

GSSA Assembly Meeting
Minutes
[2021-12-9] – [LBC 203 - Stibbs]

- I. Call to Order **6:14 pm**
- II. Approval of Minutes and Adoption of Agenda **approved**
- III. Guest Speakers
 - A. Dr. Flint – CAPS
 - Locations**
 - Downtown – 127 Elk Place**
 - building a community in the downtown location!**
 - Uptown**
 1. Same day visits and emergency visits available
 2. Types of counseling available
 - a) Individual
 - b) Couples (all members must be Tulane students)
 - c) Groups
 3. Outreach – **Call CAPS and let them know if you are interested in any sessions or groups! A facilitator will reach out with more information, dates and times, etc.**
 - a) Facilitators have group focuses and workshops are available; e.g., International students, BIPOC students
 - b) Care Coordinator
 - (1) Counseling Center at Tulane has a short-term model (student fees pay for up to 12 sessions per year (July 1-June 30)
 - (a) Sessions do not roll over if not used
 - (2) Care coordinator helps refer to local community providers
 - (a) insurance deductibles/copays/coinsurances will apply
 - c) Virtual Services (all anonymous and 24/7; available on multiple devices)
 - (1) Therapy assistance the Netflix of Mental Health
 - (a) Guided videos on various topics
 - (b) Guided meditations
 - (2) Well-Track
 - (a) explore wellness modules
 - (b) can use with your therapists to select modules that work for you
 - (3) Together-All the Twitter of Mental Health
 - (a) Create an avatar/pseudonym
 - (b) Talk to peers in US and Canada

- (c) Mental health professionals observe activity on the platform
- d) Group Therapy
 - (1) Breathe Mindfulness for graduate students (1x/weekly)
 - (a) different tools and tips for embodied thinking and agency
 - (2) Body Positivity
 - (3) International Students
 - (4) Life after sexual trauma
- 4. Looking for [feedback!](#)

Concerns raised about the recent Hullabaloo article on the state of CAPS and the rate of counselors leaving Tulane Campus Health

- Response from Dr. Flint

- o There are new hires
- o Does not affect the ability to provide care for students
- o Same standard that has always
- o New director: Dr. Lilian Odera

B. GSSA Advisor – Dr. Jennifer O’Brien-Brown

1. Campus Health Promotion

- a) Role was created out of the 2017 climate survey (on sexual health)
- b) A new climate survey is coming! Fill it out! The data is used for good purposes (as above)
- c) Stress Relief Kit – from new Campus Health Promotion Specialist, **Dr. Russel**

2. Events and programming

- a) **Looking for feedback about what kind of events are needed for departments/individuals**
- b) **Bring information to your constituents and bring ideas back to GSSA!**
- c) Or email Jennifer: jobrien@@tulane.edu and her office is Jones Hall 308

3. Changes to travel

- a) **University is moving toward requiring all university-business-related travel (flights only) to be booked through CONCUR – expect it to be in place by January 1st 2022**
www.concursolutions.com/home.asp
 - (1) All normal and some low-cost carriers
 - (2) University wants this because it permits a greater view of where students are (in case of emergency)
 - (3) Benefit: great cancellation/changes policies; dedicated team to help with any issues

- (4) More communication forthcoming.
- b) **Reimbursement is still required;** unless your department is paying on your behalf (work with dept. administrator and advisor if so)
- c) Will this change other processes for GSSA reimbursement? As of now, the answer is not clear, but Jennifer will keep us updated. **Treat all reimbursement packets as usual (with covid policies).**
- d) Concerns about pricing
 - (1) anecdotally, the prices are usually on par
 - (2) If you do find something that is outrageously more or less expensive, REACH OUT TO JENNIFER PRIOR TO BOOKING.**
 - (3) Policies will be discussed by the budget committee and GSSA to see how reimbursement may be affected by the use of Concur.

