

GSA 11-07-14 meeting minutes for approval.

●GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)●
MEETING MINUTES
November 07, 2014●Ketchum Hall, Room 219

Welcome: **President Gustafson** called the meeting to order at 5:58p.m.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the 10/17/14 meeting were approved unanimously.

Remarks of the President: **President Gustafson** had no remarks, at this time.

Remarks of the Administrative Liaison: **Dean Kevin Railey** was unable to attend the meeting, and therefore had no remarks.

Remarks of the Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Andrew Nicholls** was unable to attend the meeting, and therefore had no remarks.

Treasurer Report: **Treasurer Tomion** gave the following report:

- Current Balance From 10/03/14: US\$51,428.11
- Funding Requests:
 - Solina Krickovich (Speech-Language Pathology) - \$800.00 – adjusted amount due to other funding being granted (non-GSA) – less \$177.00 from originally granted amount.
 - Ashley Weselak (English Ed.)
 - i. Requested: \$654.00
 - ii. Granted: \$490.88
 - iii. National Council of Teachers of English
 - 1. Participating
 - iv. Met 3 criteria (not presenting)
 - Chelsey Nabo (English Ed.)
 - v. Requested: \$544.20
 - vi. Granted: \$408.15
 - vii. National Council of Teachers of English
 - 1. Participating
 - viii. Met 3 criteria (not presenting)
 - Vanessa Ludwig (English Ed.)
 - ix. Requested: \$818.22
 - x. Granted: \$613.66
 - xi. National Council of Teachers of English
 - 1. Attending
 - xii. Met 3 criteria (not presenting)
 - xiii. Provided adequate materials to be approved for funding. This group of English Ed. students are all attending a conference together, but submitted separate and adequate requests. None was granted full funding, as they are not presenting, only attending.

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- Pending Requests:
 - Brittany Mazurkiewicz (Higher Ed.) - \$2,955 – MBTI training.
 - Alexis Mikulski (Math Ed.) - \$576 – Math Teachers Conference.
 - Kaitlyn Gardner (Early Childhood Ed.) - \$4,019 – Service learning trip to the Dominican Republic.
- The report concluded, **Treasurer Tomion** brought to the senate's attention the nature of Brittany Mazurkiewicz's request, since she is applying for funds to receive an MBTI certification. His concern is that the amount of money she is asking for is a lot, since most of it goes toward the certification. He asked her for more specific information, since she did not supply him with a detailed account of how her certification would help the Buffalo State community. **Vice-President Lanning** opined that if the GSA grants her request, it could potentially lead to other people requesting funds to do things other than attending conferences. **Senator McCormick** interjected that if Ms. Mazurkiewicz can offer a plausible explanation that links the certification to her graduate studies, then perhaps her request could be considered. **President Gustafson** agreed, and said this is a great opportunity for us to draw the line about funding requests. After some more pertinent discussion on the matter, **Treasurer Tomion** thanked everybody for their input, and remarked that situations such as this are the reason we need to revise the funding criteria, so that it clearly stipulates the types of activities people can request funds for. He also concurred that if the student in question is able to draw a direct correlation to something she is going to be doing research on, then he would be more than willing to consider her request.

Committee Reports:

- **Student Welfare Committee (Standing Committee). Chair: Senator Danielle Morgera:** Reported that since the email communication was sent out to the graduate student population, she has received four messages from people who are interested in joining the committee. **Senator Morgera** made a reference to the fact that this committee was charged with changing the Constitution, and inquired as to the procedure to follow in order to make any amendments to the document. **President Gustafson** replied that the committee has the authority to make a motion, which does not need to be seconded since it comes directly from the committee. The motion would still come to the senate, and we would still have to vote on it; once it passes, it goes out to the general graduate population, which would have at least a week to comment on it. Once this period is finished, we discuss it again as a body, and then we vote on it one last time. If it passes for a second time, as far as everything is concerned, the Constitution is amended. **Senator Morgera** offered next that she would bring a proposed amendment to the next meeting. She also brought up the fact that graduate students have had two ongoing requests for the past several years; they want to acquire bus passes, as well as free access to the Fitness Center. These requests have been denied time and again, and she would like to know what the procedure to follow is in order to obtain these things. **President Gustafson** answered that the very first thing to do is to push it through us, the GSA, as a motion, and that both requests would eventually go to two separate entities on campus. The Fitness Center request would go to Athletics, to Director Jerry Boyes and Assistant Director Tom Koller, to make the decision. Bus passes is a somewhat trickier topic at the moment, since they are not currently managed by a specific person. **President Gustafson** also suggested that the

