



# GSO SPRING 2021 ADVOCACY REPORT SUMMARY

In Fall 2020, GSO conducted an [Advocacy Survey](#) of UL Lafayette graduate students. The results revealed areas where GSO can focus its efforts to better serve our grad student population.

Despite completely remote operations and exclusively volunteer leadership and representation at the department-level, GSO is proud to report on improvements and projects undertaken over the last year to best respond to grad students' needs.

## GSO 2020-2021 Initiatives:

### FALL 2020

- Created a [webform funding application](#)
- Secured a [space on campus](#) for grad students' virtual conference presentations
- Hosted a [session on Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#) with GSO Faculty Advisor
- Offered a ["Grad Student Zoomba" event](#)
- Assisted with and funded [Grad Gather & Grow Speaker Series](#) on topics relevant to students' GSO Advocacy Survey responses

### SPRING 2021

- Reactivated GSO's internal committees ([Advocacy](#), [Communications](#), [Funding](#))
- Connected GSO officers with grad student leaders through a [national organization focused on advocacy](#)
- Volunteered in the planting of a [community garden at Cajun Village](#)
- Subsidized the attendance of 30 interested grad students at the [NAGPS South Central Regional Conference](#)

## GSO 2020-2021 Funding:

GSO historically allocates most of its budget to offset grad students' travel costs to present at and attend conferences. In a year of remote activities, GSO funded 34 applications for *virtual* registration fees. GSO funded 40 applications to buy research equipment/supplies and 12 students' thesis/dissertation printings.

Departments requesting GSO funding:

BIOL	CMIX	ENGL	MATH	PETE
CHEE	CODI	GEOS	MCHE	PSYC
CMCN	EDFL	KNES	MODL	

Departments *not* requesting GSO funding:

ACCT*	CIVE	EECE*	MUS
ARCH	CJUS	HIST	NURS*
BUS/MBA	EDCI	ITEC/STEC	PHYS

\* denotes dept. with a continuous GSO vacancy

## GSO 2021-2022 Objectives:

**Advocacy | Engagement & Empowerment** | Create a community of care and activism

**Funding | Accessibility & Equity** | Investigate and resolve barriers to application for funding

**Communication | Visibility & Relevancy** | Design a semester-long communication plan

