

Attendance:

Faryal Atif, Benjamin J. Vidrine, Abdelramin Garbie, Sarah E. Djos Raph (MODL), Brianna J. Doucet, Oluwadamilare D. Ogundiran, Mary McMahon, Clement T. Okolo, Ahmed Hossain, Sumona Hoque Mumu, Erica M. Piazza, Anireju E. Dundun (12 committee members!)

Meeting Started: 4:05 PM

Meeting Ended: 4:47 PM

Total Duration: 42 minutes

Welcome, and Personal Check In:

- <https://forms.gle/CGmKxFKpfNwYFuk69>

Presentation from Graduate Assistant Oluwadamilare Ogundiran, with the Office for Campus Diversity:

- Located in rm 243 of Martin Hall, the office for Campus diversity assesses the campus's systems for fairness and equity for students.
 - They promote equity, fairness, and equality for all through their support of minority groups or those who are being unduly treated by others. Everyone benefits when people of different ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and backgrounds join to learn, live, and grow. An inclusive environment allows us to turn our differences into opportunities to forge new collaborations.
 - The Campus Climate survey done last fall assessed what is obtainable on campus verses international standards. Students were comfortable sharing more concerns through an online forum.
 - The report is available on the office of campus diversity website.
 - It is important that campus is safe for all backgrounds meaning no matter one's race, sexual orientation, religion, ability, etc.
- Fall 2023 Events
 - August 24th; Project Allies (Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and Services) Safe Zone Workshop: Dupre Library Staff Lounge, 3 PM
 - August 25th; Trivia Night (event to get together and have fun): Location TBD, 4 PM
 - Sept 28th: James Jackson Community of Scholars Event (partnership with the graduate school, helps eligible students connect with scholarship opportunities etc.): Picard Center, Time TBD
 - October 19th; James Jackson Community of Social Event: Location and Time TBD
 - October 26th; Project Allies Workshop, Dupre Library Staff Lounge, Time TBD
 - October 26th; Trivia Night, Location TBD, 4PM
 - November 8th; National First-Generation Day

- November 16th; Courageous Conversations (having conversations about conditions on campus and issues students face such as misinformation, disinformation, and mal information): Moody Hall Rm. 103A, Time TBD
 - Lunch & Learn- conversations about mental health and campus oversights- TBD
- Spring 2024 Events
 - Women's Leadership Conference
- They support other organizations like GLASS (Giving Love Acceptance Safety and Support for all.)
- Specific dates will be posted soon, dates, locations, and times are being confirmed with the graduate school which is why these events haven't been posted to the calendar just yet.
- Reach out to them for questions you might have perhaps on their process of providing oversight to the Administration of the institution and keeping spaces safe for expression of gender.
- Also, if you would like to sign up for their newsletter, follow them on their social media:
 - Website: diversity.louisiana.edu
 - Facebook: UL Lafayette Campus Diversity
 - Instagram: ULdiversity
 - Twitter: ULdiversity

Discuss advocacy concerns for the Summer of 2023:

- People prefer to disclose issues with their departments anonymously, lots of important information was noted in the Campus Climate Survey.
- LSU and LA Tech are increasing their wages for Graduate Assistants. Dr. Kaiser is working to get GA's a pay increase although it is difficult to manage within UL Lafayette's budget. The GA package does cover most tuition costs and fees.
- The English Department has a EDID (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization) committee to discuss issues of campus diversity within their department. Graduate students and the Graduate Coordinator work together to acknowledge these issues. Together they created space for non-gendered restrooms in their building.
- The College of the Arts has a DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) committee which addresses issues of campus diversity within their department through administrative policy. Students Volunteers from all ages and majors within the college are encouraged to join the Committee each semester to come up with new measures to ensure a healthy environment for all students and professors. The dean of the college also presides in these meetings to discuss these issues.
- Talk to your graduate coordinator or dean about enacting change within your department for the good of all students.

Stepping down from Vice Presidential Role, role breakdown to be voted on at the upcoming General Meeting:

(The PR Coordinator and Secretary roles are also available)

- The requirements for eligibility for service on the Executive Board:
 1. To be eligible for election to the Executive Board, an individual must have a history of at least one semester (excluding summer semesters) of service [as a department representative]

experience on the Council of the GSO. The General Council can bypass the bylaw for any special situation where no candidate meets the requirement with a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote.

3. To be an eligible candidate for the Executive Board, a member must be in good standing according to the Graduate School guidelines and carry a minimum 3.0 GPA.

- The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President, assist the President with assigned responsibilities, and serve as the chair and ex-officio member of the Advocacy Committee formed under the provision of Section IV.
- Advocacy Committee:
 - Specific Purpose. The Advocacy Committee is responsible for advocating graduate students' issues at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and working with official University channels to resolve the problems affecting graduate students' personal and academic achievements at UL Lafayette.
 - Objectives:
 1. To effectively communicate to graduate students, UL Lafayette, and the community at large and bring their concerns and voices to the council.
 2. To advocate for the students' concerns in the General Council meeting and recommend policies or actions to resolve them.
 3. To write to official University channels and work with them for the resolution of any affairs affecting the graduate student's life and academic achievements.
 - General Responsibilities
 1. The Advocacy Committee will continue to keep members of the GSO council, and the graduate student body informed about important upcoming policies.
 2. The Advocacy Committee will be responsible for surveying graduate students for issues that may affect a graduate student's life and academic progress and taking appropriate action.
 3. The Advocacy Committee will study and make recommendations to the General Council on all legislative matters including drafting legislation with the Graduate Student Representatives in the Student Government Association, writing letters to University of Louisiana system officials, working with the Dean of the Graduate School, writing letters to the Louisiana legislature.
 - Deliverables:
 1. A maintained and updated GSO advocacy report.
 2. Active and effective graduate student forums and task forces.
 3. A report of all the committee's actions at every General Council meeting.
 4. Recommendation of any policy change or any legislative matter to the council.

5. Write any official and legislative document for the GSO.

Are there any questions, comments, or concerns?

Q: What is the process for voting on the Vice President, does the nominee need to make a statement?

A: Those who have a semester of experience are eligible first, if no one who is eligible is available, those who have just joined the GSO General Council are eligible. All nominees will state make a statement about why they want to have that position and their goals pertaining to the roll.