

Graduate Student Organization

Fall 2024 General Meeting 2

Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at 12:30 P.M.

Location: Helma Constantine, RM 209A, Student Union

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting Started at 12:30pm

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

Clement Okolo (President)

Abdel Garbie (Vice-President, MCHE)

Farooq Azam Khanzada (Treasurer, CIVE)

Traelyn Brasseaux (Secretary, CMIX)

Kevin Trogersen, BIOL

Darian Cheramie, MBA

Esau Obuong, CHEM

Heaven Rodrigue, CJUS

Taiwo Oluyinka, COMM

Mary McMahan, COMD

Sabreelyn Villalpando, COUN

Brianna Doucet, EDFL

Shayan Ebrahimi, EECE

Bilal Khan, ENGL

Sohel Ahmed, ENGT

Taylor Townsend, HIST

Sumona Hoque Mumu, KNES

Agnideep Aich, MATH

Pierre-Olivier Pire, FREN

John Miller, PHYS

Precious Batubo, GEOL

3. President's Welcome: Clement Tochukwu Okolo

4. President's Report: Clement Tochukwu Okolo

- a. Anayo S. Udeh (Mechanical Engineering, M.Sc.)—New Graduate Student Representative, Library Committee

Welcome Anayo!!!

- b. Update from Graduate Council—Expansion of English Language Proficiency Exempt Countries
 - i. Countries with proof of English Language Proficiency will be added to the exemption for testing in accordance with similar universities in the state.
- c. Update from General Council's IDEA Committee – **Brianna Ducet**
 - i. Committee's Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence at UL Lafayette has been posted. High focus on accessibility for people with disabilities, as well as accommodations for diverse groups of people.

5. Vice President's Report: Abdel Garbie

- a. Transportation Initiative
 - i. Highlights of advocacy meeting on integration of UL bus system with Lafayette bus system brought to general meeting from committee meeting. Director of transportation will be invited to last committee meeting for discussion on the topic.

6. Communications Report: Tessa Rock

- a. Stay-Up & Write Update
 - i. 13 students attended, with many attending saying they loved the event. All 5 star ratings.
 - ii. Students really appreciated the timing, because they felt they often could not attend Wake Up and Write. Asked if we could repeat this event again.
- b. GSO Tablecloth Purchase
 - i. Quote of the cost is about \$200, and we can afford. We will move forward with purchasing next week.
- c. GSO Shirt & Logo Competition Update
 - i. Contest will be open for about a month, and winner will receive a free shirt. Price range of shirt will range between \$10-\$20.
- d. Updating website photo
 - i. Waiting on response from marketing department to see if they can take photos at GSO general meeting. Will keep GSO updated.

7. Treasurer's Report: Farooq A. Khanzada

- a. Status of current applications [see budget spreadsheet]
 - i. Recommendation by funding committee to include GRE and similar tests in membership/professional exams.
 - While GRE is not required of current graduate students, students that would continue PhD or similar degrees that would require GRE would count for current graduate students' professional development.
 - Include "Educational and Professional Development" as new title for the section, to allow for better wording.
 - Concern brought up by general meeting that GRE and similar tests would overpower the professional Development category. However, new division to separate Professional Development and Education would allow for each to have their own portion of the budget.
 - This will be brought up at next Funding meeting to allow for explicit definition of this portion, or if there will be a new category. Also, possible new name change to reflect the change that gets voted on.
- b. Update on Funding Committee Proposal for GSO fee increase
 - i. At the moment, the funding committee does not have a full pitch prepared

for a GSO fee increase.

- c. Tier list update
 - i. Working on update equity of the Tier List to accurately cover cost of travel. Working through ideas of Per Diem rates and Louisiana travel board, but nothing concrete yet.
- d. Recommendation to withdraw 50% of the semester encumbrance to fund outstanding applications
 - i. No concerns brought up by general meeting.

8. Old Business

- a. Shopping shuttle updates and concerns

9. New Business

- a. Vote—Funding Applications [see budget spreadsheet]
 - i. All applications in Travel will be funded, except those in red.
 - ii. All applications in Research and Supplies will be funded, except those in red.
 - iii. Heaven Rodrigue will be funded for GRE under Professional Development category.
 - iv. All applications in Professional Development will be funded, except those in red.
 - v. No applications were received for programming.
- b. Vote—Withdraw 50% of the current encumbrance to fund outstanding applications
 - i. All outstanding applications will be funded using Supplemental budget.

10. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

- a. GSO Committee Meeting Structure will be updated for each committee to have dedicated members, confirmed by the respective committee chair. This will allow for committees to function more cohesively without all work falling on the chairs. This will begin starting next semester.

11. Announcements

- a. After this meeting, the GSO President will follow up via email to reps with notes you can relay to your departments' students
- b. Representatives are responsible for finding a successor and ensuring that they understand their responsibilities [see [By-law](#)]

12. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:27 P.M.