proposal be brought to the College Senate, via the Student Welfare Committee, in order to get their support as well. It can also be brought to the Parking and Transportation Committee, to see what their thoughts/concerns are. The Fitness Center proposal can also be brought to the Intercollegiate Athletics Board, which would include faculty, staff, and students as well. The idea is to have the support of as many committees as possible, since that would make the proposal more solid, with the support of students, faculty, and administration. **Treasurer Tomion** expressed his desire to be part of the committee, since he would like speaking to people about getting access to the fitness center. **President Gustafson** informed the senate that the same type of email that was sent out inviting people to join this committee, would also be sent for the other standing and ad-hoc committees.

- **Budget Allocation and Policy Committee (Standing Committee). Chair: Senator Sam Yuwar:** **Senator Yuwar** was unable to attend the meeting, and therefore had no report to give.
- **Rules for Replacement Committee (Ad-Hoc Committee). Chair: Senator Jaclyn Phillips:** Reported that research on the matter of creating rules for replacement is still being conducted. She has amassed more information since the last meeting, and would be making a proposal soon.
- **Additional/Alternative Meetings Exploration Committee (Ad-Hoc Committee). Chair: Senator Ashley Perez:** Reported her previous findings and conclusions on the matter of finding an appropriate platform to be used in order to hold the additional GSA meeting each month. Her recommendation is that we keep meeting in person, twice a month, as it was first stipulated, since there are no fitting online platforms that support our needs. **President Gustafson** asked if there was any discussion on this report, and seeing none, officially dissolved this ad-hoc committee.
- **Funding Criteria Revision Committee (Ad-Hoc Committee). Chair: Senator Danielle Morgera:** Reported that she has been going over the funding criteria, and that she would bring a proposal soon, after meeting with constituent Emmanuel Abreu, who during the last meeting expressed an interest to be a part of this committee. **Treasurer Tomion** remarked again the importance of going forward with the work charged to this committee, since the GSA is receiving a large amount of funding requests, and the criteria needs to be written in a clearer manner, in order to be fair. **Senator Morgera** opined that since we are receiving so many funding requests, perhaps the different departments could try to grant funding to their students, instead of forwarding all requests to the GSA. **Treasurer Tomion** replied that this is a conversation he had with Margaret Letzelter, and that she informed him that the departments do not really have much money. **President Gustafson** opined that each department should contact us, as a body, before they refer all funding requests to us.

Old Business:

- **Open Senate Seats: President Gustafson** reminded the senate of the motion that was passed during the 10/03/14 meeting, which stated that the current Graduate Student Association Senate be allowed to bring possible nominees to run for the open Senate positions by this meeting, 11/07/14. There are currently two vacant seats for the School of Arts and Humanities, and one vacant seat for the School of the Professions. During the last meeting, 10/17/14, English M.A. students Christina Housler and Oscar Budde gave their brief platforms and expressed their interest in running for the position. Since no more people have expressed any interest, the nominations were put up for a vote, via secret ballot, and **Christina Housler** and

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Oscar Budde were officially selected, through a unanimous vote in both cases, as the new Senators for the School of Arts and Humanities.

