

## Graduate Student Association (GSA)

### Meeting Minutes

**November 18, 2016 Ketchum 218**

#### **Call to Order**

##### **Remarks from Guest Speaker (Liz Fronzi, General Manager of Campus Walk):**

Campus Walk is new apartment complex being built on Rockwell and Rees. Complex will feature 2, 3, and 4 bedroom apartments. Each apartment will come equipped with a full kitchen, washer and dryer, each bedroom will have it's own bathroom. Leasing is available now for students, although move in will not take place until August 23, 2017. Leasing options are: \$760 (4br), \$875 (3br), and \$980 (2br) with 12 month lease. Students will be allowed to stay during full school year. There will not be any Residential Assistants, but will have a security system. Buffalo police will make security calls, not Buffalo State College UPD. There will be a roommate matching system in place for students looking for roommates. All additional information available at [www.campuswalkny.com](http://www.campuswalkny.com).

**Remarks from the President: President Shaw:** Daniel stated last meeting went well, and was happy with approval of amendment. Daniel stated he had a meeting with Buffalo State College's (BSC) president. She is pleased with work of GSA and amendment that has passed. Daniel made her aware of the graduate student commons and the concern with not having enough space, and it always used by undergraduate students. The library is still lagging in terms of response, the library is unsure of how to differentiate graduate students from undergraduate students.

**Remarks from Interim Dean Miller:** Dr. Miller stated the development of a new strategic plan for the graduate school. He has had faculty input and is now looking for student input. He stated he is unsure of assessment method: focus group, survey, general meeting. He is not looking to critique programs, but wants to learn more about general experience as a graduate student. Megan Saunders recommended a SWOT analysis with higher education department to develop strategic plan. Dr. Miller's main focus is the analysis process to identify strengths and weaknesses of the organization (internal), Opportunities and threats to organizations (external). Then develop themes. Possible SWOT analysis during first GSA meeting of spring semester.

**Remarks from Dr. Nicholls:** Dr. Nichols apologized for missing previous meetings, but intends to be around in the spring. He stated he has not met the majority of GSA members, explains time as faculty advisor from the beginning of the GSA. He stated he seen major improvements from the start to now. He placed an emphasis on getting things done with the GSA. In a lovely reminder Dr. Nichols stated we are a unique constituency on campus, and also to start thinking more about professional programs. He states we may face challenges with communicating with fellow graduate students since many commute to campus. GSA should communicate to students that they have a voice.

**Remarks from Senator Nelson:** Senator Nelson is looking at social media presence in the Graduate School, and the core issue with promotion of GSA is that Marnie does a lot of promotion through social media, but people forget that it's part of the Graduate School. Creating a GSA website that would be passed on from year to year. Another option would be a tumblr account (more simple to manage). Senator Nelson suggests a video format (informal or formal) to post to website for students. Senator Nelson and Senator Rothschild would come up with questions for video interview and suggest making it an obligation for students to speak about their experience.

**Treasurer Report: Treasurer Kettle:** May 2016 - Present there is \$16,800 dollars in funding and \$4,680 in funding for herself. Treasurer Chelsea Kettle has awarded \$7,800 this semester so far. The GSA scholarship is available only in the spring and explained the amount and requirements. Currently awarded 17/25 people. Treasurer Chelsea spoke on the proposal for the amendment and wanting something more concrete for funding. Students are eligible up until one semester after they have paid the GSA fee.

Amendment proposal is seconded by senator X

Dr. Nichols proposed making the terminology more elastic

Dr. Miller proposed putting it down in writing before voting on it.

UPDATE: Amendment Wording:

Article III, Section 1: All full- and part-time matriculated graduate students at Buffalo State who pay the Graduate Student Fee are members of the GSA.

Article IV, Section 3, Subsection b: Only members of the GSA may submit applications to apply for funding. Any reimbursement of approved funding requests must be processed within one (1) semester after the student has paid the Graduate Student Fee.

**Committee Reports: Social Welfare Committee—absent**

**Committee Reports: Budget and Allocation Committee—absent**

**New Business:**

- 1) Dr. Miller: Committee chairs can forward senators or E-board members issues that they would like to discuss during meeting.
  - a. VP Stumpf: Forwarded information to Social Welfare chair, but received no response.
- 2) President Shaw: Creating more concrete advertisement for merit based scholarship.
  - a. Senator Nielsen volunteered to make flyer.
  - b. Dr. Nichols: Scholarship matching database through financial aid. Each incoming applicant eligible for GSA scholarship. President and Treasurer should meet with person in charge of the scholarship to discuss details.
- 3) President Shaw: Discussion for Blankets for Homeless Buffalo.
- 4) Charity Opportunity: There was a discussion on the founding of the charity and talked to the charity about doing an event. There is an interest in doing something in February and an event in December. There was a proposed suggestion for a collaboration with undergraduate organizations. There was a discussion on a

charity event at a set location (e.g. Coles), to encourage students to drop off canned goods, items, etc. and then stay for event afterwards.

- 5) Senator Nielsen: Stated a meeting with Dr. Durand, unsure of what will come from collaboration. President Shaw stated that Senator Nielsen will be a graduate student representative on CPC.
- 6) Notes from fellow graduate students:
  - a. Printing on campus. No deal for graduate students. Possibly having a printer in graduate lounge, having Bengal Bucks for graduate students so that they start off with money. Dr. Nichols stated to get maintenance involved so that GSA is not responsible for maintaining printer. Derek Jordan stated USG has certain funds to lower price of printing on campus. Undergraduate students have same issue with keeping Bengal Bucks as graduate students since they can use BB off campus. Students can refill BB using machines in the library. OCC has an X number of prints for free, then when students reach that cap they have to pay for pages. Dr. Miller stated to see what deal can be struck percentage wise. 2:9 ration for undergraduates:graduates. Graduate students should be paying 2/9 less. There was the suggestion to have GSA pay for X amount each year or semester to help lower costs for printing.
  - b. The Graduate Assistant(GA) Experience topic was discussed and it was stated that compensation hasn't changed much over the past few decades. Funds do not match cost of living. Students often compare GA opportunities at other institutions and how they differ/are better than BSC. How can students write a proposal to address issue?
    - i. Dr. Miller Stated that GA funds vary from department to department. Dr. Miller suggested to bring up issue about GA funds to match cost of living to BSC President.
    - ii. Dr. Nichols stated that compensation for adjunct has not increased as well and to talk to individual department chairs to see the kinds of grant funding available for GA positions. He advise it will vary a lot across campus.
  - c. Dr. Miller voiced the need for a recruitment strategy for graduate students. To create a larger stipend for GA positions as incentive for students to attend BSC. Suggests to call himself or Dr. Nichols for any questions in regards to GA proposal.

**Closing Remarks from President Shaw:** Stated there are still seats that are not filled in school of Arts and Humanities and Education. There will be a special election held at the beginning of the spring semester to fill seats.

**Movement to Adjourn is seconded. Session has ended.**