



University  
of Vermont



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Tuesday, April 9, 2024, Time: 7:00 pm

Recording Link: [Graduate Student Senate Meeting Recording](#)

### In attendance

**Senators:** Anthony Barrows, Daniel Peipert, Diego Javier-Jimenez, Emma Myrick, Gift Omoruyi, Joy Emmanuel, Matthew Breunig, Mona Davoudimehr, Muhammad Adil, Pawan Babu Bastola, Shashank Poudel, Stephen Alrich Marshall, Taylor Kocian, Toyib Aremu, Vanessa Ballard.

**Guests:** Baxter Worthing, Mandy Nix, Neil Traft, Rigo Melgar.

**Executive Council Attendees:** Cara Simone, Ijaz Ul Haq, Masoumeh Khodaverdi, Omid Sedighi, Yasaman Pedari.

19 total numbers attended.

### Agenda:

GSS Senate Agenda for the Fourth Spring Meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- I. Roll Call
- II. Call to Order

The meeting at 7:00 pm was called to order by Vice-President, Cara Simone

- III. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes (March 19th, 2024)**

Daniel Peipert moved the motion to approve the previous minutes, it was seconded by Taylor Kocian.

- IV. Officers Reports
  - a. **President**

The President of GSS, Ijaz Ul Haq provided updates on the GSS Executive Council elections He urged everyone to nominate deserving individuals and emphasized the importance of

competition in the elections, noting that seven contestants are running for eboard positions. He requested the candidates to send in their Statements of Purpose (SOPs) to serve as their campaign material. He also mentioned plans for the GSS awards ceremony, suggesting that nominations for the awards should be closing soon (April 11<sup>th</sup> by 4 pm).

### Vice President

Cara Simone acknowledged senators representing graduate students in board of trustee meetings and encouraged them to report back to the Senate about their meeting involvements. She discussed the importance of this reporting and also highlighted upcoming events, including the last coffee break on April 16th and a public forum on April 19th organized by the Health and Wellness Committee. Cara emphasized participation in these events and mentioned the upcoming award ceremony on April 27th, encouraging attendance.

She suggested holding a Senate meeting on April 30th to delve deeper into survey data and present findings to GSS.

### Treasurer

Yasaman Pedari, the GSS Treasurer, reported that there haven't been significant changes to the budget since the last meeting on March 19th. The only update she provided was regarding two funding requests: one from OSTEM for \$150 and another for the Carrier Mobilities Annual Carrier Workshop transition. Other than that, the budget remains largely unchanged from the previous meeting.

**Table 1.** GSS Spring Budget

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Social events</b>              |          |
| Coffee hours 1                    | \$449.92 |
| Coffee hours 2                    | \$449.92 |
| Coffee hours 3                    | \$449.92 |
| Coffee hours 4                    | \$495.92 |
| Coffee hours 5                    | \$495.92 |
| Coffee hours 6                    | \$495.92 |
| Coffee hours 7                    | \$495.92 |
| GSS Spring retreat                | \$1268   |
| Board room cafe                   | \$853.58 |
| Orlando's March 22                | \$1200   |
| Yoga event                        | \$70     |
| Ladies Night Bowling              | \$485.5  |
| Trivia Lunch                      | \$300    |
| GSS Awards Ceremony               | \$1500   |
| <b>Club Sponsorship</b>           |          |
| Professional developmental series | \$362.4  |
| CMC club &MRS                     | \$98.67  |
| SOTA club                         | \$104.69 |
| MSA Iftar                         | \$250    |
| Public forum                      | \$500    |
| Rethinking Economics              | \$500    |
| Grades give back                  | \$250    |
| Career Mobility                   | \$150    |
| Career Mobility Annual workshop   | \$1000   |
| Wellness and engagement funds     | \$500    |
| Food sharing                      | \$250    |
| Stipends                          | \$4250   |

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Student organization sponsorship | \$2000     |
| Office Supplies                  | \$1000     |
| Proposed budget                  | \$15837.42 |
| Revenue                          | \$160077   |
| Spent so far                     | \$15622.92 |
| Remaining Balance                | \$14614.08 |

III. New Business:

**a. Voting on the Resolution [2024-4-09](#)**

Rigo Melgar from the Rubenstein School has proposed **Resolution 2024-4-09**, which is attached [here](#). The resolution underscores the significance of open-access publications in fostering the professional growth of graduate students at the University of Vermont. It emphasizes the necessity to finance open-access publications to eliminate obstacles to information access, advance inclusive education, and disseminate knowledge worldwide. He emphasized the importance of Open Access publications for professional development and knowledge sharing.

Cara suggested aligning efforts with the Faculty Senate regarding a [shared resolution](#). She proposed passing the resolution and then collaborating with the Faculty Senate to assess any progress or insights following their resolution. She emphasized the potential benefits of demonstrating shared ideals separately before joining forces in a collaborative effort.

The Senate voted on the resolution, and 13 out of 14 senators raised their hands in agreement for the resolution to be passed.

**b. Maeve Forbes Basic Needs Award.**

Cara proposed creating a new GSS award to honor graduate students who address community basic needs. She cited Maeve Forbes, a master's degree student from the Food system program who played a crucial role in establishing the "Rally Cat Cupboard," as a potential inaugural recipient. Seeking input from the Senate, Cara emphasized the importance of acknowledging efforts that exceed expectations in supporting graduate students' basic needs. The Senate agreed with the proposal.

Adjournment

Adjournment 7:53 pm

**Next Meeting: April 30, 2024, 7:00 - 8:00 PM**  
**Mode: Online, Microsoft Teams**