

# Graduate Student Association Meeting

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## *Minutes*

February 14, 2013 – Bacon 115 – 7:15 pm

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Jacquie Schneegold</b> <b>Valjeta Ahmeti</b> <b>Hanne Bratsberg</b> <b>Jeff SaintDic</b> <b>Roxanne Roland</b> <b>Justin Nagy</b> <b>Kristopher Moseley</b> <b>Ashley Lanning</b> <b>Leah Dreier</b> <b>Kristy Bigouette</b> <b>Charles Mays</b> <b>Ray Bakos – Via Telephone</b>	

**CALL TO ORDER:** President of GSA Jacquie Schneegold called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda was approved.

**ADOPTON OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 6, 2012 GSA meeting were approved as distributed with two minor changes. Senator Dreier moved and Senator Bigouette seconded.

**PRESIDENTS REMARKS:**

***President Schneegold:*** I would like to take a minute and point out the great turn out of the meeting today. Thank you all for being here and making a difference for the graduate students at Buffalo State. I would also like to remind all of you to get the word out about GSA and encourage your peers to be a part of it. Elections are coming up and we want to encourage students from every department to get involved in the process.

***Remarks of the Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey:*** I would like to start out by saying that we are the only stand-alone GSA in the SUNY system. This has been three years in the making and a big moment for Buffalo State. It has taken a lot of work and effort to shape it to where it is now. As many of you might know, running a senate is not easy and I encourage you to support the e-board. The meetings will be run by the Robert's Rules of Order. Things will make their way into the agenda, it just will not happen as fast as we assume.

***Treasurer Report:*** Jeff SaintDic updated everyone that the budget as of today, February 14, 2013 is \$2,362.08. The reason we do not have the full amount is because a lot of students have yet to pay their tuition. Also, the GSA received their first request for funding to a conference in March. A lot of detail was missing from the request, but we will still try and fund some aspect of this conference. We should add more detail to our constitution – Article 3, Section 2. Funding part of the requester's conference is fair due to the budget we are working with.

**Discussion:**

**Senator Dreier** – It might be a good idea to put a template of the questions on ANGEL.

**Treasurer SaintDic** – We want them to have more than questions to answer. I would say information to bring back for their peers/department. Not fund them to go and vacation.

**Senator Dreier** – Also, they can have learning outcome information.

**Treasurer SaintDic** – A good thing to create and it would serve as insurance to Graduate School funding that they actually went.

**Vice President Bratsberg** – The person who already submitted a request, the treasurer is unsure of how much funding he should receive due to the lack of information provided and our current budget. He did not specifically say that he will be presenting at the conference.

**Senator Mays** – A person in my department asked me and I thought it was ok for him to apply for funding. So, we need to go over the constitution again and re-tune it. By attending the conference, this individual will expand professionally. Therefore, some funding should go to that person.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – The senate does not decide who gets funding, the e-board does. The senate can revise the constitution if they feel the need to. The e-board tonight is asking for feedback, but ultimately it is their decision. I am just making a point of clarification.

**Senator Roland** – In my office, we have a step by step process and go based on a rating system. Ultimately, the chair has the final decision.

**President Schneegold** – We decided to bring this up to the senate today because the constitution vaguely points out that presenting and such are a priority over someone just attending a conference. We are thinking ahead and preparing to accommodate requests we receive.

**Senator Bakos** – I am currently at a conference and it does get very costly. With the limited budget we have, we should prioritize people that present and focus on registration cost and not travel so much.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – Questions and comments should be e-mailed and the senate should look into exploring committees for budget allocation.

**Senator Mays** – I make a motion to develop an exploratory committee (budget allocation committee) to fine tune the document in our by-laws.

- Motion was moved by Senator Bigouette and Seconded by Senator Dreier

**President Schneegold** – Senator Mays is now the chair of the budget allocation committee. In our last meeting, Senator Dreier came up with the suggestion to have a toast masters club for our graduate students.

**Senator Dreier** – Explained that we should take the time to think it over as there needs to be at least 20 people and we need to figure out the funding. Who will fund this, etc.. will be a topic for the next meeting. There was also a power point distributed to the senators and e-board about toast masters.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – A student welfare committee should be established for things of this nature that might help graduate students. It is something great that students will benefit from.

**President Schneegold** – Is there a motion to start a student welfare committee?

- Motioned by Senator Mays and seconded by Senator Moseley

Is there a motion to start a bus pass committee?

- There was no motion and the issue is on a list for future motion.

*New Business:*

**President Schneegold** - Is there a motion to start a budget allocation committee?

- Motioned by Senator Nagy and seconded by Senator Bakos.

A letter was written up to send to the college senate. In the letter, it states to change the by-laws so that graduate students are allowed to have a voice in the college senate, instead of USG giving us two seats. Motion to officially be recognized in the college senate by sending this letter and hoping the by-laws will change.

- All in favor

*Constituent Questions:*

**Senator Mays** – Who can sit on the committees?

**President Schneegold** – Anyone can be part of the committee, but it has to be chaired by a senator.

**Senator Moseley** – How was the rate of \$2.22 established?

**Vice President Bratsberg** – We wanted to start low as it is the first time GSA has been established. We did not want to overwhelm the students and this can be revised and changed.

*Adjournment:*