

Attendance:

Oluyinka Taiwo [COMM], Pierre-Olivier Pire [MODL], Grayson Stepanek [MBA], Bilal Ansar Khan [ENGL], Brianna Doucet [EDFL], Andrew Buderer [Guest], Katarina Brankovic [Guest], Cade Roy [Guest], Jasim Ali [Guest], Clement T. Okolo [GSO-P], Abdelrahman Garbie [MCHE/GSO-VP], Benjamin Vidrine [HIST/GSO-S]

Twelve Attendees [8 Representatives, 4 Guests]

Meeting Started: 12:00PM

Meeting Ended: 1:10PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Introduction of Business, new and old, by VP Abdelrahman Garbie

- Action for SGA [Student Government Association] Talk
- Continuation of Conversation on the Shuttle Program Initiative

Request for further new business from Representative Bilal Khan

- Approved by Committee Chair Garbie

New Business

Discussion with ACTION for SGA Party Candidates

- Jasim Ali and Cade Roy, candidates in the SGA's election, visited the Advocacy Board to campaign for their respective positions while highlighting their ideal of better relations between the Graduate Student Body and the SGA. Current SGA candidates are in a unique position due to the need to campaign for Executive Positions. As such, both candidates felt it paramount that the SGA should better incorporate the concerns of Graduate Students within current SGA goals. GSO Representatives welcomed the discussion from SGA counterparts and ACTION Party candidates were invited to our next General Committee meeting on March 22nd, 2024.
 - Mention was also made of a compatriot, Brooke Davenport, seeking the SGA Treasurer Position.
 - Information on the election can be found [\[Here\]](#).
 - SGA Meetings are held at the Helma Constantine Forum for SGA and its open to the public.

New Business introduced by Representative Bilal Khan

- An issue persists at Griffin Hall as graduate students are not granted keys to access the building after normal business hours. This causes immense strain on the students who wish to use their offices, which they are granted full access to at all times, to have a professional work environment to complete their responsibilities and/or projects. The general conversation revealed this to be a constant issue across the university.
 - Discussion on ways to resolve this issue via contacting the department heads to request the keys face constant denials of request. This is with the fact that those department heads have full authority on granting new access keys.
 - The university persists in the goal of keycard access but this program likely faces long-term development that will not fix the current issue.
 - A possible solution exists in the extension of access hours for the Library.
- Another concern is the smell of bathrooms in Griffin Hall when they are propped open. Whom do representatives go to discuss this issue?
 - The committee agreed that sharing the issue with the Head of the Department works best, but if there is no communication afterward the issue can be escalated by the GSO.

Old Business

Shopper Shuttle Initiative

- Representatives of the Expanded Shopper Shuttle Initiative returned to share their progress in gaining support for the program. This includes support from the LIFE Program, Office of Disability Services, and the Office of International Affairs while waiting for responses from the SGA and Office of Sustainability. With the Action for SGA candidates having been in attendance, official support for the initiative is highly likely. GSO Executive Board Members also confirmed that Bi-weekly meetings between the Heads of various offices and departments with Initiative Representatives will begin.
 - Open floor discussion shared methods of reinforcing the feasibility of the program when in these meetings. This includes data from other universities of a similar size to UL Lafayette to strengthen the Initiative Representative's case for the service.
 - A test run of the program is in the planning phase, set to occur over the Summer Semester of 2024.

Concerns/Questions/Other Advocacy

The floor is opened for any discussion.

- A student in the Biology Department has continued to face immense difficulty in accessing Grant Funds that he has already been approved for from UL Lafayette's Sponsored Programs Finance Administration and Compliance [SPFAC] department. This has caused immense strain on the student's finances and, based on discussion, has been a frequently occurring incident in multiple departments.
 - Guests and committee members at the meeting are deeply concerned about the issue, both for the students' lack of access to rightfully granted funds and the loss

of future grants by organizations wary of UL Lafayette's ability to give students the benefits attached to those funds. As stated earlier, the issue is ongoing and GSO's Advocacy Committee Chair, Abdelrahman Garbie, continues to monitor the situation.

- Parking Initiative
 - Representative Grayson is seeking to have the main push for the initiative come post-Spring Break via the use of Physical Flyers and the survey listed in [\[Spring 2024 Advocacy Report 1\]](#) to generate the data necessary for upcoming meetings with the University.
- Student Life Center Initiative has been pushed back, as Wharton Hall is being restructured with the respacing of the building to include the center. Estimates put that being completed in 2026.
- Question regarding the 4th of April Election: They [Candidates] will be elected and sworn in the week afterward. Does this mean they will be the President from April 2024 to April 2025?
 - Yes. But the previous cabinet will be meeting over the summer.
 - The president-elect will be sworn in at the next meeting.
 - Will update the Gen Committee on the events of the Monday Meeting

Adjournment