

Spring 2026 Advocacy Meeting Minutes

GSO Advocacy Committee Meeting

In Person: 116 Teche Room (student Union)

Date: Thursday, March 26th 2026

Attendance:

- **Reem Ahmed:** GSO vice President, Advocacy committee chair, COUN ED representative
- **Clement T. Okolo:** GSO president.
- **Leah Pontiff:** MBA department Representative
- **Sawyer Coco:** History department Representative
- **Md. Sayem Bin Kashem:** Engineering and Technology Management
- **Michael Pellerin:** GSO Secretary, Criminal Justice Representative.

The meeting started at 10:05

- **Old Business**
 - Grant Writing Workshop:
 - Email Sent to professors: Monday @ 10 and @11 works for most
 - We will start at 10 and end at 11:30 since most professors will be available then
 - Location: HLG Room 315
 - Date: March 30th
 - Time: 10 – 11:30
 - Topics/ Questions sent to professors
 - Send out poster and contact Jennifer for email announcement to graduate students
 - Resume workshop
 - **Thank you, Leah!**
 - Participants will bring a completed resume

- 20-30 minutes opener will be given covering general overview on resume best practices, and the employers will give individual review pop in style for the remainder of the event.
- **Location:** FGM 111 (there is a STEP lab so we could easily direct people down the hall after the event for resume printing)
- **Date:** Tuesday, April 14th
- **Time:** 3:30-5:30 pm.
- Career services are handling contacting employers, organizing the event, etc. Make sure to utilize them!

○ **New Business**

- Negative feedback regarding the Doctoral Candidacy and Honor Recognition Award ceremony
 - GSO can help with room booking
 - LITE center was not an option due to room capacity since this was a combined event
 - Make your voice heard here:
https://louisiana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6x9A5TfeNWsX22G
- GSO was invited to the Graduate student success and retention committee
 - GSO had a seat at the table during this meeting for the first time and our voice was well received.
 - GSO suggested a peer support program to be implemented to better support graduate students.
 - Event timing doesn't always work for graduate students due to class time and other life commitments
- The GSO shirt store is live! Kindly, order yours and share with all grad students: https://store.perfectfitz.com/ul_grad_student_store/shop/home
 - First Round: Store will close 4/6, with goods ready for 4/20!
 - Second Round: Store will close 4/21, with goods ready for 5/5!
- There is still time to be the scavenger hunt winner!! Hunt is open until the end of the day Thursday 3/26/26



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- President will be invited to the General Meeting for the first time this semester
 - **Date:** April 24th.
 - **Time:** 11:30 – 2:30
 - Prepare any questions or concerns you might have!
- **Floor Open for Any Other Concerns**
 - None mentioned

The meeting ended at 10:50