

Graduate Student Organization

Spring 2024 General Meeting 3

Friday, April 19, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

Location: Student Union, Magnolia Room AB (210)

1. **Call Meeting to Order [12:38 PM]**
2. **Attendance** [establish quorum: 50% +1 of current membership]
3. **President's Welcome:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
4. **President's Report:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
 - a. Doctoral Research and Travel Grant: Approved for an additional \$50,000
 - \$100,000.00 per year.
 - Most students who applied to the DR&T Grant will be funded with these additional funds in the next fiscal year.
 - Applications are still under a deadline basis.
 - b. Executive Board Vacancy – GSO Secretary
 - A chance for nominations and votes was held later in the meeting.
 - c. GSO Moodle page
 - Still seeking to create a Moodle Page in order to provide a fast resource for representatives to share Meeting Minutes, Forms, and other pieces of information from the GSO to graduate students.
 - With the University seeking to utilize a new program, efforts have been made to keep in touch with potential Moodle Replacements.
5. **Vice President's Report:** Abdel Garbie
 - a. Update Shopper Shuttle Project – Katarina Brankovic and Andrew Buderl
 - Project heads, alongside members of the GSO Executive Board and SGA, successfully held meetings with the Dean of Students and the Department of Transportation
 - A pilot program will begin in the summer semester, starting on May 17th. There will be one bus that will follow a route to the nearest Wal-Mart from the University. The route will last from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM on Fridays.
 - The GSO seeks to advertise this program as much as possible, be prepared for further information on our socials and through UL Lafayette emails.
 - b. Update on SPFAC Grant/Fellowship Funds and Reimbursement – Nick Miklave
 - The Graduate School is working on resolving this issue as Dr. De Mahy is in contact with Miklave.
 - Dean Mary Farmer-Kaiser recommends, for any future issues like this, that students begin by discussing with their relevant faculty, then Department Heads, and then finally the Graduate School if the issue has not been resolved.
 - c. Eid Celebration at Griffin Hall
 - The event was a massive success and the GSO hopes to continue to be a part of many other celebrations for graduate students over the coming year.
6. **Communications Report:** Tessa Rock
 - a. DIY Plant Desk Buddy Program on April 23, Tree platform near Library & Billeaud
 - 72 plants were made available for students.
 - b. Update Stress Toys Giveaway – GSAW
 - Another massive success with students receiving their bags across the university, delivered either by PR Officer Tessa Rock or Departments' representatives.

7. Treasurer's Report: Precious Batubo

- a. Status of current applications [Spreadsheet Below]
 - Third Application Period had far fewer Applications
 - Seven Travel Applications, although as of this point in the meeting, none can be approved due to lack of funds in the category.
 - Three Research & Supply Applications with two eligible.
 - Two Professional Development Applications
 - One Programming Application, but also lacks any funds at this point of the meeting.
- b. Funding Committee's recommendations to the General Council
 - The Committee recommends three updates.
 - By the Third General Meeting, all unused supplemental funds (from the supplemental budget) from other categories will be rerouted to fund categories where there is a need based on a first come, first served basis.
 - If a doctoral student has applied for and has been awarded the Grad School Doctoral Research & Travel Grant, the student will not be considered for the travel category for said semester's GSO Travel Fund; however, they still are eligible for other GSO funding categories.
 - All GSO representatives must first review all funding applications coming from their department and write a statement acknowledging that the application has been reviewed. This acknowledgement will be submitted as part of the funding application along with current requirements.
 - Discussion on the vocabulary of the By-Law Updates mainly concerned Update Two. Representatives opposed felt a revision of the vocabulary was necessary. The revision revolved around replacement of the "not be considered" aspect of the update with the idea of Doctoral Research & Travel Grant recipients will receive considerations after all other submissions have been approved or rejected in the GSO Travel Category.
 - Counter Discussion revolved around the supporters of the original By-Law's vocabulary wishing to avoid having students take funds from multiple organizations, potentially stalling any progress given to Master's Students seeking Travel Funds.
 - Ultimately, GSO President Okolo confirmed that this matter is up to the Representatives of the General Committee and how they wished to vote on the By-Laws for this meeting.
 - Another discussion revolved around Update One, in that representatives wished for clarification on what funds will be used. Treasurer Batubo reaffirmed that all supplemental funds would come from the GSO Funding Categories that had not exhausted their semester's funds. Any funds that remained unused would then go into the GSO's Account as surplus funds.
 - Update Three Prompted a small discussion of clarification on the responsibilities of GSO Representatives in regards to funding applications from their given departments. Representatives discussed that while the move to online funding submissions has been beneficial to students, checkmark approval from a department's GSO Representative on requests fell.
 - Members of the committee reconfirmed that this matter is part of a Representative's obligations. A digital letter of approval is being worked on as a template for Representatives.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

