

Graduate Student Organization
Summer 2026 General Meeting
Friday, July 17, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. Call Meeting to Order

GSO President, Clement T. Okolo called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

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

Members Present:

- 1) Clement Okolo, GSO President
- 2) Taylee Marcks (CJUS)
- 3) Eric Haddad (BIOL)
- 4) Gabrielle Broussard (CHEE)
- 5) Sam Fowler (CMIX)
- 6) Sarah Egbulem (Math)
- 7) Tabitha LeMaire (Communication)
- 8) Mary McMahon (CODI)
- 9) Humaira Tajeeen (EDFL)
- 10) Silver Damigoru (Petroleum Engineering)
- 11) Yazdan Mohmoudi (ENGL)
- 12) Ana Batista (Architecture)
- 13) Md Saiful Islam (MECH)
- 14) Sherbaz Khan (CIVE)
- 15) Sydney Guidry (Psychology)
- 16) Reem Ahmed, Vice- President (Counseling)
- 17) Mohamed Ghoneim, Treasurer (EECE)
- 18) Mahek Pathak, PR Officer & Interim Secretary
- 19) Azme Abbas (Observer)
- 20) Serwah Ofosu (Observer)

Members Absent: Chiraz Amanni (Modern Lang), Sawyer Coco (History), Md. Sayem-Bin-Kashem (Engineering Tech), Elaine Dean (Music).

3. President's Welcome: Clement Tochukwu Okolo

- a. President Okolo welcomed new GSO Representatives and introduced them to GSO's work and committees.

4. President's Report: Clement Tochukwu Okolo

- a. **Update on Meeting with Dr. Ramesh Kolluru & other stakeholders about payment plan for GAs and Fellows**

Following the recent payroll change to biweekly pay for GAs and Fellows, students were reassured that the total pay would remain the same and only the distribution schedule would change. Due to concerns raised by graduate students, the implementation of this change has been postponed, and pay will remain monthly for

August.

b. **GSO Encumbrance FY 2026-2027 - \$39,500**

c. **GSO Bylaw Update for Section VI: Budget**

GSO President Clement T. Okolo proposed two additions to the Bylaws to streamline the organization's budgeting process:

- i. If GSO receives the annual allocation as a lump sum, funds will be distributed across the three semesters as follows: 10% for Summer, 45% for Fall, and 45% for Spring.
- ii. In the event that additional funding is available at the end of the fiscal year (Spring semester), only graduate students who have already submitted a funding application during one of the three Spring funding cycles will be eligible for additional funding.

5. **Vice President's Report:** Reem Ahmed

- a) Sought activity suggestions for next semester, including sessions focused on burnout recovery and wellness for graduate students, particularly international students.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Mohamed Ghoneim

- a) Status of current applications [[see budget spreadsheet](#)]
- b) GSO utilized \$20,923.05 of the \$22,769.93 allocated during the previous semester.
- c) Four funding applications for travel with/without academic duties were reviewed:
 - i. One was ready for approval.
 - ii. One applicant did not have academic duties for their travel application.
 - iii. One application was denied because the GSO Representative did not attend any of the three committee meetings.
 - iv. One application did not specify the purpose of the funding request.
- d) Giveback Nights are again being considered for next semester, with KOK identified as a potential option.

7. **Communications Report:** Mahek Pathak

- a) Proposed an event for next semester: a Halloween-themed graduate student gathering featuring games and a costume competition, to be held during the last week of October.

8. **Old Business**

a. **GSO Executive Vacancy – Secretary** [[see by-law](#)]

Applications were invited from candidates interested in presenting their qualifications for the position.

9. **Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions**

10. **New Business**

a. **Vote—GSO Bylaw Update for Section VI: Budget**

The proposed additions were approved unanimously by the GSO council and signed into law by GSO President Clement T. Okolo.

b. **Vote—Funding Applications** [[see budget spreadsheet](#)]

While the application that was ready for approval was approved, the remaining incomplete applications were deferred to next semester's meeting.

c. **Vote— GSO Secretary**

Three applicants (Azme Abbas, Serwah Ofosu, Tabitha LeMaire), who previously self-nominated via the GSO Interest form prior to the meeting presented, had the opportunity to introduce themselves and make their case for the position. Azme

Abbas from MBA received 60% of the votes and was elected as the new GSO Secretary by the GSO Council.

11. Announcements

- a. New Reps Training and Certificate Upload: GSO Reps are required to complete TWO courses, including Hazing 101 [[CLICK HERE](#)]
 - i. Join GSO Campus Group [[CLICK HERE](#)]
- 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

The meeting was adjourned by President Okolo by 6:16 PM.