

GSO Funding Committee Meeting 1
Student Union Teche Room (116)
February 5, 2024. 3 pm – 4 pm CST

Attendance: Tyrone Wilson (**ARCH**), Kevin Torgersen (**BIOL**), Elizabeth Boyd (**CHEE**), Mary McMahon (**CODI**), Ahmed Hossain (**CIVE**), Bilal Khan (**ENGL**), Sabreelyn Villalpando (**EHCN**), Clement T Okolo (**President**), Abdelrahman Garbie (**MECH; Vice President**), Precious Batubo (**GEOL; Treasurer**)

- Review Budget Spreadsheet
 - Treasurer Precious Batubo gave an overview of the Spring 2024 spreadsheet and how funding is distributed. The spreadsheet was showcased, and the funding rules were announced.
 - Travel Applications
 - 38 applications were received for travel applications. 4 of which are travel without academic duties.
 - Sarah Djos-Raph's application(s) were discussed. The issue that occurred was the inclusion of multiple locations in the travel with academic duties in her single application. Treasurer Precious Batubo mentioned reaching out to Sarah to get things right.
 - Wilbur Bennett's application was also discussed. The problem mentioned was the missing application documents. Treasurer Precious Batubo will reach out to them before the general meeting.
 - Mehran Shoushtari Moghadam's application is currently ineligible due to the lack of a rep.
 - Research and Supplies Applications
 - 5 applications for Printing (1) and Supplies (4) were submitted.
 - Vice President Abdel Garbie mentioned Lea Fougnerolle's application last semester that was rejected due to the request for books. Garbie mentioned the need for Lea to prove that the book(s) she is requesting are not available in the library. On that note, President Clement T Okolo added that Lea's application should include a letter from the library stating that the books Lea is needing, are not available in the library.
 - Jonathan Allen's application was also mentioned due to the request for ArcGIS software, which GSO will not be able to fund for. Vice President Abdel Garbie mentioned that the lab room in Hamilton Hall would have ArcGIS, but GSO buying software like ArcGIS would not be feasible nor realistic. The software will be put on a list that is provided to the graduate school every semester.
 - Professional Development Applications
 - One application from GEOL was received.
- Funding Opportunities -- address GSO running out of funds.
 - Some discussions were made in regard to bringing more funding opportunities.
 - Firstly, Mary McMahon mentioned the Graduate School letter that teased upcoming plans to provide more money directly from the graduate school for travel funds. This would alleviate the GSO funding, as the travel

category is always running out of funds, whereas other categories are always in excess by the 3rd general meeting of every semester.

- Vice President Abdel Garbie and Bilal Khan discussed opportunities to increase the flow of money into GSO. Vice President Abdel Garbie discussed the proposal that was given last semester to implement a GSO fee on every student on campus, just like other organizations like SGA and the cheerleading team. Bilal Khan argued not to do that as it doesn't help undergraduates. Vice President Abdel Garbie and others argued that not everyone benefits from the miscellaneous fees like daycare and cheerleading. However, Vice President Abdel Garbie also mentioned that the fees on GAs are no longer paid by the GAs themselves but by the university, including the GSO fee on all graduate students. The funding committee agreed that this discussion will be shelved until the next funding committee meeting, to allow the members to come up with more ideas in this path.
- Following this note, President Clement T Okolo stated that online graduate students are not charged GSO fees, yet they are allowed to apply for GSO funding. The funding committee unanimously agreed that this is not fair, and thus, proposed by Elizabeth Boyd, the funding committee agreed to discuss possibly charging the online graduate students the GSO fees. The mechanisms to get to that will be discussed further in private with the GSO executive board.