

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

Fall 2020 General Meeting 2

Friday, October 16, 2020 at 1:30pm [rescheduled from 10/09/20 due to Hurricane Delta] | Location: [Zoom](#)

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order

President Sarah Smith, calls the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. Attendance [establish quorum: 50% +1 of current membership]

Present:

Executives:

1. Sarah Smith (President)
2. Tolu Olukoga (Vice President (Rep for Petroleum Engineering))
3. Hilda Oforio Addo (Public Relations—Rep for Civil Engineering)
4. Jung Tae Hwang (Treasurer—Rep for English)
5. Patricia Arias Hunt (Secretary—Rep for Communicative Disorders)

Members:

6. Erin Antia (Rep for Industrial Technology)
7. Juita Martinez (Rep for Biology)
8. Garrett Ohlmeyer (Rep for Business Administration)
9. Remil Aguda / Devin Peck (proxy) (Rep for Chemical Engineering)
10. Prudence Mbah (Rep for Communication)
11. Kasem Khalil (Rep for Computing & Informatics)
12. Victoria Mello (Rep for Criminal Justice)
13. Maggi Bienvenu (Rep for Educational Foundations & Leadership; proxy for Educational Curriculum & Instruction)
14. Nancy Nguyen (Rep for Psychology)
15. Elizabeth Heintz (Rep for Kinesiology; proxy for Counselor Education)
16. Srijana Ghimire (Rep for Mathematics)
17. Deepak Jain (Rep for Mechanical Engineering)
18. Chase Cormier (Rep for Modern Languages)
19. Louisa Peng (Rep for Music)
20. John Miller (Rep for Physics)

Absent

21. Architecture
22. Geosciences
23. Nursing
24. Accounting
25. Electrical Engineering
26. History

3. President's Welcome

President Sarah thanked everybody for the great attendance at our last meeting and this meeting. She introduced two new reps Taylor McCauley from Counseling of Education Department (proxy is Rep Liz) and John Miller who is working on his PhD on Earth and Energy science representing Physics. John is a familiar face to GSO. He served as GSO president. Welcome all!

4. Message from Graduate School

There is not a representative from the Graduate School present, but events are available below and through their Facebook page and website.

5. President's Report: Sarah Smith

President Sara shared her tips on getting through Zoom fatigue (multitasking!) and shared that she continues to represent GSO and advocate for grad students' interests in various campus committees and events.

6. Vice President's Report: Tolu Olukoga

a. Take the [GSO Advocacy Survey](#); the results of the survey will inform the areas GSO prioritizes this year. Vice-President Tolu welcomed all the new representatives. Graduate School is potentially emailing the GSO advocacy survey. Administration is interested in what students are commenting on the surveys. If you haven't taken it yourself, please take it. There are only 20 responses as of right now. Rep Erin Antia asked if they could continue to send the Advocacy Survey to their department as an initiative to remind them to take the survey. Sarah suggested to definitely continue sending reminders to their department.

7. Treasurer's Report: JT Hwang

a. Feedback on [new webform](#) GSO Application for Financial Support
Treasurer Hwang (JT) shared good news that there is still money in the budget. He inquired about any difficulties or feedback about the new web form for GSO funding. Rep, Maggi Bienvenu, stated that once the form is filled out there is not a confirmation email. She shared that it would be helpful for representatives to receive an email once individuals from their department apply for funding that way they are involved in the process.

b. Notes on [Research Equipment & Supplies](#) page:

- i. Website now matches Bylaw descriptions of this category with mentions of two *underused* funding request types:
 1. Funding for interlibrary loan requests
 2. Expenses directly related to comprehensive exam preparation

It is very important that all Grad Students take advantage of these opportunities for comps preparation. He stated that comprehensive exam funding is available for every department and GSO would like to see more departments take advantage of this.

- ii. Reminder: if requesting money for books, you must first check that the material is not already available to you (for free!) through the UL Dupré library

You need to make sure that the library has this book available. If it is not available, GSO will gladly provide the funding for books needed for research or comprehensive exams.

c. Notes on travel in personal vehicle: Driver's Safety course required

The Graduate School can provide funding for traveling, but every individual who applies for it needs to complete a required safety course that the University requires. If you have such a need, please contact GSO, and we will guide you through that process.

