

GSSA Assembly Meeting  
[2021-10-7] -- Zoom

- I. Call to Order **6:01 pm**
- II. Approval of Minutes and Adoption of Agenda **approved as read**
- III. Old Business
  - A. Tabled motion: funding of Versatile PhD (OGPS)
    1. Guest Speaker: Briana Mohan (OGPS)

Versatile PhD: <https://versatilephd.com/>

Aurora : <https://beyondprof.com/fl39suhr93m/>

**Notes:** Versatile PhD has been used at Tulane for several years; within the past few years, it was sold and doesn't seem to be as frequently updated or as useful as it was in the past. Primarily, Versatile PhD is a tool for helping PhDs find non-academic careers. There is another product that Dr. Mohan has been researching: Aurora from Beyond Professoriate. It is a bit more expensive (\$5000), and the cost is relative the number of users. It is unknown whether the amount contributed from GSSA (\$1500) would change.

There will be a demonstration of Aurora for faculty, and Dr. Mohan invites graduate students to give feedback. Email her by Monday, October 11th: [bmohan@tulane.edu](mailto:bmohan@tulane.edu)

Q/A

What's the difference?

- Versatile PhD only (??) has any asynchronous content that is text-based. Aurora has many interviews and personal anecdotes, but unless they are frequently updated they are no longer useful.
- Aurora is easier to navigate

What's the company like that owns Aurora?

- Beyond Professoriate has an annual career fair

Are there other opportunities within Tulane for internship recruitment?

- There is a possibility of joining a multi-school career fair, but there has been enduring obstacle (x) that prevents Tulane from participating.

How many people from Tulane typically participate in this sort of program?

- Dr. Mohan will inquire. Somewhere in the low 3-digits over the course of the year.

Are there any strategies in place to make it more accessible to students, or encourage them to use it? besides gssa

- First line: faculty, when they ask
- In class/group workshops and one-on-one meetings
- It's also available via Canvas!

What have we gained during last year by funding it?

- No anecdotes available, only the number mentioned before about low-300s

Question before the Assembly: Given Dr. Mohan's information, does the assembly want to continue to fund Versatile PhD for another year for \$1500?

**Motion passes to extend Versatile PhD for one more year.**

**From the assembly: "If we continue to fund this, let's just make sure our people know about it!"**

**On another note!**

1 more week to apply for 3MT and to apply for a OGPS fellowship. See the newsletters forthcoming or the OGPS Canvas site for more information on how to apply.

Q/A on 3-minute-thesis

What kind of support do contestants receive?

- There is a coaching time (3 hours) with the group, and the coach is available for independent
- Information on 3MT nationwide: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>

B. Tabled motion: Admitting River-Coastal Science and Engineering Department

Notes: This department was recently established as part of SSE. They have 3 current students, and plan to expand to 10 next year, and more the following year. They are paying fees, so in order to access them they need to be part of GSSA.

Motion: Admit to RCSE to GSSA?

- no questions

**Passes! Welcome RCSE!**

#### IV. Officer Reports

A. President - Paolo Suating (president.gssa@tulane.edu)

1. Dates and locations for next meetings

- November 4 – zoom
- December 9 – LBC 203 (Stibbs)
- January 27 – LBC 203 (Stibbs)
- February 24 – LBC 201 (Race)
- March 31 – LBC 203 (Stibbs)
- April 24 – LBC 203 (Stibbs)
- May 19 – LBC 203 (Stibbs)

2. State of the Ida Emergency Fund

The funding application is currently “paused”. Information is coming in a few days regarding this account.

News from one week ago -- from Jennifer O'Brien-Brown -- university did not need any extra funds for the emergency fund; external donors are consistent. If assistance is needed, they'll let us know ahead of time.

Do we have the capacity to do this? Do we have funds? In the short, yes, because we have a reserve account from previous years' leftover money (very difficult to get money out of this account, but can be done). Currently, over \$100,000. If asked to contribute to the Ida Emergency fund, this is where it will come from.

