

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
Summer 2023 General Meeting
Friday, July 21, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. | Location: [MS Teams](#)

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Call Meeting to Order: 12:03PM**
- 2. Attendance** [establish quorum: 50% +1 of current membership]
- 3. President's Welcome:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
- 4. President's Report:** Clement Tochukwu Okolo
 - a. Executive Board Vacancies and Responsibilities:
 - i. Vice President
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Public Relations
 - b. National Association of Graduate and Professional Students ([NAGPS](#)) – Invitation to Fall Legislative Action Day from October 13th to the 15th. More details coming soon.
 - c. Academic Appeal Denial – GPA below 3.0; <https://gradschool.louisiana.edu/current-students/appeals>; reach out to the graduate coordinator, graduate school and/or Dean
 - i. There will be a hearing in August
 - ii. For international students please visit the international student office for options on immigration status.
- 5. Vice President's Report:** Brice Gutshall
 - a. Presentation Overview from Oluwadamilare Ogundiran, Graduate Assistant for the Office of Campus Diversity
 - b. Best methods for advocacy- anonymous applications that can be submitted through the GSO website
 - c. Overview of UL graduate assistant wage increase; LA Tech and LSU increasing GA wages
 - d. Start dept. or college wide diversity committees to effect change in your departments. Speak with your graduate coordinator or dean. The English dept. has an EDID (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization) Committee and the College of the Arts has a DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) Committee.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Faryal Atif
 - a. Status of current applications [see budget spreadsheets] 17 applications this summer.
 - i. An issue between a gap when the funding applications are due, and the time of the funding meeting occurs needs to be addressed.
 - ii. Applications from students not enrolled in summer classes could be pushed to the Fall of 2023
 - iii. Graduate students with professional engagements taking place in between semesters can apply for funds in the prior semester or the following semester.
 - b. Status of GSO Budget
 - i. The council recommended to the funding committee to consider utilizing excess research and professional development funds to fund outstanding travel applications either only in the summer semester or all year round.
- 7. Secretary's Report:** No report
- 8. Public Relations' Report:** No report
- 9. Old Business**
- 10. New Business**
 - a. Vote—Funding Applications for General Meeting 2 [see budget spreadsheet]
 - i. Travel Fund: 12 applications received
 - ii. Research & Supplies Fund: 3 applications received
 - iii. Professional Development Fund: 2 applications received
 - iv. Programming Fund: 0 application received
 - v. The council voted to use all remaining funds from the programming fund

category to partially fund 1 of 5 outstanding travel applications. No additional funds will be given to students partially funded.

- b. **Vote—Executive Board Vacancies**
 - i. Vice President- The council received two nominations: Faryal Atif and Abdelrahman Garbie, Faryal Atif was elected as the new GSO VP
 - ii. Treasurer- Faryal Atif stepped down from the Treasurer position and Abdelrahman Garbie was nominated and elected as the new GSO Treasurer
 - iii. Secretary- Benjamin V. was nominated and elected as the new GSO Secretary
 - iv. Public Relations- The council received no nomination and voted to reopen the position for election in the Fall semester.
 - v. All newly elected officers will begin their duties in the Fall 2023 semester

11. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

- a. GSO Collaboration with the Graduate Council's IDEA Committee (Ex. International Grading Scale)
 - i. Grading scale in Nigeria is on a 5-point grading scale verses the U.S. where it is a 4-point grading scale.
 - ii. In the U.K. the grading scale changes depending on the average performance if the class.
 - iii. Facebook tutorial student from Ghana, Redeemer
 - iv. The president will share a form with the GSO reps to volunteer and seek volunteers within their departments for provide more of this information to the IDEA committee.
- b. Upcoming events in the Fall – ACA free membership for graduate students till graduation, new student orientation, Trivia Night
 - i. Graduate Students are invited to attend all ACA events until they graduate. The graduate school partners with ACA to create events for UL students as well.
 - ii. Graduate Student and Faculty get together at the Hilliard, August 25th; Everyone be there to visit with each other in person!!! (Time TBD)
 - iii. Trivia Night at KOK in the first week of September (Specific date and time TBD)
- c. Vote- Bylaw update suggestion to the Funding committee to use excess research and professional development funds to fund outstanding travel applications either only in the summer semester or all year round; approved.

12. Announcements

- a. GSO General Meetings will be held in-person for the fall semester.
- b. Graduating this semester? Let us know now so we can help you find a successor as GSO Department Rep.
- c. After this meeting, GSO will follow-up via email to Reps with notes you can relay to your departments' students.

13. Adjournment: 1:54 PM

General Council Attendees:

Clement Tochukwu Okolo (GSO President), Brice Gutshall (GSO VP & ARCH), Faryal Atif (GSO Treasurer & English), Benjamin Vidrine (HIST), Abdelrahman Garbie (MECH), Ahmed Hossain (CIVIL), Grayson Stepanek (MBA), John Olajire (CMIX), Mary Prichard (COMM), Md Monzur Murshed (MATH), Precious Batubo (GEO), Sarah Djos-Raph (proxy-MODL), Anireju E. Dudun (PET), Brianna Doucet (EDFL), Conner Chaney (ELEC), Elizabeth Boyd (CHEM), Hunter Wallace (proxy-MUSIC), Jon-Patric Veal (PSYC), Kevin Torgersen (BIO), Mary McMahon (COM-DIS), Somona Hoque Mumu (KINES)

Additional Attendee:

Philip D de Mahy (Assistant Dean of the Graduate School)