President Sarah shared that air travel is still restricted. GSO encourages participation in virtual meetings due to this restriction. Rep, John Miller, inquired about participation in out of state participation in a meeting to acquire research equipment. Rep, Maggi Bienvenu, stated that we will need to have clear parameters in the guidelines for funding regarding travel under research cost.

8. Secretary's Report: Patricia Arias Hunt

- a. Complete Hazing Prevention Course and email Certificate of Completion

9. Public Relations' Report: Hilda Oforio-Addo

- a. [GSO Facebook](#): Contact GSO to be featured in a "Meet Your Reps" post with photos and short bio

Hilda requested participation in "Meet your Reps" and shared a couple of examples. She looks forward to introducing new GSO reps! Reps, Erin Usen Antia, Garrett Ohlmeyer, Elizabeth Heintz, and Louisa Peng, volunteer to be a part of the next "Meet your Reps." Rep Garrett, inquired if you can still participate if you are graduating. Hilda stated that even if you are graduating soon you can still be featured.

10. Old Business

President Sarah stated that there was no old business to discuss.

11. New Business

- a. Funding Applications for General Meeting 2 [see budget spreadsheet]
 - i. "Travel" With Academic Duties Appropriations: 1 application received
 - ii. Research Supplies Appropriations: 10 applications received
 - iii. Research Thesis/Dissertation: 1 application received

GSO has money available for the printing of dissertations. President Sarah requested to share this information to their departments. Treasurer JT stated that he was not sure how long COVID restrictions will last, he inquired if we should have a discussion regarding the current established percentages for research and travel. President Sarah suggested changing the percentage of research supplies and travel to increase or decrease the amount and asked representatives for their opinion. Rep Erin Antia suggested having a clear idea of what students would do with the money. Rep Juita Martinez, said a \$160 does not go very far and no one in her department has not been able to obtain travel funding and students are paying for their own traveling costs. Rep Devin Peck (proxy), also shared that \$160 does not go very far and suggested for students to be able to request \$160 in the Fall and Spring all at once. Rep Maggi stated that the funding provided is meant to be an aid, not cover the entire cost of the project. Maggi suggested that there is more we could do to connect students to outside sources of funding.

President Sarah suggested that we move to voting due to time constrain for some representatives. Motion to block vote on all applications and approve as suggested by Funding Committee and as outlined in budget spreadsheet, motion passes with unanimous vote.

President Sarah suggested individual meetings with representatives to find funding opportunities for departments. Temporary provision seems like a good idea for the time being due to funding restrictions due to COVID. Rep Erin Antia suggested using the funding towards research due to restrictions. President Sarah stated that if we end up depleting research funds then funding from travel can be used to cover research applications. Rep Maggi suggested that it would be better to follow Sarah's suggestion rather than changing the bylaws. Maggi also suggested having an understanding of the areas that GSO funds (class materials vs. research) and its guidelines. Sarah reminded everybody that GSO exists for research and dissertation projects. President Sarah suggested GSO to come up with different categories to support funding to meet departments' needs. Sarah suggested having individual meetings to discuss these categories with departments that have not applied for funding.

12. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

- a. Student representation on the Diversity & Inclusion subcommittee of the Graduate Council

President Sarah shared with representatives that the committee is looking for student representatives. She shared that students have come forward saying that there is not enough support in diversity. If you have an interest in joining the committee, please reach out to Sarah.

- b. Seeking a student to provide input for the James Jackson Community of Scholars branch of that committee

This committee is trying to revamp the mission statement, how faculty can support this committee. Rep Erin Antia volunteered to be a part of this committee in particular.

- c. Project ALLIES workshops October 21 to become better advocates of LBGTQ+ community, event info to be shared on GSO Facebook

The idea of this committee is to provide education on how to be a better advocate for the LBGTQ+ community. The links will be shared on Facebook. This is a great opportunity if you plan to be a professional at a University.

- d. GSO is crowdsourcing recommendations *from* graduate students *for* graduate students:
 - i. [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion](#): for feature on GSO resources page

The link for graduate students to submit & see recommendations of different resources is available through the following link <https://gso.louisiana.edu/node/59>. The material you share can be from a variety of topics regarding diversity such as ableism, LBGTQ+, etc.

