

Graduate Student Association
September Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 29, 2017

Location: Tech 160

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14222

- I. Call to Order: 5:39 PM
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Representatives: President Murphy, Vice President Nelson, Treasurer Ramos, Secretary Mendelson, Senator Ellis, Senator Nadrowski, Senator Regulier, Senator Shebule, Senator Dupree, Senator Mazur, and Advisor Nichols.
 - b. Absent: Senator Lucantoni
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
- V. Public Comment
- VI. New Business
 - a. Executive Board Reports
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer
 - b. Advisor's Reports
 - c. Robert's Rules Training
 - d. Constitutional Amendments
 - i. Article IV, Section 3, A
 - 1. Senators question why expenditures are proposed to be reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000. CFO Ramos stated that we have to do a better job at managing the budget.
 - ii. Article IV, Section 3, C
 - iii. Article IV, Section 3, E
 - 1. International travel limited to Master's projects brought forth discussion. It was determined by the Senators that it would be better to use the word "preferred" so we do not limit Study Abroad opportunities. Outgoing Treasurer Chelsea Kettle explained the rationale behind the above particular clause as it was a result of a policy created during her tenure. The change was made in the clause.
 - 2. Senator Rugulier recommended that the Treasurer consider matching applicant funds raised by the applicant.
 - iv. Article IV, Section 3, F
 - v. Article V, Section 4

1. President Murphy proposed a system to appoint Senators into the GSA if their department was not represented. Missing Senators inhibit advocacy efforts. This received unanimous support from the Senators.
- vi. Article VI, Section 1, B, C, & D
 1. To professionalize the organization, members of the Executive Board updated the titles for their positions. Vice President was proposed as Executive Vice President, Treasurer was proposed as Vice President for Finance, and Secretary was proposed as Vice President for Administration. Senators supported the proposed changes.
- vii. Article VI, Section 3, B
 1. President Murphy explained this amendment was simply a function of Roberts Rules and was needed because the previous Constitution gave the President voting rights on all GSA committees.
- viii. Article VI, Section 4
- ix. Article VI, Section 5
 - x. Article VI, Section 5, A
 - xi. Article VI, Section 6
 - xii. Article VII, Section 2, A & B
 - xiii. Article IX, Section 3, A
- e. Advocacy Strategy
 - i. President Murphy discussed the importance of being an advocate for Buffalo State's nearly 1,000 graduate students. Senator Dupree discussed the potential for advocacy efforts for undergraduates.
 - ii. Senator Rugulier suggested GSA representatives go into classes or to create a promotional video. Dr. Nichols suggested talking to the Deans of each school for approval, and to discuss speaking in classes with department chairs if that approval was acquired.
- f. Social Media Liaison
 - i. President Murphy sought out a Senator who would volunteer to be the GSA social media manager. No volunteer came forward. Dr. Nichols indicated that undergraduates are not a focus of the GSA and that numerous mechanisms for undergraduate advocacy are present across the campus.
- g. Event Planning Session
 - i. GSA representatives are invited to Coles on October 27 immediately following the GSA October Business Meeting to network with Graduate School alums. The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 and the President Murphy ensured that all students would who wished to attend would have the opportunity and that the agenda would be short. The cost is \$15.
 - ii. Vice President Nelson informed the group of an event that she was planning for early November. The location is tentatively planned for Pearl Street, but is subject to change. President Murphy shared that Dr. Miller recommended setting up a tour of the Olmstead Complex and finishing the event with a Networking Hour at the Hotel Henry.
 - iii. Other ideas proposed included ice skating at Canalside and other outdoor events in the Greater Buffalo area that were family friendly and would help bring different programs together. President Murphy encouraged all members of the GSA to organize one event. In doing so, this legislation would be the most successful GSA in terms of student engagement ever.
- h. Discussion of a Naming a GSA Speaker of the Senate
 - i. President Murphy discussed the possibility of naming a Speaker of the Senate to serve as an ex officio member of the Executive Board. Dr. Nichols suggested that before doing this to speak to Marnie and Dr. Miller to ensure it is allowed within the GSA Constitution. President Murphy did not believe a Constitutional amendment would be necessary and will follow-up with Dr. Miller prior to the October Business Meeting.
- i. Apparel Discussion

- i. Senators approved of the idea of a GSA uniform. It was decided that polos would be best for our purposes. Dr. Nichols encouraged a discussion be had with Dr. Miller prior to utilizing the GSA logo on apparel. President Murphy will discuss it during his October meeting with Dr. Miller and Marnie before determining a course of action.

VII. Closing Comments

- i. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM