

GSSA Assembly Meeting
[2020-9-10] --- [Zoom Conference Call]

- I. Call to Order **6:00pm**
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Guest speakers -
 - A. **Mike Cunningham, call him Mike or Michael. Jennifer and him are the advisors. He's happy to help. Thank you for participating this year because it's crazy right now. Clarify students - undergrads vs. grads. Mike is sticking up for us in meetings etc. PhD students tend to be at the school the longest and masters students are the least represented but make up the biggest group.**
 - B. **Jennifer - the bulk of advising. Processing funding. Through the new OGPS canvas course, she does have office hours in person. Uses 200 Gibson. Any reimbursements - student reimbursements will be online like in the spring. If you got a travel grant, get receipts, checklist, mailing address (to get a check to them!!!!), itemization sheet. Reach out by email if you have any questions.**
 1. **Student recognition in the OGPS newsletter to keep in contact with all the students OGPS covers. Section for highlighting students and postdocs. Jennifer is looking to hear stories from you for nominations! When we know what you're doing, it's easier for us to advocate for you with the administration. Because you are contributing in meaningful ways! If you get a prestigious award, let us know so we can let the community know. DON'T BE AFRAID TO BRAG! ogps@tulane.edu or look on the ogps.tulane.edu website for their personal emails.**
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President - Ron Koshita (rkoshita@tulane.edu)
 1. Welcome to GSSA! (presentation) **see presentation via email and on website**
 - a) Filling Standing Committees: Legislative, Events, Budget **Every rep must be on one committee!**
 2. Introducing GSSA/BMSSA Liaison **International student liaison to ISAB board of OISS Nirasha Thilakaratne is a 3rd year in Physics.**
 - a) Contact Nirasha at: gthilakaratne@tulane.edu
 3. President's Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 am to 12 pm **flexible and can be rearranged if you need. Zoom meeting room ready for anyone to stop by. Can also email ron if you need**
 4. SLA Graduate Studies Committee needs two reps (must be SLA)
 - a) Next meeting on 9/28
 5. Graduate Council needs one more rep (preferably SLA) **chaired by Mike**

- a) Next meeting on 10/14
 - 6. **Please see the google doc spreadsheet to sign up for committees:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PdF_vGlwB6a2btq0RUHOp19MmSqz1nJasCsMOP67Dgc/edit?usp=sharing
 - 7. Fall Meeting Dates: 10/8, 11/5, 11/19
- B. Vice President - Sophie Delsaux (sdelsaux@tulane.edu)
- 1. Three new positions in our eboard **SLA and SSE representatives to act as liaisons between the schools (administration, departments and reps) and the eboard. International student rep (filled by international student) to act as a liaison between OISS and the eboard. You don't have to be a rep to fill the position. Email the eboard if you're interested in any of the positions. Less work for all the positions with more people in the eboard.**
 - 2. No event this semester: how to spend the money? **We have so much money available because of no events**
 - a) Care packages **open for ideas on what to fill it with. Chocolate, gift cards (can be iffy, need to work with Jennifer)**
 - b) **Open for more ideas for spending as well.**
 - c) **Money back to students?????**
 - d) **Events committee will be working on things like this**
 - 3. **We don't know what will be allowed events in the spring. Touch and go situation**
- C. Treasurer
- 1. 2019-2020 Budget Expenses (presentation) **see presentation via email**
 - 2. **There are limits on what events can happen this year. Please see the RSO handbook: <https://lbc.tulane.edu/node/4227>**
 - 3. Need a Treasurer! **We literally cannot allocate money without a treasurer. Amanda will step up to help whoever volunteers.**
- D. Secretary - Amanda Reusch (areusch@tulane.edu)
- 1. Robert's Rules basics **see presentation via email and website**
 - 2. New Website!
 - 3. New attendance **Will be putting in a google doc for all to use sent at each meeting**
 - 4. Please fill out Google Doc for rep info
 - 5. Request \$50 for external hard drive **Motion. Seconded. Approved.**
- V. New Business
- A. GAPSA Senator Report **See Document via email. Rosh Hashanah event, Laptop loaning program, Register to vote, Mindfulness graduate student group from CAPS, seminars for student leaders, student fees discussion, social events meeting**

1. **Since most students aren't using the gym, we shouldn't be having this fee → opt in or opt out option. We should do it now because it's limited now.**
- B. **Grad Council Report Highlighted that Tulane's testing protocol is very aggressive (comparatively). However, there is no hard benchmark for if/when to close school down again. International students have it very difficult this semester. Admin is aware and working to fix problems. Please let eboard know if there are concerns. OGPS ran first year orientation fully on their Canvas page and got great completion rate.**
- C. **Extending Travel Request Deadline for Fall 2020? Motion to extend travel deadline to October 15. Seconded. Approved**
- D. **Discussion on Teaching In-Person vs. Virtual Some departments are doing fully TA-ing in person, some virtual, some hybrid. Gist for what departments are doing.**
 1. **There are grad students who are teaching to undergrads and thus coming in close contact with them. They should be tested a lot more than just once a month - at least twice a month. There should be the option to be tested more often.**
 2. **The University did not go as quickly as an individual student contacting TAs. Supposedly, because they are 6ft away they wouldn't get contacted.**
 3. **The students don't know where to go after the class because no office hours. So departments should be having office hours to take away potential contact there.**
 4. **Student engagement has dropped to zero. They don't want to come onto zoom to interact. So there is a lot of difficulty as to how to deal with that.**

VI. Old Business

- A. **Update on GSSA Donation to University Relief Fund \$21k remaining**

VII. Announcements

- A. **OGPS has a new hire - Lauren Lukkarila. She's the Academic development and resource specialist. She has a lot of experience working with international students. She has individual meetings that you can sign up for on the Canvas page. She also is doing academic workshops and support group discussions. You can see the schedule for these on the OGPS Academic services canvas page as well. Please tell your constituents about this awesome new resource for grad students.**

VIII. Adjournment 7:37pm