

**GSO Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday March, 26, 2021 at 1pm (Zoom)**

Chair: Patricia (GSO Vice President, Communicative Disorders)

Present: MaKensey (Psychology), Maggi (Educational Foundations & Leadership), Liz (GSO Secretary, Kinesiology), Sarah Smith (GSO President)

Actions taken since last meeting

- GSO Executive Board members met with NAGPS and the Graduate School to discuss advocacy concerns.

Resolutions:

- Supporting representatives in communicating with students—The Graduate School will provide a list to GSO of students enrolled in each department.
  - Share best practices to communicate with students (i.e. create a contact list, BCC students)
  - Touch points to communication with students needs to align with communication from GSO (beginning of each semester, as a follow-up to each General Meeting)
  - Reps can visit grad classes (that they are not already enrolled in) to introduce themselves to students
- GSO representatives will be recognized throughout Grad Appreciation Week.

Discussion Points

- Barriers to applying for funding
  - Visibility that GSO exists and has funding available
  - Most representatives don't know what their students need
    - Help reps frame a town hall with their students to know what their students' need.
  - Visibility of what the funding has been used - show real students and what their GSO reimbursement funded (concise examples)
  - Informing of the process to apply for funding.
    - Video workshop to inform of funding
    - Offer in person session and pair with other information such as other grants available.
    - Utilize Graduate School for communication
    - Have reps or officers available at in-person events
    - How do people in each department use the funding?
    - Have more concise examples on social media about funding categories.
      - Maybe have graphics that reps can send to their students?
- Funding for books—Currently any books funded by GSO are supposed to be return to the library. Sarah will look into this rule to see if it was created by GSO or a requirement by the University.
  - What if the books are returned to each department to create a departmental library?
  - Networking to create libraries within departments that will benefit graduate students.
- Collecting student feedback – form presented by MaKensey. Send out to students or post to website?

The following topics were not discussed during the Advocacy Committee meeting on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be discussed at the next meeting on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

- Identify three areas that need to be prioritized for the 2021-2022 academic year – to be included in the Advocacy Report GSO will prepare for the Graduate Council at the end of April.
- Bylaw proposal edit regarding funding for examinations for professional certification and/or membership.
  - How can we successfully implement this funding category?
  - What wording should we adopt to move this bylaw forward?

*Proposed Bylaw from Meeting 2 that was suggested to be “reworked”*

**Funding for professional certification or licensure exams that complement a student's degree program.**

- i. These requests will not be considered for funding prior to the second meeting of a semester (or, after all travel and other research funding has been heard at a summer meeting).
- ii. Requests for a specific exam will be allowed only once during a student's tenure in said graduate program.