

# Graduate Student Association Meeting

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## *Minutes*

March 14, 2013 – Butler 208 – 6:15 pm

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Jacque Schneegold</b> <b>Valjeta Ahmeti</b> <b>Hanne Bratsberg</b> <b>Jeff SaintDic</b> <b>Roxanne Roland</b> <b>Kristopher Moseley</b> <b>Leah Dreier</b> <b>Kristy Bigouette</b> <b>Charles Mays</b> <b>Roy Bakos – Via Telephone</b>	<b>James Lutz</b> <b>Justin Nagy – Excused</b>

**CALL TO ORDER:** President of GSA Jacque Schneegold called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

**ADOPTON OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 14, 2013 GSA meeting were approved as distributed with two minor changes. Senator Bigouette moved and Senator Bakos seconded.

**PRESIDENTS REMARKS:**

***President Schneegold:*** I would like to say thank you to all of you who attended tonight's meeting. We will follow up with the absent senators. 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. We would like for you to encourage your peers to be a part of it as a lot of us are graduating in May. If the students have personal or individualized questions, we encourage them to e-mail us directly.

***Remarks of the Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey:*** I would like to start off by saying that the hard work of the GSA rests on new members taking over. I encourage you to keep spreading the word because this is huge for Buffalo State; you are leaving behind a huge stand. I would also like to invite you all to dinner on April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm. It is the signature event for graduate school.

***Treasurer Report:*** Jeff SaintDic updated everyone that the budget as of today, March 14, 2013 is \$13, 328.82. Funding requests have been coming in and we have approved 5 students to receive money thus far.

**Discussion:**

**Senator Bakos**– Who is looking at the funding requests coming in?

**Treasurer SaintDic** – I do initially and follow the guidelines accordingly and then it goes to Dr. Railey.

**Senator Bakos** – Can someone apply for funding after they have attended a conference?

**Treasurer SaintDic** – We are taking applications before along with documentation attached. We will reimburse the students for the expense.

**Senator Bakos**– Just to clarify, the request has to come first.

**President Schneegold** – As of right now, yes. That is stated in our constitution.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – We have to have some sort of guideline because the main focus is for the students to present at these conferences. Even if we have money left over, our goal is still to fund those presenting and then down the line form that. It is still a process for us and we will not know how much money we have until we build and grow. All peers are encouraged to send in requests they think are fair.

**Senator Bakos** – Does the \$13,000 affect the budget the graduate school has for graduate students?

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – No

**Senator Bakos** – Do we want to say \$3,000 is our 0 point to pass from semester to semester?

**Vice President Bratsberg** – Charles has a committee for this and come up with the guidelines

**Senator at Large Roland** – What is the difference between funding a student before and after their trip?

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – We can discuss going back through the applications and reimbursing the students for the full amount if we have money left over and if it is a good idea.

### **Committee Reports**

**President Schneegold** – Does anyone have reports for us?

**Senator Dreier** – I have reached out to the people who wanted to join my committee and they have not responded. I went to the University of Buffalo toast masters, my suggestions were not welcomed. The organization itself is very structured. I would like to make our own structure and hopefully those interested students will get back to me.

**Senator May** – I do not have a report because there was a conflict with the schedules of the people interested in my committee. I will have a written report by the next meeting.

**Vice President Bratsberg** – When you write up the repost, Charles make sure to be clear on the money moving over from left over funds, reimbursement, and going back to review people who requested money.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey-** To make a point of clarification, committee reports are automatic motions during the new business section of the meeting. Your concerns can officially go in that section.

**President Schneegold** – It is important to set a time limit for when people did go on the trip.

**Treasurer SaintDic** – We might need different forms for them because they will be handing in different documents.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – Right now, we do don't have standing committees but we can in the future.

### **Old Business:**

**President Schneegold** – As of right now, we still do not have a gym membership committee

**Senator Mosley** – I will take that. I should have some updates by next week because it is something people want. Senators Saint Dic and Mays will also help out.

**Treasurer Saint Dic** – Make sure to hand out flyers for funding request

**Senator Mosley** – We can have business cards with QR codes that link to the GSA website.

**Senator at Large** – As far as nominations, do we nominate someone or how does that work?

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – Both, but ultimately they have to put themselves up and the student body votes.

**Senator Dreier** – Can we send follow up e-mails to the people running hat are interested, even though they do not get elected.

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – They can always be a part of the committees because a big part of the process is done by the committee members.

### **New Business**

**President Schneegold** – We have not received any nomination forms as of yet.

**Senator Bakos** – I motions to formulate a blue print committee. A committee that will set up standing committees in order to clarify rules for the future.

**President Schneegold** – That sounds like the committee senator Mays is handling.

**Senator Bakos** – A committee to make sure is this committee good, etc. It will be good to look at our role in the future.

**Senator at Large Roland** – Is there a way to make a proposal for this to be brought up at the next meeting with more information?

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey** – I see what you have articulated, a business process committee. I might suggest that we have articulated central themes.

**Senator Bakos** – I make a motion to amend career committee, constitution, and a communication committee, all as permanent committees.

**President Schneegold** – Are there any questions?

**Senator Mays** – I would like to amend that motion and add a budget committee and have the treasurer be an automatic member

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey-** Constitution and budget committee are essentially the same. So, those questions will be addressed in the constitution committee.

**President Schneegold** – I agree

**Senator Mays** – I withdraw the proposed amendment.

**Senator Moseley** – Should we also have a committee that overlooks committees to make sure they are flowing well?

**Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey-** That will go through student welfare committee

**Senator Mosley** – Should that be a permanent committee?

**Senator Bakos** – I accept it as a change to my motion as the fourth committee

- Senator Mays moved and Senator Mosley seconded

### **New Business**

**Vice President Bratsberg** – We had a meeting with Vice President Payne and the following were discussed:

- More full-time students at Buff State the last few years. Most likely to increase
- Plus more grad students who want to connect with our campus and other grad students
- How to get the part-time students more involved/connected?
- USG does parliamentary training during the summer for their meeting
- Focus on undergrads that served as leaders as they are transitioning into grad school
- Will we fund different organizations under each school? We explained that our primary focus is on conferences!
- More social events so that grad students know we are here for them

**Adjournment:** 7:37 pm.