

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, March 2, 2023. Time: 8:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Vice-President, Ijaz Ul-Haq

Attendance

*Alison Hall	*Parisa Suchdev
*Goodness Nze-Igwe	Ijaz Ul Haq
*Villalpando, Michael A	Justin MH Salisbury
*Jenan Husain	Sandra Nnadi
*Bren Marie Cable	Erica Lamkin
*Rubaina Anjum	Yasaman Pedari
*Patrick Payne	Cynthia Forehand
*Massi Khodaverdi	Victoria Taormina
*Dan Peipert	Gina Russin
*Shahmeer Patel	Molly Tobin
*Baxter Worthing	Parsa Pezeshknejad
*Kevin Pham	
*Daniel Munteanu	

*SENATORS

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Justin Salisbury highlighted the need to distinguish the senators from students on the attendance list and change the typo “Vermont tribe commission” to “Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs”. Rubaina Anjum suggested that the names of the senators can include an asterisk for clarity. Jenan Husain moved the motion to approve the minutes with amendments, it was seconded by Rubaina Anjum.

- National Survey of student engagement: The University is gathering information about undergraduate experience and engagement. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) are expected to ensure that students participate in the survey.
- Senator duties: Justin reiterated the duties of a senator and emphasized that no senator should feel like they cannot represent their degree program. He also asked the following questions.
 - Do you read the GSS newsletters?
 - Do you communicate GSS news to other graduate students in your degree program?
 - How are you gathering information about the needs of graduate students in your program?
- Encouraging degree program directors to gather graduate students: some degree programs bring all cohorts together but many students in different cohorts of the same degree program have never met. It is important for senators to get feedback from students and reach out to program directors if they identify that students are not having cohort gatherings.
- Anti-bias training for graduate students: Justin emphasized the need for trainings on racism, ableism etc., as many students do not feel equipped to recognize and respond. He also asked if the trainings should be mandatory for students. Alison Hall stated that making the training mandatory could be seen as forcing people even though the training is of importance, she concluded that whether the training is made mandatory is difficult to answer.
- Racist Apparel Swap with UVM Bookstore: The idea is to allow community members swap racist apparel for UVM apparel. The University administration is support of the idea. GSS will buy the replacement UVM apparel but there's a need to make a budget. GSS has funds from the Grad Give Back Program and the Diversity Enhancement fund that can be used. Alison Hall expressed her concerns about using Diversity Enhancement funds for the apparel swap instead of supporting minority groups on campus. She also stated that a survey on how many students have the racist apparel can give GSS the idea of how much to budget. Dan Peipert supported Alison Hall's idea of a survey in addition to a community advertisement to gauge interest. Patrick Payne suggested that we allocate funds towards buying the UVM T-shirts with the guarantee that the shirts will be purchased by the bookstore if we don't use them. The motion to allocate funds from the Grad Give Back program for 75 UVM T-Shirts was moved by Patrick Payne and seconded by Baxter Worthing.
- Reorganization of GSS Office: reorganization done, and unnecessary items discarded.
- Spring Public Forum: more details from the Housing committee
- GSS Awards Ceremony: Friday, April 21, 2023, at 6pm
- Leftover gifts: there are gifts from the Spring retreat, Senators should find time to pick them up.

Funding request by IRSA

The Iranian Student Association (IRSA) presented the request of \$1000 to fund the Persian New Year event scheduled for March 24th, 2023. Presentation was done by Parsa Pezeshknejad, who highlighted the importance of the event as an opportunity to harmonize students from around the world where the Persian new year is celebrated. The event will also promote inclusion, build community, present the culture to the UVM community, and discuss the current events happening in Iran. The motion to approve \$1000 for the IRSA event was moved by Alison Hall and seconded by Patrick Payne.

Club Recognition

Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

The purpose of the club is to increase campus and community awareness of occupational therapy (OT) profession. Create a space for OT doctoral students to promote community and be an active voice in their profession and institution. Alison Hall moved to extend the meeting time for 15minutes. Baxter Worthing moved the motion to approve the club, motion was seconded by Rubaina Anjum. Recognition of SOTA club approved.

UVM One Health Student Initiative

Absent

Committee reports

Housing committee presentation

The Housing Resolution was presented before the Senate and will be considered in the next Senate meeting.

Adjournment 9:06am
