

# Graduate Student Association Meeting

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## Minutes

Friday, March 7th, 2014

Bacon Hall 225

5:30 pm

Present	Absent
Dinash Lal Siraj Bah Andrea Gustafson Emmanuel Abreu Ashley Lanning Dr. Kevin Railey	Thomas Waters John MacInnes Kaitlyn Marie Gardner Jimmy Doran Sharmin Jimenez Muhammed Sumbundu Paul Perez

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President of GSA Siraj Bah called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda was not approved.

**ADOPTON OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from Friday, February 7th, 2014 GSA meeting were all not approved.

### REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT:

**Vice President Siraj Bah:** Welcome senators and everyone to the meeting. Told them President Thomas Waters running late to the meeting also thanks everyone who show up to the Graduate Student Night.

**REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON:** Despite current issues or difficulties (low turn for Grad Student Night), remember the progress accomplished thus far and what will be achieved in the near future with Graduate Research Fair, etc. Remember that the Graduate Student Association is the students and you – the more you talk about it with your peers and your teachers, the better the word will get out. Having a GSA is a significant accomplishment in and of itself. Can it grow – certainly but know that you are greatly appreciated for all the work you do.

### TREASURER REPORT:

1. Recent Expenses:
  - A. Graduate Student Night – \$ 247.80 (estimated, invoice has not been received).

- B. Copies - \$ 6.25 to advertise for Graduate Student Night.  
Total Expenses: \$ 254.05

2. Review of recent approved funding requests:

- a. School of the Professions – \$ 1,183 (3 requests).
- b. School of Natural & Social Sciences - \$100 (1 request).
- c. School of Education – one request. Denied due to failing to meet any of the GSA funding criteria (1 request)
- d. School of Arts & Humanities – \$ 1000.00 (1 request).

3. Current GSA balance approximately, \$40,608.12 (as of 3/06/14). Total funding excluded current report: \$14,092 among 32 students since the establishment of the GSA; \$6,865 last year among 15 students; this year – Arts & Humanities \$4,400, Education \$3,716; NSS \$3,300, SOP \$2,600

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Public Relations and Marketing – (absent) – no report provided

Student Wellness Committee: Reported by Senator Ashley Lanning:

**Graduate Research Fair:** 13 students registered (1 Art Education, 6 Biology, 4 MPA, 2 unknown program). Books and SAMC lobby confirmed; Chartwells contacted for food; please help pass out flyers to peers and faculty. Students who have already made posters – should they get refunded? As long as they have receipt and participate, we can. Advertisements have been placed on campus calendar, Digital Signage and Daily. Senators are to let Dr. Railey know if off campus participants should be personally invited. Ashley will be getting balloons for the Fair. Dinash will email E-board and Senators about order pens and a separate email about sending Ashley ideas about creating a "grad student community".

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Expressed disappointment about turn out and considered possible solutions for on-going events including: regular social events sponsored by GSA (weekly or biweekly) and other ideas, different space, different day of the week, collaborate with other social organizations

- Get the word out about GSA during New Student Orientation
- Involve the Alumni Association
- Focus around sporting events/movie nights
- Suggestion for Wellness Committee – have a Graduate Student Night off campus (perhaps collaborate with GASPA – Andrew Lidowsky)
- Dinash will email E-board and Senators about order pens and a separate email about sending Ashley ideas about creating a "grad student community".

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Graduate Research Fair
- GSA Elections
  - College Senate – process has been sent to President Waters
    - Same time as E-board election, electronic format, notify chair of college senate, chair of election and by-laws,

- Executive board
- Senator positions
  - Mechanism in place to replace senators based on when/if someone resigns – to discuss at next meeting
- Scholarship committee:
  - Addressed changes to current proposal. Finalizing monetary piece and will be sent out. Still working on it to make it perfect.
  - Motion to amend the Constitution to read: ***Section 6: The GSA may use funds from the fee to establish and maintain a scholarship award for SUNY Buffalo State graduate students.***
    - Motion made public to graduate student population 3/20/14
    - Anyone who is going to vote must be involved in conversation
  - Concern – process and review committee – must consider all possibilities of challenges
    - Review committee to be committee from GSA but having trouble getting people involved with GSA
    - Need to guarantee process is going to work well – what do you do if it doesn't work – back up plan. “If these processes don't happen, allow the Graduate Dean or Graduate Advisory Council have decision power.”
  - Option: contingent on the committee being formed each semester “If by this date, the judgment of the GSA scholarship goes to the GAC”
    - Perhaps GSA is not involved in the decision – place it on GAC
- Graduate Student Area in the Library – Maureen Lindstrom would like to discuss with GSA the options they would like considered for graduate student lounge
- Chair of Student Welfare Committee – will not advocate for graduate students as he was not able to get graduate student input. This may allow for movement next year.

**CONSTITUENT QUESTIONS:**

**ADJOURNMENT** at 7:25p.m.