

**Reminders:**

* Send Colin ideas for on-campus events
* Feel free to propose any new ideas for ways to use GSA’s physical office, social media, website, etc., but if you have an idea, you’ll need to plan/organize it yourself (or in a committee/group) and then bring it to the Senate. Scott cannot be in charge of organizing every new idea.

**General meeting:**

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
	* Quorum? - Not initially or at the end of the meeting
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 2, 2015
	* Not enough people to vote on minutes

**Old Business**

1. Committee membership
	* VPs let Scott know if someone is a ‘member’ of your committee but is not participating

**New Business:**

1. GPES issues and actions (Sherry)
	* Sherry Martin: The GPES program needs to be reconstructed and they are forming a document to try and get that reconstruction. The GPES students don’t have office space, last choice for TAships, and are treated second class to other departments.
	* Bali Quintero: could we extend café hours to 6 pm for people who are staying here late?
	* Colin Bragg: Can’t afford paying someone extremely late. ESF might not necessarily have the staff/money to pay people longer hours, but we can try.
	* Laura Gonzalez: Is the problem because GPES doesn’t have an office that they can put a coffee maker/fridge in so that way you can provide your own food/coffee? Not necessarily justifiable to pay people extra hours for a very small student population.
	* Alex Poisson: Could GSA run a People’s Place (basement of SU Hendrick’s Chapel) on campus? But realistically who would run it?
	* Scott Bergey: The main problems with the GPES division are larger than these issues. Need reconstruction. With the Strategic plan, looking for an entire graduate program reconstruction so the GPES problem may be irrelevant. How would you envision GPES department?
	* Sherry Martin: There might be some faculty that would be better fit for environmental science. There’s no communication between GPES and the campus so no emails about floods, power outages, etc. because they don’t have specific departments/locations specific to them. Even when asked to put on listserv for specific departments, they were told no because they weren’t accepted into the department.
	* Scott Bergey: If we’re considering a realignment with the graduate school, is the GPES program even necessary? However, this probably won’t come up any time soon, so he will bring up that GPES needs to be treated like other graduate students.
	* Bali Quintero: Seems like talking to people and bring attention to the problems seems like it might do something because they may just not know about these issues. Not just an administration problem, but also student problem because if it’s only one or two students that are upset then nothing is going to be done. Need to keep people united and interested in one thing.
	* Alex Poisson: Is there consistent funding for students through each department? Seems like a higher acceptance rate for GPES than there is funding available.
	* Scott: Is there any distinct benefit to the GPES division right now, or would you just rather be a member of your ‘housed’ department instead?
		1. Generally, no, among the GPES students present at the meeting, they’d rather be in a real department.
2. Strategic Planning Steering Committee update (Scott)
	* SPSC met twice. Largest item from first meeting was that we were putting aside 9/15 Draft and it will not be the framework of the Plan moving forward, but instead another resource to go along with committee reports, data, etc.
	* Second meeting yesterday; biggest item that we’ll use Vision 2020 as the framework and go from there (pending President approval). SP fatigue. Time is a factor, but if V2020 has a strong backbone, why not update it. Which goals did we accomplish already, which do we still need to, are there any that are obsolete 12 years later? Solicit feedback from departments for direct inclusion. How can they help meet the individual goals?
		1. Any opinions on what needs to be in the new SP?
			1. Realignment?
			2. Equivalent to undergrads?
3. Oakie Opps newsletter and gsa@esf.edu account
	* Meant to stream line all the information on campus.
	* Committees send information about events (open to full campus) to studentinvolvment@esf.edu
	* Generic email that’s connected to the listserv where all the committees can send emails rather than coming from Scott’s email
	* GSA is no longer sending emails on behalf of non-GSA entities.
4. Grad BoR update
	* Resolution sent to Ac Gov, not yet considered but is next on agenda. Task force will be formed soon.
5. Committee Updates
	* Social (Colin)
		1. Want to do a better job planning etc, but need ideas for events, particularly on-campus (and thus) alcohol-free, and maybe during ‘business hours’. Survey reflects relative outcry for these options to be available, but not clear suggestions, and oftentimes when we have provided such options, turnout is very low.
		2. Please send me ideas if you have any.
6. GSA Outreach
	* Bali Quintero: Make online platform about who the graduate students are, where they come from, what they’re studying, who their advisors are, why did you come here, etc. There’s a problem with the lack of communication between graduate students that could be forming a cohesive unit and gain networks that could help with each other’s research. GSA needs propaganda.
* Alex Poisson: Geographically we can make something and you can click on an icon and then a blurb opens describing person?
* Sherry Martin: Should we get a graduate student space for people to hang out?
* Scott Bergey: We could hold events in GSA Office in Marshall such as breakfast/lunches to utilize the space.
* Colin Bragg: Will start having more communication about events to students, looking for more things to do at ESF for free/super cheap, but hard when there really isn’t much space. There’s some extra time/money for something to do in November so looking for something to do. Everyone has his number/email if you have any suggestions please let him know. Looking for ideas. People who are commuting to campus want to have events on campus during the time that they are here and it’s very difficult to accommodate everyone. We can have a morning/afternoon coffee time in Marshall if people want it!
	1. EFB ran a similar event and it was successful so would probably go over really well.
	2. Alex Poisson: I have ideas!
	3. Sherry Martin: what if we had a space in Bray that we can have a graduate student lounge and make sure it’s unlocked after hours that we can have access to?
	4. Alex Poisson: Odd how the clubs work here because you cannot be president/hold a position in an undergraduate club. Are grads discouraged from being officers in a club?
	5. Scott Bergey: Will find out about GSA and clubs. Is there active discouragement from clubs because you can’t be an officer?
	6. Alex Poisson: Undergrads could benefit from having a graduate student in the clubs.
* Scott: As the Senate, you have complete access to GSA website, GSA Office, GSA Social Media, etc. Any ideas you have…go for it. Plan it and propose it to the Senate, and we’ll almost definitely pass it, especially if free/cheap. Go ahead with your ideas, they all sound great, but I’m not going to do it for you. I’m here if you have questions, but it’s on you to plan/organize it.

**Upcoming events:**

* **Halloween TG 10/30**
	+ Possibly have prizes, competitions for costumes, get excited!!

**Attendance:**

*GSA Senate*

1. Scott Bergey President
2. Colin Bragg VP of Social Activities
3. Alex Poisson  VP of Speakers and Presentations
4. Sarita Bassil VP of International Activities
5. Anayo Ukwuani Treasurer
6. Sam Mello Secretary
7. Tyler Shields USA Representative
8. Laura Gonzalez Syracuse GSO Representative
9. Debora Silva Forest and Natural Resources Management Representative
10. Emma Putman Paper and Bioprocess Engineering Representative
11. Brianna Rosamilia Environmental Forest Biology Representative
12. Mike Jones Environmental Forest Biology Representative
13. Sherry Martin Environmental Science Representative
14. Rick Joseph Chemistry Representative

Doug Morrison Faculty Advisor

Guests: Bali Quintero, Praja Shapkota, Kara Phelps