

Graduate Student Association
November Business Meeting

Friday, November 17, 2017

Location: Tech 160

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14222

- I. Call to Order: 5:35 PM
- II. Roll Call: President Murphy, VP Ramos, Senator Shebule, Dean Miller; quorum not met.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
- V. Public Comment
- VI. New Business
 - a. Executive Board Reports
 - i. President
 1. I have been busy brainstorming ideas for our current agenda, and the upcoming transition that will be occurring quicker than we think. I was able to discuss a variety of issues with President Conway-Turner. The first includes the idea of collaborations between community organizations and our students, giving participants real world knowledge and experience in areas pertaining to their program. President Conway-Turner liked the idea and is going to explore possible opportunities for our constituents and notify me of any leads during our next meeting. I was able to follow-up with Dr. Conway-Turner on the possibility of granting our Graduate Community access to the campus fitness center with an optional billing option on our student bills. She expressed interest in expanding this opportunity to the graduate community and will follow-up when information becomes available. Lastly, I was able to meet with Rene Bonilla regarding joining our Senate earlier this week and was very impressed by what she brought to the table and her demeanor. I hope later in the meeting you will help me welcome her into the organization by confirming appointment.
 - ii. Executive Vice President
 1. registration for the Graduate Research Fair is open (<https://buffalostate.wufoo.com/forms/graduate-research-fair-thesis-contest-2018/>) and she is going to be meeting with Marnie in the beginning of January to conduct all necessary planning. I will be making myself available to her and hope to see members of the Executive Board and the Senate join us in making sure we put on a successful event.
 - iii. Vice President for Administration

1. The position of Vice President for Administration will be vacated at the end of the semester. If you are aware of any individual with interest in getting involved, please have them email gradstudentassoc@buffalostate.edu.
- iv. Vice President for Finance
 1. The following chart accounts for the to date expenditures for this academic year. A more comprehensive report will be made available as numbers are finalized:

Date	School	Purpose	Funds Requested	Awarded
9/13/2017	Biology	Research	3,540.52	50% - 100% out of \$1,500
10/11/2017	English	Conference Presentation	856	50% - 100%
10/13/2017	Higher Education & Student Affairs	Conference Presentation	225	50% - 100%
10/20/2017	Higher Education Administration	Conference Attendance	799	30% - 50%
10/20/2017	English	Conference Presentation	809	30% - 50%
10/20/2017	English	Conference Attendance	400	50% - 100%
11/9/2017	English	Conference Attendance	1,218.56	30% - 50%
11/11/2017	English	Conference Attendance	788	30% - 50%
11/13/2017	English	Conference Attendance	478	30% - 50%

- b. Advisor's Reports (Dr. Miller)
 - i. The GSA has been most successful in the past by partaking in outreach activities. Representatives need to go speak directly to students to share the work of the GSA, and promote its events and what the organization offers.
 - ii. In response to a question about the campus fee structure, Dr. Miller also explained the differentiation between undergraduate and graduate fee structures.
- c. Appointment of Rene Bonilla as Senator for the School of the Arts and Humanities
 - i. Due to lack of quorum, an e-vote will be administered to the Senate.
- d. Discussion on Congressional Tax Reform
 - i. The proposed House GOP Tax Bill is a potential threat to the cost of graduate education, particularly for our out of state students. The language of the bill would allow tuition waivers awarded to Graduate Assistants to become taxable income. This increase tax burden could result in further barriers to graduate education. The discussion evolved to how the GSA can take positions on issues that go beyond the tax bill. Ultimately, an official GSA position was not attainable due to lack of quorum, but it was encouraged that representatives and fellow students contact their Congressional Representative to voice their personal opinion on the tax bill.
- e. GSA Apparel
 - i. It has been determined that this is a logistical challenge for the GSA to accomplish due to time and funding constraints. Instead, the idea will be rolled out to department chairs.
- f. GSA Student Satisfaction Survey Design
 - i. Prior to the creation of a formal survey, the content needs to be determined. Due to the lack of time available to GSA Representatives at the end of the semester, this initiative will be explored by the Executive Board over winter break, with a presentation made to the Senate at our first meeting of the spring semester.

VII. Closing Comments

VIII. Adjournment: 6:12 PM