

GSSA Assembly Meeting  
Minutes  
[2022-04-21] – [LBC Stibbs 203]

- I. Call to Order **6:04 pm**
- II. Approval of Minutes and Adoption of Agenda **approved as read**
- III. Officer Reports
  - A. President - Paolo Suating ([president.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:president.gssa@tulane.edu))
    1. Elections
      - a) Hand vote method
    2. Opening nominations
      - a) Treasurer → Elizabeth MacDougal **VOTED IN!**
      - b) Secretary → Garrett Bartoletti **VOTED IN!**
      - c) Vice President → Kaillee Coleman **VOTED IN!**
      - d) President → Alyssa Walker **VOTED IN!**
  - B. Vice President - Anika Tabassum ([vp.gssa@tulane.edu](mailto:vp.gssa@tulane.edu))
    1. GSSA second wellness workshop tomorrow at Diboll Studios from 10 am-12 pm

**Yoga session and meditation events**

2. GSSA Crawfish fest on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Mussafer Quad from 05:30- 08:30pm

**RSVP Coming soon! +1 available**

3. SSE graduate career fair draft discussion/sign in (please see the attached)

**Paper copies and signatory sheets passed out during the meeting; drafted letter provided with minutes.**

**Story so far... SSE students have requested career fair; school responded finally with a virtual career fair, but it lacked many of the resources that SSE students desired (e.g., visa-sponsoring companies, and non-academic careers). Thus, a letter has been drafted by Anika to bring attention to the need.**

**REQUEST: Please read, and make comments, suggestions, edits, etc; Sign if you can stand in solidarity on this issue!**

**Question: Can non-SSE folks sign in solidarity?  
ANSWER COMING.**

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

## 1) Budget Overview (2021-2022) and (2022-2023)

- **At the start of the academic year, we allocated \$48,000 for event funding.**
- **As of 4/21, we have spent about \$45500.**
- **Reminder: we do have a reserve fund with a large amount of money (it is just harder to access)**
  - **We can vote to PRE-ALLOCATE money from the reserve to cover any event funding that goes in the red.**
  - **Proposal to the assembly:** Pre-allocate \$3000 from reserve fund for event funding for rest of the year & summer funding
    - **Q: What happens to money in the reserve?**
      - **A. It rolls over.**
    - **Q: How much is in the reserve?**
      - **A: Somewhere over \$100,000**
      - **usually reserved for UNFORSEEN EVENTS; e.g., emergency fund for natural disasters, as was done during Ida.**
    - **Q: How often are there events in the summer? Will ~\$5000 be enough?**
      - **Historically, there are much less because several departments do not fund students through the summer (suggested diagnosis).**
    - **Motion. 2nded. Proposal approved, and \$3000 preallocated.**

## 2) Event Requests

Date of Event	Department	Event name	Detailed Budget	Requested Amount
4/26/22	Linguistics – GSSA	LingLunch		\$91.74
5/3/22	Linguistics – GSSA	LingLunch		\$81.77
5/4/22	Chemistry – GSSA	May CGSA Meeting		\$250
4/29/22	Earth & Environmental Sciences – GSSA	Graduate hangout		\$250
4/28/22	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – GSSA	CREEP		\$230
4/28/22	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – GSSA	Graduation regalia event	Graduation regalia for 3 of our graduating seniors	\$550
6/10/22	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering – GSSA	Graduate Students' socials	Sandwiches and drinks from jimmy johns for up to 39 persons	\$300
4/29/22	Philosophy – GSSA	End-of-Semester Celebration	Food and drinks from Fresco (pizza, salad, pasta, dessert, soda)	\$300
4/23/22	Neuroscience – GSSA	Neuroscience PhD Student Social	Pizza, salad, and cookies from Theo's Pizza	\$425
5/7/22	Mathematics – GSSA	Math End of the Year Boil	Approx 70 lbs of crawfish = \$210 Fixings- veggies, spices, corn, sausage = \$90	\$300

### Event Funding:

**\*\*Try to convince your department to use their purchase card for events, for which GSSA can reimburse the department (faster), and individual graduate students do not need to bear the cost. Plus, tax free!**

Heard from each department about their funding request, and what they intend to use the money for.

Unable to fund EEB 4/28 event to purchase graduation regalia for senior department. Every year this comes up, and the response is obstinate. Complications 1) GAPSA (parent-org) requires any funds for regalia, etc. must be approved through their finance committee for an approved budget for that individual school. 2) Response from bureaucracy - Funds that come from student fees cannot be used for personal costs (which regalia falls under).

**Q: Can we buy the regalia FOR THE DEPARTMENT, not for an individual?**

**A: It would have to fall under an event to receive funding for it, but no event could reimburse personal costs anyway, so still stuck.**

- **Proposal for the assembly:** Vote on a regalia funding for GSSA AT THE NEXT MEETING (May 19th via zoom), which GSSA holds on to and distributes for students when/as needed.
  - We need to consider what would be an equitable amount of regalia and what sizes to purchase, how they will be stored, etc.
  - **IF YOU HAVE INPUT, EMAIL [PSUATING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PSUATING@GMAIL.COM)**

**Striking 5/7 Mathematics event b/c FINALS PERIOD EVENTS ARE NOT REIMBURSABLE THROUGH GSSA**

Change to Neuroscience request, down from 425 to 150

Motion to approve everything as a slate. 2nded. Vote. **All approved.**

**Q - Travel Funding:** Has summer travel funding been approved yet?

**A: Not yet; budget meeting is on Monday. We expect to fulfill all of them, though perhaps not in full. Expect emails next week!**

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

#### IV. New Business

A. GAPSA Senator Report

**New executive board starting now!**

**They are hosting another mixer this year; they are looking for sober monitors!**

B. Graduate Council Report

**There was a requirement to print dissertation on very expensive paper. This is no longer a requirement. BUT: Check with your department to make sure!**

C. SLA Graduate Studies Committee Report

**Nothing to report.**

D. SSE Graduate Studies Committee Report

**Nothing to report.**

E. OISS Liaison Report

**Haven't heard from them.**

V. Old Business

VI. Announcements

**Next meeting: May 19th over ZOOM! Last one for the semester**

VII. Adjournment **7:26 pm**