

## **Graduate Student Organization**

Spring 2024 General Meeting 2

Friday, March 22, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

Location: Student Union, Magnolia Room AB (210)

- 1. Call Meeting to Order [12:34 PM]**
- 2. Attendance** [establish quorum: 50% +1 of current membership]
- 3. President's Welcome:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
- 4. President's Report:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
  - a. GSO Eid Lunch with the Rotary Club of Lafayette – Griffin 315, April 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Budget still not received but presumed to be 500 Dollars
  - b. SGA Big 3 Elections – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024
    - Candidates for the Action Party, Jasim Ali and Brooke Davenport are in attendance to share information on initiatives they wish to develop that benefit all students at UL Lafayette, including:
      - A Student Run Syllabus Bank to keep students informed of classes before committing to them.
      - Pushing the deadline for adding or dropping classes further into the semester.
      - An audit of all student paid fees.
      - Better marking of parking zones and support of Shopper Shuttle Initiative.
      - SGA Funds for students/groups to attend conferences.
- 5. Vice President's Report:** Abdel Garbie
  - a. Shopper Shuttle Project
    - Initiative developers have met with the Dean of Students and a new meeting between the initiative, Dean Mary Farmer-Kaiser, the Dean of Students, and the Office of Transportation will continue to occur in the future
    - Transportation is developing a trial run to occur over the Summer Semester, 2024. Still in its early stages.
  - b. SPFAC Grant/Fellowship Funds and Reimbursement – Nick Miklave
    - Nick Miklave [Biology] 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 within the Advocacy Committee, has been a frequently occurring incident in multiple departments.
      - The Vice President is continuing to monitor the situation.
- 6. Communications Report:** Tessa Rock, Quoted.

- a. GSO Survey Update
  - “Survey responses got to 50 which I think is the best we’re going to get. Got some good feedback for ideas for next semester. And I’m going to work on the accessibility document over the summer so I can give it more attention than during the semester.”
- b. GSO Kindness Letters Program
  - “Kindness program was a good steppingstone to see how programming goes with graduate students. Definitely need to do more types of campaigning to get the word out there bc social media isn’t the best and there were email problems.”
- c. Stress Toys Giveaway – GSAW
  - “Stress toys was a hit! So many graduate students loved it. It was on me though to find grad students and sadly none of the events for GSAW worked with my schedule. But I walked to different buildings and some of you lovely reps brought bags to your departments. Super happy with this.”
- d. Future Program Plans & Ideas
  - “My next idea is DIY Plant Desk Buddy. I would like it to be out on the tree classroom near the library where students can pick a plant, decorate a little pot, and pot it and take it to their office or wherever they’d like.”
  - “I’m also working with sustainability to get flyers/brochures from them about how to be sustainable as graduate students since April is earth month.”
  - “The two dates I’m trying to debate when to do the program are April 16th or 23<sup>rd</sup>.”

## 7. Treasurer’s Report: Precious Batubo

- a. Status of current applications [Spreadsheet Below]
  - After General Meeting One, fund requests drained the budget. This is a continuous issue that the GSO Executive Board shares with the Graduate School.
    - New Travel Requests highlighted the continued issue as our budget continues to be outpaced by the needs of graduate students.
    - There is also a single request for the Professional Development and Programming Sections.
      - The current Programming Request exceeds our allotment for this section.
- b. Funding Committee’s recommendation for Funding Outstanding Applications.
  - Suggested withdrawing 50% of semester encumbrance [\$7,500.00 of \$15,000.00 USD] to cover as many requests as possible. Even so, this will not cover all requests in good standing.

## 8. Old Business

- a. Update on GSO Funding Structure
  - The new Doctorate Research & Travel Fund [Found Here] continues to provide opportunities for the GSO to reorganize our Funding Structure.

- The Funding Committee is continuing discussions on how to best serve Graduate Students with the DR&T Fund in mind.

## 9. New Business

- Vote—Withdraw 50% of semester encumbrance amount to fund outstanding applications.
  - Motioned, Seconded, and Approved
- Vote—Funding Applications for General Meeting 2 in Good Standing [With those not in Good Standing moved to the Third GSO Funding Period]
  - Motioned, Seconded, and Approved.
  - Sub-Vote for the Programming Request: Approve the request, granting all of the allotted funds remaining.
    - Motioned, Seconded, and Approved.
- Vote—Provision of GSO Support Letter for the Shopper Shuttle Project.
  - Current edits, aside from signatures from GSO Representatives and Executive Board Members.
    - Motioned, Seconded, and Approved.

## 10. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

- GSO Event Supplies—T-shirt, tablecloth for events, signage
  - Vote – approve the request for signage and tablecloth today or at the next meeting?
    - Motioned, Seconded, and Approved in favor of approval at the Next GSO General Meeting.

## 11. Announcements

- Let's go win the Grad Trivia Night at KOK Wings & Things; GSAW Awards. Friday, March 22, 3-5 PM
- Presidential Student Ambassador. Applications are due on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 PM; [Heidie.lindsey@louisiana.edu](mailto:Heidie.lindsey@louisiana.edu) for questions.
- After this meeting, the GSO President will follow up via email to Reps with notes you can relay to your departments' students
- Representatives are responsible for finding a successor and ensuring that they understand their responsibilities [see [By-law](#)]

## 12. Adjournment [1:35 PM]

<b>Approved Funding Requests</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Request Type</b>	<b>Amount Approved</b>
Luke Horsu	GEOS	Professional Development	\$100.00
Kayode Amusan	ENGL	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00
Jesse Figueiredo	BIO	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$348.00
Keyara Watson-Love	COMM DIS	Travel - Without Academic Duties	\$ 95.00
Teyara Watson-Love	COMM DIS	Travel - Without Academic Duties	\$ 95.00
Jahidul Alam	ENGL	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00
Jessica Armendarez	ENGL	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00
Lara Fair	PSYCH	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Chinememma Ewurum	ARCH	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Katelynn Benge	PSYCH	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Chisom Emeghiebo	GEOS	Travel - Without Academic Duties	\$ 37.00
Ayodeji Adegoke	PSYCH	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Redeemer Buatsi	COMM	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Cameron Rosen	PSYCH	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Subrata Chandra Mozumder	ENGL	Programming	\$435.00
Tessa Rock (GSO)	GSO	Programming	\$115.96
Sarbagya Kafle	ENGL	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00