

GSSA Assembly Meeting  
[2021-4-29] --- [Zoom Conference Call]

- I. Call to Order **6:08 pm**
- II. Approval of Minutes **no objections, approved as read**
- III. Officer Reports
  - A. President - Paolo Suating ([psuating@tulane.edu](mailto:psuating@tulane.edu))
    1. First meeting run by the new E-Board.
    2. New email addresses for the E-Board members, active after this meeting:
      - a) President: [president.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:president.gssa@tulane.edu)
      - b) Vice President: [vp.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:vp.gssa@tulane.edu)
      - c) Treasurer: [treasurer.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:treasurer.gssa@tulane.edu)
      - d) Secretary: [secretary.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:secretary.gssa@tulane.edu)

**Working on emails for SLA and SSE reps**

3. Working on creating a new need-based award.
  - a) Waiting for more details from Student Affairs.

**Coming from reserve fund (previous allocated to us but unused)  
6 individuals over the summer  
the point is to supplement the income over the summer while  
researching/writing**

**Details TBD:**

- **Who will be eligible**
  - **Who will do the selections? Not GSSA**
4. GAPSA resolution/change to constitution passed: need to fill in empty seats on GAPSA Executive Council

**New resolution for fair representation of graduate and professional students on GAPSA eboard -- covers 9 divisions**

**Change: "no 2 divisions shall hold all seats on eboard" + at least two members must be ma/phd or professional**

**Problem: no Phd/ma students are stepping up to fulfill this new resolution for fair representation**

**WE NEED TO FILL 2 positions! Uptown vice prez and downtown vice prez.**

**If you are interested:**

- **Job details on GAPSA website**
- **<https://gapsa.tulane.edu/content/executive-council>**

**B. Vice President - Anika Tabassum ([atabassum@tulane.edu](mailto:atabassum@tulane.edu))**

1. Crawfish fest boil happened -thanks to Sophie!
2. Sophie and I are working together for the end of the semester rep appreciation event.
  - a) Tentative date - May 28th ,2021 6 pm
    - i) **2 hours**
    - ii) **Date scheduled on wavesync application**
  - b) Budget needs to be asked- \$3000

Problem: **don't have quorum (only 26 people)**

**Discussion of possible options**

1. **Suspend rules for quorum today**
2. **Vote by email**
3. **Call another email**

**Motion to suspend rule for quorum ONLY FOR TODAY - 2nded - approved**

**Motion to fund the #3000 rep appreciation event - 2nded - approved !**

- c) Venue TBD
  - d) We will need sober volunteer for it
  - e) Event committee meeting once it gets approved
3. GAPSA needs sober volunteer for their event- please sign in

**C. Treasurer - Nirasha Thilakaratne ([gthilakaratne@tulane.edu](mailto:gthilakaratne@tulane.edu))**

1. Fall travel form now open - Deadline August 15th
2. **Find the form here:**
  - a. **<https://gssa.tulane.edu/travel-funding/>**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time/Location</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
Biomedical Engineering/ Bioinnovation	6/4/2021	BME AND BIOINNOVATION GRADUATE STUDENT POST-QUAL CELEBRATION	Dat Dog - 5030 Freret Street	\$250

**For celebrating post-qualifying exams, and department partially funds.**

**Motion - 2nd - approved**

D. Secretary - Alyssa Walker ([awalker11@tulane.edu](mailto:awalker11@tulane.edu))

1. Updates to website
2. Department representative transition reminders
  - a) Membership management
    - (1) Listservs
    - (2) Wavesync
  - b) Basic responsibilities of grad rep - document
  - c) Transitioning your rep :)

E. SLA Rep - Alejandra Castillo ([mcastil4@tulane.edu](mailto:mcastil4@tulane.edu))

1. Please send me an email if you have any updates from your department regarding TA/GSI stipends.

IV. New Business

A. GAPSA Senator Report

**Reminders: need to complete elections!**

**Gapsa social event**

B. Graduate Council Report

- **Everyone on campus is eligible to be vaccinated!**
- **Pregnancy.tulane.edu**
- **Provost created an audit for thinking about centralizing graduate services, e.g., external marketing and "other academic things"**
- **Legacy of the academic year**
  - **Possibility of keeping online classes, still no solid answer**
- **No decisions on whether covid vaccines will be required for everyone**

C. SLA Graduate Studies Committee Report

- **Approved courses for anthropology and dance**
- **International students & case-by-case basis on visas for next year**
- **Loosening restrictions on how many online classes students will take**

D. OISS Liaison Report

- **No updates**

V. Old Business

A. SLA Stipend Raises

1. Solidarity Tulane
2. Tulane Hullabaloo
3. News from Philosophy Department
4. News from other departments?

a) **Nothing happening with master's raises either**

B. Problem in Art History

1. Rep: Michael russo

- **Retroactive change to graduation requirement (independent studies for both this semester and next semester), so students must pay retroactive fees (between \$300-600) and 4+1 must pay full tuition for courses that never happened.**
  - **Flow of info:**
  - **DGS said sign up for Independent studies**
  - **Administration fee \$20/course , but this was expected**
  - **After, the other fees came in that were not expected.**
- **Spoken to DGS and SLA (via Schumacher); request to have the fees removed. Response: fees don't stop one from graduating only from getting diploma**
- **What to do????**
  - **Advice:**
    - **Consult the chair with the schedule of class that was in place when you first started the semester, because they are duty bound to follow that catalogue.**
    - **Paolo will think and send an email to Art History rep.**
  - **Anecdote:**
    - **Physics had a change to catalogue and graduate students were informed and allowed to participate in the decision making progress.**

**Is this happening in any other departments?**

C. Diversity & Inclusion Meeting

1. Building awareness of needs of undergraduate and graduate students
2. Empowering self-advocacy
3. What do they need to do better on the topics of accessibility, ability, and disability within the Tulane framework of equity, inclusion, and diversity?
4. Contacts:
  - a) Goldman Center: [patrick@tulane.edu](mailto:patrick@tulane.edu)
  - b) [shiss@tulane.edu](mailto:shiss@tulane.edu)
  - c) To be included in more information:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedgmf\\_BYbVWQz6xmpoJ-dRstZywnlSkV\\_xRAqXTEu31vrJsA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedgmf_BYbVWQz6xmpoJ-dRstZywnlSkV_xRAqXTEu31vrJsA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

**Motion, 2nded, 6:57 pm.**