

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
Fall 2023 General Meeting 1
Friday, September 15, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.
Location: Helma Constantine Forum A (209 A), Student Union

1. Call Meeting to Order [12:42 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. GA stipends increase by 9% and waiver of all student fees
 - i. Since the last academic year (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023), the issue of inadequate pay for Graduate Workers has been a major concern. Members of the GSO have provided data essential to the passage of this stipend increase.
- b. Access to \$50,000 from the Research Office and a potential \$10,500 loss from fees waiver
 - i. Special thanks go to more members of our GSO for meeting with the Research Office on this matter.
 - ii. President Okolo is looking into what requirements the Research Office will place to use these \$50,000.
 - Currently, the only requirement is that funds for PhD students have priority
- c. Executive Board Vacancy— PR Officer
 - i. The PR Officer oversees the GSO's social media presence as well as our communications committee to coordinate on activity related to getting GSO event/information to the general graduate student public.
 - ii. In charge of generating flyers for said events
 - No experience necessary besides understanding of design software like Canva
- d. Bingo Event with Grad School— Date and Time TBD

5. Vice President's Report: Faryal Atif

- a. The first Advocacy Committee was a massive success, with an attendance of fourteen.
 - i. The list ranged from members of the GSO and Graduate Student Body to a member of UL Lafayette's Faculty
- b. The first Advocacy Committee meet centered around
 - i. Introductions to the committee and its purpose in the GSO
 - To represent the Graduate Student Body, in any of its concerns, to the graduate school itself.
 - ii. Discussion of resources available to Graduate Students that the GSO Representatives can share within their department.
 - Avenues for Extra Funding (Via Scholarship or Loan)
 - The UL Lafayette Care Network
 - The Swipe Out Hunger Program
 - Guilbeau Center for Public History
 - ii. Dr. Squires gave a brief presentation
 - "Safety Speaking in the Classroom"
 - Giving Advice on how to navigate the classroom to create a safe and engaging atmosphere.

iii. Next Meeting

- Invitations are being sent to UL Lafayette's Career Services to discuss a workshop.

6. Treasurer's Report: Abdelrahman Garbie

- a. Status of current applications see budget spreadsheet
 - i . Discussion of discrepancies Treasurer Abdelrahman feels need addressing.
 - Will be discussed further in the upcoming Fundings Committee Meetings
 - i . Note on issues regarding the Programming Fund
 - Confusion on the use of this fund has left it unused
 -
- b. By law Update— Moving remaining funding to the travel category
- c. Call to all representatives
 - i . Treasurer Garbie values the discussions held in the first Funding Committee Meeting and wishes to generate more via increased attendance.

7. Old Business

- a. Further clarification on issues regarding the loss of funds via the fee waiver
 - i . Namely the generation of a new, smaller fee strictly for the GSO
 - Unfortunately the change necessary for this goes beyond votes on the GSO By-laws.

8. New Business

- a. Vote—Funding Applications for General Meeting 1 [see budget spreadsheet]
 - i. Travel Fund: 42 applications received (4 outstanding applications from Summer Meeting)
 - Motion to approve all Funding Applications from the Summer with exception to applications from graduated Students (Seconded and Approved)
 - Motion to approve all current Fall 2023 Funding Applications with exception to those without proper paperwork (Seconded and Approved)
 - ii. Research & Supplies Fund: 4 applications received
 - Request made to the Council to give Representative Piere grace on his application (Seconded and Approved)
 - 1. Motion to postpone voting on his Application until the second General Meeting (Seconded and Approved)
 - Motion to reject all remaining R&S Funding Applications (Seconded and Approved)
 - 1. Due to GSO's inability to provide funds for software subscriptions
 - iii. Professional Development Fund: 3 applications received
 - Votes on Professional Development Applications have been moved to the next General Meeting
 - iv. Programming Fund: 0 applications received
- b. Vote— PR Officer
 - i . Nomination of Grayson G. Stepanek
 - Under current GSO By-law, disqualified due to relation to the SGA
 - 1. Running for SGA Presidency
 - 2. Restricts any shared positions between the SGA Presidency and

the GSO Executive Board, only through elected GSO officials

3. Reflective of UL Lafayette's desire to keep the organizations separate.

- Led discussion on potential Constitutional Amendment

1. "No SGA President would be allowed to hold the GSO Presidency"

2. Difficult process as it requires the entire Graduate Student Body to vote and approve the Amendment

- Further discussion on the nature of the GSO's by-laws

1. Aspects of the GSO's ordering of Executive Board Positions made it unclear if the PR Officer was an Elected Position or Executive Board member.

1. Current ruling sides with the GSO's ability to create new Executive Board Positions

- ii. Motion to have Constitution Discussion postponed until Dean Farmer-Kaiser provides Input (Seconded and Approved?)

- iii. Motion to have the PR Officer be elected from the Full Graduate Student Body not appointed to the SGA with exception of students from the current Executive Board's departments [History, English, Engineering, ...] (Did Not Pass)

- iv. Motion to have an Officer Board separate from the Executive Board (Did Not Pass)

- v. Motion to open the Public Relations Position to the entire Graduate Student body with exception to departments represented within the current Executive Board (Seconded and Approved)

9. Other Advocacy/Concerns/Questions

10. Announcements

- a. After this meeting, the GSO President will follow-up via email to Reps with notes you can relay to your departments' students

- b. Representatives are responsible for finding a successor and ensuring that they understand their responsibilities [see [By-laws](#)]

11. Adjournment [1:58 PM]