IV. Officer Reports

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

1. Call for new EBoard for 2022-2023
Voting will take place in the 2nd to last meeting
Get in touch if you want any details about any role!!
2. Call for 2021-2022 Faculty Appreciation Awards
1 from each, SSE and SLA
Accepting nominations! Send a few sentences about Prof. X to Paolo!
Award is given out at the end of the year
Party for the dept of the winners!
3. Legislative committee to meet in early February 2022
If you haven't signed up for a committee yet, please email Paolo!
4. Update on Aurora
Trial period for 2 weeks
Report on its viability as a replacement for VersatilePhD in the January meeting

B. Vice President - Anika Tabassum (vp.gssa@tulane.edu)

Events for the rest of the academic year

1. **Trivia nights:** Tentative venue- Cooter's Brown and time: 6:00- 8:30 pm
 - a) February 3rd,2022
 - b) March 3rd,2022
 - c) April 7th,2022

Proposal to the Assembly: \$1200 each trivia so total of \$3600

Motion seconded

Yes's have it! All trivia for next semester are funded for \$1200 each.

2. **GSSA Bowling Night:**

Tentative date: January 20th, 2022 and time: 06:00-08:30 pm

Tentative venue: Fulton Alley

**Prior to COVID this was an annual GSSA outing.

RSVP up to 125 people

Games and bowling

Rubber shoes or rent \$4/pair (only complimentary for 50-70 shoes)

Concern raised about parking

- manager and Anika are in contact about it, and Anika will let us know

Proposal to the Assembly: \$4000

Motion seconded

Yes's have it! Bowling night funded for \$4000

3. **Mental health/ Yoga and Meditation event:**

Tentative date: March 10th, 2022 and time: 4:00-06:00 pm

Tentative venue: LBC/ Reily Center (Tulane uptown)

Questions

- Has GSSA done an event like this before?
 - Not exactly!
- Who is running this event?
 - Event committee was planning to run the event, but Anika will check with Reily to see
- Do we need a Reily membership to enter?
 - Reily can accommodate all students from Tulane if there is a private event.

Proposal to the Assembly: \$600

Motion seconded

Yes's have it! Mental Health Day funded for \$600

4. **Crawfish boil:**

Tentative date: April 29th, 2022 and time: 05:30pm- 08:30 pm

Tentative venue: Mussafer Quad

Questions

- How is this different from Crawfest?
 - This event is only for GSSA students
 - Non-tulane affiliates can come with a GSSA member

- We can serve alcohol!
- What does the budget cover?
 - Alcohol, food from caterer, and service workers

Proposal to the Assembly: \$18,000

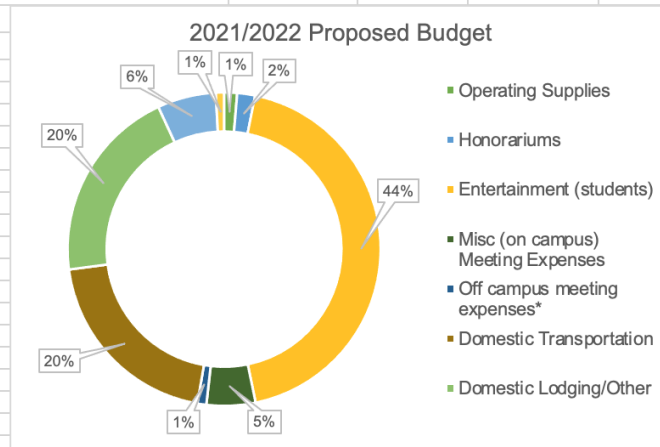
Motion seconded

Yes's have it! Crawfish Boil funded for \$18,000

C. Treasurer - Nirasha Thilakaratne (treasurer.gssa@tulane.edu)

1. GSSA Budget

	Allocation	Expected expense
6211 Operating Supplies	\$1,600.00	
6722 Honorariums	\$2,200.00	
7543 Entertainment (students)	\$51,808	\$ 11,235.00
7522 Misc (on campus) Meeting Expens	\$6,000.00	\$ -
7522 Off campus meeting expenses*	\$1,100.00	\$ -
7532 Domestic Transportation	\$24,000.00	\$ -
7536 Domestic Lodging/Other	\$24,000.00	\$ -
7542 Visiting Professionals	\$7,200.00	\$ -
7842 Prizes and Awards	\$1,000.00	
	\$118,908.00	\$ 11,235.00



Minutes will reflect the changes after event requests from events committee
 ~about 15000 left in entertainment for department/gssa events

Recommendation: please think about all the events you want for next semester and come ready to request at the January meeting!

