice President for Finance's Report

1. Scholarship updates

- a) 33 applicants for the GSA Scholarship as of today. Results will be coming out soon as the application is closing today.

2. Zoom conference set-up updates

- a) With the new Zoom account, the GSA will be able to allow graduate students to use the GSA Zoom pro account. If students are interested, they can email Sartu.

D. Vice President for Administration's Report

1. Gab with Grads outreach updates

- a) Encouraged members to share posts and follow the GSA accounts.
- b) Information has been posted about the upcoming Gab with Grads meeting that can be shared.

2. Social media committee updates
  - a) Encouraged students to follow accounts and share information as necessary.
  - b) Facebook and Twitter accounts need updating.
3. Zoom account
  - a) Sartu agreed that her information can be shared as a point of contact on GSA social media accounts.

#### E. Senator Reports

1. Question was brought up about graduate students paying health and technical fees while 100% remote
  - a) Dr. Miller indicated that there is an exception for health fees if you are in an approved 100% remote program; all other fees still apply.
2. Mariana is very impressed with the quality of remote learning and the professors she has had the experience with.

#### F. Dean's Report

1. The website is fully updated with new links for Gab with Grads under the "Getting Involved" heading.
2. Dr. Miller will be advocating for additional funding for graduate students. Nearly all of the existing graduate assistantships have been secured for the 2021-22 academic year.
3. COVID-19 pool testing times have been adjusted to meet the needs of graduate students.
4. New E-Board elections will need to be set up between March 22nd-March 23rd. Interested candidates can contact the current E-Board and/or Dr. Miller.

#### V. Closing Comments

- A. Katlyn shared that Ibram X. Kendi is speaking with the Equity and Campus Diversity Office next Monday and there are still some spots available.

#### VI. Adjournment

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