

GSSA Assembly Meeting
Minutes
[2022-03-23] – [Zoom]

- I. Call to Order **6:01**
- II. Approval of Minutes and Adoption of Agenda **approved as read**
- III. Officer Reports
 - A. President - Paolo Suating (president.gssa@tulane.edu)
 1. Next meeting in person!

April 21st at LBC – Stibbs 203. Food starts at 5:30 pm! Meeting @ 6!

Last meeting with the new e-board >> please stay tuned for the date/location.

2. Elections coming up (see GSSA website for officer duties)

Questions about the work of any position? Get in contact with any member of the e-board!

Or nominate yourself or another person at our next meeting in April!

***Cannot move on without a new e-board!**

***Can't nominate anyone who is not participating at the meeting**

Duties: *The President shall preside over all meetings of the Assembly and shall appoint all committees and committee chairpersons, with the approval of the Assembly. The President shall represent the Association at ceremonial functions. The President shall act as liaison to the University Administration, the Graduate School, GAPSA and to the Division of Student Affairs. The President shall chair the Awards, Legislative, and Executive committees.*

Duties: *The Vice-President shall act as parliamentarian at the Assembly meetings. The Vice-President shall preside over Assembly meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall chair the Social committee, and organize GSSA Events.*

Duties: *The Treasurer shall administer and keep records of the financial activities of the Assembly. The Treasurer shall be responsible for formulating a budget to be submitted to the GAPSA Finance Board with the approval of the Assembly as part of the annual budget process. The Treasurer shall present and discuss the budget at the introductory meeting of the Assembly. The Treasurer shall chair the Budget committee.*

Duties: *The Secretary shall make public and keep a permanent record of the proceedings of the Assembly meetings, distributing within one (1) week the minutes of said meetings. The Secretary shall have the additional duty of distributing a copy of the Constitution and By-laws at the introductory meeting. The Secretary shall also be in charge of the website and listserv maintenance and maintain the upkeep of the GSSA graduate office.*

3. Recommendations for Faculty Awards due by April 4

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

1. Tomorrow (March 24, 2022) bowling event, 6-8 pm at Fulton Alley

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16i310bREHQZMF-H8FKrX8mWzcHxHU9dv/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115092148741373283605&rtpof=true&sd=true>

RSVP +1s allowed! ^^^

2. Crawfish fest on progress (**April 29th, 2-5 pm**)- **sober monitor needed**

3. SSE career fair proposal : Invited speaker – Ron (PhD student, department of Physics and Engineering Physics)

There was a recent SSE career fair online; it seemed the fair was geared toward academic jobs. They were no visa-sponsoring companies there either.

Desire for SSE career fair that fills these gaps.

Anika in talks with OGPS Briana Mohan and Dean Foster (positive reactions)

How to go forward? Speaker – Ron Koshita

Experience with career coach as an undergraduate; where is this experience for graduates? How can we advocate for it? How can we encourage graduate students to utilize these resources? Tulane has lots of connections; how can we use them to the benefit of the graduating population?

Formal letter drafting in process – any ideas for this process?? >> email Anika

Looking for rep signatures; keep an eye out in your email/next meeting for approval of the letter!

4. Monthly wellness sessions proposal: Invited speaker - Lee O Vaasjo (PhD student, department of Cell and Molecular Biology)

Why we should have regular mental health wellness sessions --

Comprehensive surveys collected at the Brain Institute

- only 3/5 students graduate from the program
- during covid, students passed away; radical effects on the dept.
- issue of student retention
- survey of 45 questions
 - o 67% are working over 40 hours (about national avg)
 - o but only 30% feel they have a good work/life balance
 - o not great representation of training committee and network
 - o 25% dissatisfied with the program
 - o large representation of students felt their mental health needs were not met, and there was a correlation between feeling sufficiently supported and regularly meeting with one's advisor/PI.
 - o conclusion: students need a support system for mental health.

5. Next wellness event on April

Tentative date: 21st/22nd April 2022, tentative time: 3:30-5:30 pm,

Venue: Reily Center

Asking budget of \$200 approved !

Discussion about requesting a rock climbing gym >> Anika will look into it!

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

- Raising the cap for event requests from \$250 to \$300 for votes without detailed budget justification.
- Raising the cap for speaker honoraria from \$200 to \$350.
- Increasing speaker *per diem* from \$85 to \$100.

All three changes pass with over 2/3 majority in favor.

Event Requests

Event Date	Event Name	Department	Amount requested
04/18	Math Grad Student Colloquium	Mathematics	\$100

04/26	Math Grad Student Colloquium	Mathematics	\$100
05/03	Math Grad Student Colloquium - Finale	Mathematics	\$200
04/06	April CGSA Meeting	Chemistry	\$250
03/25	Downtown Uptown North Shore Neuroscience Krewe (DUNNK) Meeting	Neuroscience	\$100
04/08	Brewing Conversations	Anthropology	\$200
04/05	LingLunch	Linguistics	\$91.74
04/12	LingLunch	Linguistics	\$81.77
04/19	LingLunch	Linguistics	\$77.09
04/26	LingLunch	Linguistics	\$91.74
05/03	LingLunch	Linguistics	\$81.77
04/15	ATCG-CMB business meeting	Cell and Molecular	\$160
04/15	Psychology department meet up	Psychology	\$476 -- ~20 / person (budget shared in zoom meeting)

Events under 300 – funded!

Events over 300 – funded!

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

1. Take my position! I'll buy you coffee if you want to chat about what I do as secretary! It consists management of our documents, websites, and assembly attendance; it takes about 1 hr/month outside of the assembly meetings.
 - a) awalker11@tulane.edu

IV. New Business

- A. GAPSA Senator Report
 - 1. GAPSA Elections
 - a) Nominations link at https://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2mGM6OQYKnepCV8
 - b) See <https://gapsa.tulane.edu/content/executive-council> for officer duties
 - 2. GAPSA mixer April 8 at Generations Hall
 - B. Graduate Council Report
 - C. SLA Graduate Studies Committee Report
 - D. SSE Graduate Studies Committee Report
 - E. OISS Liaison Report
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- V. Old Business
 - VI. New Business
 - VII. Announcements
 - VIII. Adjournment **7:27**