What we need to know: **We cannot use funds from the reserve account unless we have a quorum to vote in an emergency meeting. THIS MAY VERY LIKELY HAPPEN. Please come or send a proxy if an emergency meeting is called!**

Q/A

What's the urgency?

- There are many graduate students in need, and the turn-around time for sending this money to Student Affairs is a couple days (and then there is waiting to hear on individual applications), etc.

If a student has already accepted money from the Ida fund, are they eligible to apply again?

- The question is for Student Affairs or Case Management. Paolo will inquire.

3. SLA Graduate Studies Committee: call for student members

**2 spots! Does not have to be representative, but any member of GSSA**

**Email Paolo or Alyssa if interested.**

[president.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:president.gssa@tulane.edu)

[secretary.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:secretary.gssa@tulane.edu)

4. GSSA Legislative Committee: call for members – need to look into adding language for hybrid meetings

**Specifically for revising the attendance policy, improve the language for what counts as a quorum for voting, and creating language for virtual meetings. Email Paolo if interested! [president.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:president.gssa@tulane.edu)**

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

1. **GSSA Wine and Cheese Mixer**

Date: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

Place: Qatar ballroom, LBC

\*Need eight volunteer/sober monitor for that- event team (please contact with me) and asking other reps too. Without sober monitors cannot have that.

**Notes: In the past 300-350 guests. {RSVP coming}**

**Need one sober monitor / 50 graduate students. Need 6 more! Contact Anika if interested!**

**Q/A**

**What are the duties of the sober monitor at the event?**

- **Cannot drink any alcohol, and you keep an eye on folks with intoxication levels by remaining near the bar; inform the cop of any illegal activity, issues.**

**What are the covid 19 policies in place for the event?**

- **The room booked can hold up to 700 people, but we are only allowed to fill it to 350, and masks!**

2. **GSSA Halloween themed trivia**

Tentative place: Cooter Brown's

Date: Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Time: 6-8:30 pm

**Dress code: Halloween costumes encouraged!**

\*Budget which has been allocated for September trivia will be used here

**Notes: 100-200 people expected; 4 sober monitors requested**

### 3. November trivia

Tentative place: Cooter Brown's

Date: ~~Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021~~ **correction: November 18th, 2021**

Time: 6-8:30 pm

Asking fund \$1000

**Funding passed for \$1000**

### 4. First in-person event committee meeting

Date: Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

\*\*\*\*There will be snacks and coffee

\*Please send me your email Id and we need to meet to plan for the rest of the year

C. Treasurer - Nirasha Thilakaratne ([treasurer.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:treasurer.gssa@tulane.edu))

#### 1. Event requests

Event date	Event name	Department	Amount requested
10/29	Physics and Engineering Physics Grad Student Meet and Greet	Physics and Engineering	375
10/28	Department Graduate Meeting	EEB	200
11/05	BME & Bioinnovation Fall BBQ	Biomedical Engineering	500
<del>10/05</del>	<del>ATCG CMB Business Meeting</del>	<del>Cell and Molecular Biology</del>	250
11/05	ATCG CMB Business Meeting	Cell and Molecular Biology	250

Itemized list for physics event

- Event Start Date: Oct 29, 2021  
Event Duration: 1  
Event Location: Audubon Park (on the field near the Gumbel Fountain, across from Tulane) 6500 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, LA, 70118