- **Mass Electronic Communication to Graduate Student Population on Joining Different Committees: President Gustafson** informed the senate that this is being done, through the Graduate School, and that the email messages being sent out specifically announce the name of the committee, the name of the student senator who chairs it, and invite people to join if they wish. **Senator Morgera** mentioned again that four people had already contacted her about joining the Student Welfare Committee, and suggested that the other Chairs also send out a generic/standard email thanking people for their interest, and informing them about the functions of the committee.
- **Establishment of By-Laws (Tabled item from 10/03/14): President Gustafson** asked if anyone had any interest in removing this item off the table. After seeing none, the item remained tabled.
- **Social Media Committee (Tabled item from 10/03/14): Senator Housler** made a motion to remove the item off the table, and bring it under discussion. **Senator Morgera** seconded the motion. **President Gustafson** put it to a vote, and the motion passed unanimously. **Senator Housler** expressed her desire to become the Chair of this committee, and requested that the GSA's social media information be forwarded to her. **Secretary Creech** commented that perhaps now that the committee has a Chair, we could request that the Graduate School come up with a rotating schedule for people to post regularly. Both **Vice-President Lanning** and **Secretary Creech** joined the committee. After some more pertinent discussion on the nature of posts, **Treasurer Tomion** nominated **Senator Housler** to be the Chair of the Social Media Committee. **Senator Morgera** seconded the motion. **President Gustafson** called for discussion, and after seeing none, put the nomination to a vote. The nomination passed unanimously.
- **Graduate Scholarship Advertising: President Gustafson** shared the scholarship flyer made by the Graduate School, and expressed her opinion that it seems too wordy. The members of the Executive Board had agreed with this observation, and asked **Secretary Creech** to create another flyer, using only the essential information needed in order for students to know of the scholarship's existence, and to get them to click on a link should they feel compelled to know more. **President Gustafson** shared the new flyer, and said that it clearly showcases the fact that the scholarship opportunity is coming from the GSA. She stated as well that this flyer could be printed out and pasted in news/bulletin boards all over campus, as well as being sent out in an email to the graduate student population, with a link to the GSA's website. After discussing the new flyer, the senate agreed that it was acceptable as it was, with two suggestions: **Senator Budde** proposed that we make a QR Code for it, and **Senator Phillips** recommended that the date on the flyer be changed from "second Friday of the spring semester" to a specific date.
- **Concerns Over Parking (Tabled item from 10/17/14): President Gustafson** asked if anyone had any interest in removing this item off the table. After seeing none, the item remained tabled.
- **President Conway-Turner's Request: President Gustafson** asked if anyone had the chance to speak to their Constituents about suggestions of other graduate programs that could be offered by the school. **Vice-President Lanning** said that her Constituents are interested in a Master of Business Administration program.

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Treasurer Tomion suggested that the TeachLive Virtual Classroom program be better advertised, and made more readily accessible to all students, since not a lot of people on campus know of its existence.

- **Graduate Housing: President Gustafson** explained that Residence Life is overburdened with work at the moment, and have not gotten around to providing the required information to her HEA 650 graduate class yet. She said that they are hoping to start speaking to people in the upcoming week, and that hopefully by the end of the semester they will have an executive summary as their project. Once this is put together, she will bring it to the body for discussion.
- **Constitutional Amendments: President Gustafson** addressed the proposed Constitutional amendments that were sent out to the graduate student population on 10/15/14, and asked if anyone had received any comments/questions from their constituents. Seeing none, **President Gustafson** moved to finalize these amendments:
 - **Amendment #1:**
Under Article X, Section 1, Subsection c. will read:
c. All meetings will be held according to Robert's Rules of Order.
 - **Amendment #2:**
Under Article IX, Section 2, Subsection a. will read:
a. This committee will review constituent questions and/or concerns regarding funding requests and/or funding decisions made by the Treasurer. This committee will also assist the Treasurer in making any funding decisions we s/he requests their assistance.

Next, **President Gustafson** moved the approval of these amendments to a vote, and both passed unanimously. Both amendments are now officially part of the Constitution.

New Business:

- **Written Committee Reports: Secretary Creech** requested that each Chair of the different committees bring a typed report, in order to simplify the process of writing the minutes for each meeting. Everyone was in agreement that this would be advantageous, and it was agreed that each committee chair would start bringing written reports to every meeting.
- **Graduate Student Association Website: Senator Morgera** added this item to the agenda, and expressed her concern about the fact that the old GSA website is still up and running. **Vice-President Lanning** projected the webpage, and after further investigation, the senate realized that perhaps campus officials are not aware that the "About" section on the website still provides a link to the old website. **President Gustafson** said she will contact the webmasters at Buffalo State and will ask them to fix the problem.

Constituent Comments/Questions:

- There were no constituent comments, at this time.

Adjournment: at 7:17p.m.

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Attendance:

Present:

*Andrea Gustafson – President
Ashley Lanning – Vice-President
Trevor Tomion – Treasurer
Stacy Creech – Secretary
Oscar Budde – Senator
Christina Housler – Senator
Sheneika Latty - Senator
Sean McCormick – Senator
Danielle Morgera – Senator-at-Large
Ashley Perez – Senator
Jaclyn Phillips – Senator*

Absent:

Sam Yuwar - Senator

Excused:

*Dean Kevin Railey – Adm. Liaison
Dr. Andrew Nicholls – Faculty Advisor*

Next Meeting: 21 November 2014.