2. Event Requests

Event date	Event name	Department	Amount requested
Requests under \$250			
12/10	CMB ATCG Business Meeting	Cell & Molecular Biology – GSSA	150
12/17	Downtown Uptown North Shore Neuroscience Krewe (DUNNK) December Meeting: Zadina Lab	Neuroscience – GSSA	100
12/14	Monthly CREEP Meeting	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – GSSA	230
12/15	RCSE GSSA December Meeting	Earth & Environmental Sciences – GSSA	95

Proposal to vote on the requests under \$250 as a slate
 Motion 2nded
 Yes's have it

Fund all requests under \$250
 Motion 2nded
 Yes's have it! All 4 events are approved for their requested funding.

Over \$250 requests			
02/04	CMB Graduate Student Outing	Cell & Molecular Biology – GSSA	325
12/14	Math Grad Student Colloquium Semester Finale	Mathematics – GSSA	350

CMB Graduate Student Outing

A two hour tour of the French Quarter with information on New Orleans history and Supernatural events

Hosted by: Haunted History Tours, 723 St. Peter New Orleans LA, 70016

Expense	Cost
Private Tour Package	\$500
Tax	\$47.25
Tip	\$100
Total	\$647.25

concerns about approval via wavesync; cmb will keep an eye on things.

Proposal to fund the CMB dept.'s event for \$325

Motion 2nded

Yes's have it

Math colloquium

Item	Price per	Amount	Total
From:Milk Bar			
Po Boys	\$54.00	4	\$216.00
Salad	\$9.00	4	\$36.00
Tax and tip			\$50.00
From: Rouses			
Cookies	\$29.99	1	\$29.99
Soda	\$4.00	2	\$8.00
Tax			\$2.00
Contingencies			\$8.01
Total			\$350
Expected Attendance		35 members	
Price per attendee		\$10.00	

Proposal to fund the math dept.'s event for \$350

Motion 2nded

Yes's have it

Secretary - Alyssa Walker (secretary.gssa@tulane.edu)

V. New Business

A. GAPSA Senator Report

GAPSA Senate Meeting 12/7 at 7:00pm

1)GAPSA is organizing a Townhall to express graduate and professional student concerns.

More information to come. If you have concerns about Tulane, your school, department or program, share them with Paolo so he can pass it on to GAPSA. president.gssa@tulane.edu

2)GAPSA is one of the sponsors for Tulane's MLK 2022 Keynote. The speaker will be Maya Wiley and the date will be on January 19, 20 or 21, 2022. More information to come.

Maya Wiley is former Counsel to the Mayor of New York City where she advised the Mayor on legal matters pertaining to City Hall and the Mayor's policy agenda. She was the City's Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise, the lead on broadband access, and liaison to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary. Wiley also oversaw the Commissions on Human Rights and Women's Issues. Prior to being appointed Counsel to the Mayor in 2014, she was founder and president of the Center for Social Inclusion, a policy advocacy organization dedicated to ending racial inequities through structural reform. In addition, Wiley worked for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union National Legal Department, and was Senior Advisor on race and poverty to the Director of U.S. Programs of the Open Society Institute.

[Her take on the recent NYC mayoral election](#)

[Activism after the election](#)

[Transcript from Summit on Racial Justice](#)

[Podcast episode link](#)

Plan to attend the event!

3)GAPSA is planning a social. January 29th

On GAPSA communications

- **Paolo is drafting a letter of concern following the lack of communication/awareness of the differences among graduate student workers that influence how/when we receive communication.**
- **Get in touch if you want to see that draft or want to sign in solidarity!**
- president.gssa@tulane.edu

B. Graduate Council Report

C. SLA Graduate Studies Committee Report

4 course approvals

Discussion still on-going about whether or not a soon-to-be retiree should be able to serve as a dissertation advisor.

D. OISS Liaison Report

VI. Old Business

VII. Announcements

A. **Solidarity Tulane**

What: Grading and Gathering (hosted by Solidarity Tulane)

Where: Dat Dog, Freret St (we have no money, so bring some!)

Rain location: Mojo, Freret St.

When: Friday, December 17th 4-7 pm. Drop by, stay til whenever, rush off!

Find more information at their [website!](#)

VIII. Adjournment **7:39 pm**