# of Attendees: 45 total people: 30 grad students, 15 plus-ones of grad students

Use of Funds: 25 pizzas from Dominoes (\$7.99 per pizza) = \$199.75

3 24 packs of soda from Walmart (\$8.78 per pack) = \$26.34

3 18 packs of chips from Walmart (7.78 per pack) = \$23.34

1 24 pack of water from Walmart (\$2.68 per pack) = \$2.26

1 50 pack of paper plates from Walmart (\$2.18 per pack) = \$2.18

Permit to use Audubon Park for a gathering = \$75.00

Extra unknown expenses (i.e. tax, changes in prices) = \$46.13

Itemized list for BME event

Item	Vendor	Price	Number Served	Price/Person	Quantity	Cost	
Pulled Pork	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 14.00	3	\$ 4.67	22	\$ 308.00	price per pound pound
Mac n' Cheese	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 84.00	50	\$ 1.68	1	\$ 84.00	Full pan
Baked Beans	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 84.00	25	\$ 3.36	1	\$ 84.00	Full pan
Ginger Sesame Slav	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 42.00	25	\$ 1.68	1	\$ 42.00	Half Pan
Potato Salad	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 42.00	25	\$ 1.68	1	\$ 42.00	Half Pan
Banna Pudding	Walmart	\$ 42.00	50	\$ 0.84	1	\$ 42.00	Half Pan
Sauce	Blue Oak BBQ	\$ 7.00	25	\$ 0.28	3	\$ 21.00	
Catering Tip	Blue Oak BBQ					\$ 112.14	
Salad Dressing	Walmart	\$ 3.00	15	\$ 0.20	5	\$ 15.00	
Salad	Walmart	\$ 3.50	10	\$ 0.35	7	\$ 24.50	
Bread/Rolls	Walmart	\$ 3.00	12	\$ 0.25	6	\$ 18.00	
Sweet Tea	Walmart	\$ 3.00	16	\$ 0.19	4	\$ 12.00	
Water	Walmart	\$ 3.00	12	\$ 0.25	3	\$ 9.00	
Cups	Walmart	\$ 3.00	30	\$ 0.10	2	\$ 6.00	
Plates	Walmart	\$ 5.00	200	\$ 0.03	1	\$ 5.00	
Napkins	Walmart	\$ 3.00	200	\$ 0.02	1	\$ 3.00	
Silverware	Walmart	\$ 4.00	32	\$ 0.13	3	\$ 12.00	
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 13.99</b>		<b>\$ 839.64</b>	

based off attendance of about 50 people

REQUEST from GSSA : \$500

The department will cover the remaining balannce € \$ 339.64

Motion to vote on events under 250 as a slate? 2nded, passes.

10/28 EEB and 11/5 CMB passes

10/29 Physics passes

11/05 BME passes

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

1. Department totals & rep. requirements
2. Sign-up for the listserv, enroll in Wavesync, check you are listed on the website

V. New Business

A. GAPSA Senator Report

**Notes: Proposal for GAPSA to fund part of TedX at Tulane approved (already funded by other sponsorships, USG, and Library, etc.)**

**Application for TedX at Tulane:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKvDteVyQhI6MSLeSDIxcXCSNCMcGGRaYperKibnRLrBze5w/viewform>

**Strategy for Now – University-wide plan to increase diversity and inclusion. Be on the look out for events from GAPSA and GSSA!**

**Tulane's Communication during Hurricane Ida – overall it seemed graduate students were unsatisfied with the response of the school prior to the storm, but satisfied with how they handled the aftermath.**

**Concerns about communication during Ida? Contact Paolo ([president.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:president.gssa@tulane.edu))**

**GAPSA wants to plan a Fall Mixer – no date set, but please keep an eye out for it!**

- B. Graduate Council Report
- C. SLA Graduate Studies Committee Report
- D. SSE Graduate Studies Committee Report

**Notes: They are announcing the opening of applications for incoming graduate students for Fall 2022 and they are increasing marketing. No elaboration provided.**

- E. OISS Liaison Report

## VI. Old Business

**Computer Science is organizing a colloquium.**

**The motion before the assembly: To include 2 funding requests (for Oct 27th and Nov 3rd)**

**2nded, motion passes, and computer science is allowed to request funds at the emergency meeting**

## VII. Announcements

- A. Call to fill Standing Committees
- B. Call for SSE and SLA representatives

VIII. Adjournment **7:35 pm**