- a. Vote—Funding Applications for General Meeting 3 [see Approval Spreadsheet Below]
 - **Travel** – No vote at this time due to lack of funds
 - **Research & Supplies** – Moved, Seconded, & Approved for Two Applications
 - **Professional Development** – Moved, Seconded, & Approved for Two Applications
 - **Programming** – No vote at this time due to lack of funds
- b. Vote—By-Law Updates [**See Above**]
 - Motion to, moving forward, use supplemental funds from Non-Exhausted GSO Funding Categories in Funding Requests for Exhausted Categories at the Third GSO General Committee Meeting per semester as per By-Law Update One.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved.
 - Motion to update this By-Law Update’s vocabulary to apply to the Spring 2024 Semester.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
 - Motion to approve the vocabulary of GSO By-Law Update Three, which would include GSO Representatives in the online process of funding applications via a letter of approval from a Department’s Rep before an application receives full approval.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
- c. Vote—Specification behind By-Law Update Two’s vocabulary [See Above]
 - Motion to approve the given vocabulary
 - Failed
 - **Counter Proposal:** Motion to vote that travel category applications from students with Approved Doctoral Research & Travel Grants shall be moved to the Third GSO General Committee Meeting below other requests to be considered after **All Other Travel Applications**.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
 - **Continuation:** As the Research & Travel Grant also includes funds for Research & Supplies, much like GSO, should Approved DR&T Grant Recipients also be considered in the same way as above for GSO R&S Funds?
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
 - Discussion revealed discrepancies in the types of requests the DR&T Grant provides for R&S and GSO’s.
 - **Amendment:** Motion to repeal previous R&S Vote until a better understanding of the differences in the two Funding Programs is established.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
- d. Vote—GSO Secretary Position
 - No nominations
 - Motion to open the position to the entire Graduate Student population of UL Lafayette in accordance with GSO By-Law.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved
- e. Vote—GSO Event Supplies: Motion to purchase Tablecloth for events & signages.
 - Moved, Seconded, & Approved

10. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

- a. GSO Event Supplies—T-shirt, tablecloth for events, signage
 - PR Officer Tessa Rock is looking into methods of fundraising for the purchase of these items.
 - Recommendations from the General Committee discussed the giving of these items to prioritize incoming Graduate Students so as to better ingrain with the UL Lafayette populace.
 - Will use GSO Operational Funds.

11. Announcements

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

12. Adjournment

- a. Motion to Adjourn
 - Moved, Seconded, and Approved **[2:00PM]**

Approved Funding Requests			
Name	Department	Request Type	Amount Approved
Md Monzur Murshed	MATH	Research: Thesis/Dissertation Printing	\$100.00
Md Mahadi Hasan	MATH	Research: Thesis/Dissertation Printing	\$100.00
Lisa Stephanie Dizon	CHEE	Professional Development	\$100.00
Tyrone Wilson	ARCH	Professional Development	\$100.00
Tessa Rock [GSO]	GSO	Programming	\$174.35
Tessa Rock [GSO]	GSO	Programming	\$ 91.93
Hunter Wallace	MUSC	Programming	\$500.00
Meredith Branscum	COUN ED	Travel - Without Academic Duties	\$100.00
Faeze Sadat Banitaba	CMIX	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$400.00
Mehran Shoushtari Moghadam	CMIX	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00
Ash Tippit	ENGL	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$300.00
Xingli Zhang	CMIX	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$500.00
Sabreelyn Villalpando	COUN ED	Travel - With Academic Duties	\$282.53