- ii. [Health Hints](#): for use in future GSO Wellness Wednesday Facebook posts

GSO would like to do Wellness Wednesdays Health Hints. Graduate students are concerned about Mental Health. President Sarah will meet with Rep Liz to discuss different ways to engage graduate students in the conversation.

- iii. [Money Matters](#): for use in future GSO Money Monday Facebook posts

There is discounts available with your Cajun Card. We are ending this series with a talk with Dr. Khey about navigating student loan forgiveness if you are looking to a career on public service (i.e. University setting). Zoom details will be sent through email. It would be great for everyone to participate and share with their department's students.

- e. Invited speaker series: What topics would you like to see addressed by an external speaker in virtual events *for all graduate students?* (Potential co-sponsoring by SGA and the Graduate School)

President Sarah encourages students to suggest renowned speakers that will interest a variety of students from different fields (ex. machine learning or data analytics from Amazon/Google), academic professional speakers who have written for the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (ex. remote learning and mental health). Rep Maggi suggested a presentation about what can you use your degree for in different sought-after fields from LEDA. President Sarah stated that SGA and Graduate School will fund these speakers and there is a descent amount of funding available. Rep Maggi also suggested a grant writing presentation. You can email GSO with any ideas for speakers/topics. Sarah will be meeting with Dr. Farmer-Kaiser to discuss ideas for speakers.

13. Announcements

President Sarah shared the following announcements with representatives:

- UL Dupré [Library Instruction Workshops](#) (InterLibrary Loan, Library Services, etc.)
- SGA offers [STEP Printing Vouchers](#) for graduate students. If you have depleted your PaperCut balance, apply for a \$10 voucher to add to your account (up to two times per semester!).
- Upcoming virtual events from the Graduate School:

Event type	Date/time	Description/link
Social Media Competition	ongoing	#ULGradEats competition (Facebook, Instagram): first 50 students to share recipes win a prize!
Thesis/Dissertation Formatting	Monday Oct. 12, 12-1pm	Manuscript Review Lunch
	Tuesday Oct. 20, 6-7pm	Manuscript Workshop Evening
Three Minute Thesis (TMT) Competition	Wednesday Oct. 14, 3-4pm	Three Minute Thesis Info Session
	Monday Oct. 26, 6-7pm	Three Minute Thesis Info Session Evening
Lunch & Learn Series	Thursday Oct. 15, 12-1pm	Networking Remotely in Grad School
	Thursday Oct. 29, 12-1pm	How Will Remote Work Affect Your Job Search in Grad School?
Town Hall with Dean Farmer-Kaiser	Wednesday Oct. 21, 6-7pm	Town Hall

- Putting the “FUN” in GSO’s Friday FUND-day meetings! —President Sarah spined the wheel for a prize. Rep Garrett Ohlmeyer won a card of his choice! Contact Sarah to get your card! J
- Graduating this semester? Let us know now so we can help you find a successor as GSO Department Rep.— Rep Garrett was the only student who came forth as graduating this semester.
- After this meeting, GSO will follow-up via email to Reps with notes you can relay to your departments’ students.
- Final GSO meeting of the semester: Friday, November 13 at 1:30pm. **Deadline for funding applications for Fall 2020: Friday, November 6.** —After the deadline, applications will not be received until the Spring semester. Encourage your department to apply.
- President Sarah asked if there were any other topics. Rep Garrett suggested that he has connections with Ryan from LEDA to have as a speaker and he might be able to help find a speaker regarding data analytics. Rep Maggi also can help find speakers about the Innovate South and that she finds it interesting how does data apply to other fields.

14. Adjournment

President Sarah Smith adjourns meeting at 2:30 p.m.

GSO Department Representatives List for Meeting Attendance:

Accounting	Counselor Education	Kinesiology
Architecture	Criminal Justice	Mathematics
Biology	Educational Curriculum & Instruction	Mechanical Engineering
Business Administration	Educational Foundations & Leadership	Modern Languages
Chemical Engineering	Electrical Engineering	Music
Civil Engineering	English	Nursing
Communication	Geosciences	Petroleum Engineering
Communicative Disorders	History	Physics
Computing & Informatics	Industrial Technology	Psychology

Minutes prepared by Patricia Arias Hunt (GSO Secretary, Department Representative for Communicative Disorders)