

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 2022, Time: 8:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Vice-President, Ijaz Ul-Haq

In Attendance

27 Senators and 3 Club reps

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes moved by Alison Hall, seconded by Patrick Payne.

President's report

Justin Salisbury gave an update on the adopted resolutions.

- supporting the right to unionize: No action taken
- expanding campus safety alert systems: alerts for crimes committed off campus are now being sent to students
- Renaming Morrill Hall: We have discussed this anti-racism resolution with President Garimella and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The administration is firmly opposed to this resolution. If the Senate decides to continue to work on this, President Garimella will push back.
- Supporting staff union pushing for salary raise
- Supporting survivors on their healing journey by encouraging survivors to use the survivor spaces to tell their stories.

Campaign priorities

- Building community within programs: on-going conversations with Deans to convince program directors about events that bring Grad students in different programs together just like what the Cellular, Molecular & Biomedical sciences program organizes.
- Employment opportunities: The JobX system is eligible to only grad students on Federal work study which is not available to all grad students. President Garimella informed us that the JobX will be replaced with a new system, possibly Handshake, and hopefully all grad students can find opportunities of interest.
- Increasing stipends for GA/GTA/GRA: discussions are ongoing about stipends increase and details of the comprehensive fee.
- Housing affordability: there's a new housing project for grad students, thanks to the housing committee on their collaboration to make this a reality.
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion: which includes having DEI discussions on campus, ensuring that recruitment is more equitable.
- Addressing sexual violence
- Vacancies on the Board of Trustee committee (Audit; Budget, Finance, and investment; Educational policy and institutional resources) and Administrative committee (Faculty curricular affairs and Graduate executive council committee). Interested senators should reach out to the GSS Executive council.

Vice-President report

Ijaz Ul-Haq presented the list of committees and the senators involved.

Finance	Student Affairs	Housing	Stipends
Yasaman Pedari (chair) Shameer Patel (V.chair) Jenan Husain	Justin MH Salisbury (chair) Julian Armada Kevin Pham	Patrick Payne (Chair) Jenan Husain (V.chair) Daniel Peipert Rubaina Anjum	Kevin Zuniga Cuellar (Chair) Colin Giles Baxter Worthing

Events	Gender Equity	Professional Development	Health & Wellness
Anna Kim (Chair) Rusul Mustafa (V.chair) Shameer Patel Patrick Payne Julian Armada Massi Khodaverdi	Liz Sparks (Chair) Ye-Jee Kim Patrick Payne	Omid Sedighi (Chair) Massi Khodaverdi (V.Chair) Austin Flueckiger Anna Kim	Kevin Pham (Chair) Rubaina Anjum (V.Chair) Ye-Jee Kim Paul Sun-Hyun Yoon

Treasurer report

Yasaman Pedari presented the total budget of the GSS. We have \$11,000 surplus from the previous year and \$16000 revenue year to date. We have spent \$4000 and have \$8,028 to spend for this semester.

Discussion started with Alison Hall enquiring about how the rest of the money in the budget might be spent. Yasaman gave a breakdown of the budgetary allocations for each meeting and event. Colin Giles stated that budget allocated to the Senate meetings should reflect zero since the Senate meetings for the Fall semester are online. Patrick Payne suggested that the budget taken off the senate meetings should be allocated to student organizations sponsorship. Colin Giles moved the motion to amend the budget and motion was seconded by Jenan Husain.

Ijaz commended the efforts of the treasurer as she was newly elected and is working with the Graduate college to understand the budget better. He also welcomed the possibility of having additional events. Voting on the amended budget was moved till next meeting.

Club recognition

- ❖ Graduate Student of Color Association
 - Representative – President, Islamiyat Lawal
 - No objections from Senate → Approved

- ❖ Materials Research Society
- Representative – David Allemeier
- No objections from Senate → Approved

ISA request for Diwali funding

The ISA requested for \$800 support from the GSS. The funding cap for each club is \$500, any amount above that requires senate approval. The president of ISA, Danial Waleed presented the budget for the Diwali and the need for additional funding from GSS. Discussion started with Omid Sedighi enquiring how the ISA intends to get revenue from the tickets if they will sell 180 tickets but were expecting about 400 people. Danial replied that most of the free tickets goes to funding partners and performers. The motion to approve the funding request by ISA was moved by Patrick Payne and seconded by Colin Giles. 16 out of 25 senators voted, and funding request was approved.

Committee reports

Student Affairs Committee presentation by Chair, Justin MH Salisbury

- The committee is working to amend some parts of the GSS constitution especially club recognition requirements that states a club needs to be a recognized UVM student organization before they can apply for GSS recognition.
- There's the need to create a new standing committee like Events committee
- Correct typographical errors on the GSS constitution.

Jenan Husain suggested that housing committee should be added to the standing committee since it is a recurring need that is addressed yearly. Alison Hall asked if the E-board would cease from organizing events when the events committee is made a standing committee. Justin replied that the E-board will always be involved in the planning process but its more productive to have an event planning committee that can bring up ideas for grad student events and mobilize volunteers to make each event a success. Patrick Payne suggested that the members at large should also be revised to a position like Grads give back coordinator and made a standing committee so that it is not overlooked.

Professional Development Committee presentation by Chair, Omid Sedighi

Main goal of the committee is to help grad students with research and professional development.

- The plan is to provide grad students with resources for plagiarism and grammar check
- organize workshops for grant writing and resume preparation
- organize a research presentation event where grad students present posters of their work. The research presentation event can also be part of the Alumni gala proposed by Anna Kim.

Gender Equity committee presentation by Chair, Liz Sparks

Mission is to promote gender equity while collaborating with clubs and committees committed to DEI initiatives. the committee is considering collaborating with Women in STEM and WAGE center to create community wide impacts. The committee is open to ideas for new projects.

Events Committee presentation by chair, Anna Kim

Fun events to keep students connected during the semester includes online trivia, free sangha yoga class, Board games, volleyball/soccer, corn maze, Orlando's, movie night, hiking and professional development events. She outlined the Alumni association events that might be of interest to grad students.

New business

Alison Hall asked if subsequent GSS meetings can be made public so the grad student community can attend. Ijaz proposed we discuss it further.

Adjournment 8:57am

Next meeting Tuesday, November 15 at 8:00pm