



GSA Senate Meeting
September 6, 2023 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Baker Lab Room 254

Zoom: <https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/92966471078?pwd=KzNINGJmZ21uT0YzV3BHaJlVQzBCdz09>

Meeting ID: 929 6647 1078

Passcode: 318165

Agenda

1. Welcome - Emme
2. Roll Call - Makayla
 - a. Apologies & Proxies
 - i. Wondwosen Aga not present, no proxy determined.
 - b. Quorum
 - i. Quorum present with 8/9 members present.
3. Confirmation of meeting minutes
 - a. Small changes made from 7/7/2023, highlighted in green.
 - b. Motion made by Anindita and seconded by Shahadat - unanimous vote to approve.
4. Old Business
 - a. Grad Student Orientation
 - i. Recap by Anindita - very successful event with the organizational efforts being lead by current graduate students, very responsive to the GSA table, open forum session between the senior graduate students and incoming students was very successful - got a lot of interest and engagement in questions about the union and GA/TA/RA positions
 - ii. All items were returned to the GSA office that were used during the tabling session
 - iii. Things to note for Spring semester - more Masters student recruitment and involvement for the GSA, we need to think of more ways to recruit more Masters students
 - b. GSA 23' – 24' Agenda Setting – All
 - i. GSA Participation - all graduate students are by default members of the GSA, only people not included are certificate students and post-docs, this may not be widely known information. The Senate plans events and represents the GSA to administration.
 1. **Big focus is going to be getting people involved in events and the Senate (on committees or active members in some other way).**
 2. **Increasing the visibility of the mission and vision of the GSA to graduate students.**
 3. **Being more proactive about getting information about events out there.**
 4. **Involving multiple student organizations to get word out.**
 5. **Interact with students via social media pages**
5. New Business
 - a. Camden Roberts - GSEU Representative
 - i. Elected SUNY representatives are meeting next week to pin down bargaining times, bargaining year for GA/TA contracts



- ii. Looking for engagement from the graduate students and GSA in general
 - iii. Once the bargaining starts there will be more information provided about what exactly going to be needed from graduate students and the GSA
 - iv. Looking to gain consistent communication and engagement between the groups on campus and administration
- b. Fall Activities
- i. Fall Involvement Fair and TG
 - 1. ESF TG (MOSA put this on) is on this coming Friday 9/8/23 on ESF campus from 3 pm to 6 pm
 - 2. SU's GSO is having a picnic from 6 pm to 8 pm
 - ii. Fall welcome event
 - 1. Thinking of a TG at Buried Acorn or maybe **Harvey's** - decently walkable for students in the Westcott/University Hill area, large open space, games for people to play, food trucks if people want to buy food
 - iii. CNY Conference on Environmental Science and Studies – Feb 29 - March 1, 2024 (Spring event but planning starts in the Fall) - start to put together a planning committee around the beginning of October
 - iv. Fundraising Dinner - GSA allotment from the college based on Student Activity fees is around \$22,000 to \$23,000 but we usually have about this much in surplus at any given time (starting the semester around \$40,000) - we want to do more programming and events that achieve our goals of engagement and visibility of GSA, students want more grants and awards as well with higher values, there is a need identified with international students as well surrounding getting them settled in America for relocation and maybe for out of state students
 - 1. Fundraising Dinner is designed to help alleviate this need for more funds
 - 2. Somewhere close to the end of the semester maybe with the help of alumni and faculty to seek donations for higher value grants or for international students and out of state students - start a scholarship in the name of the founder of GSA?
 - 3. Homecoming soon for alumni - chance to chat with them and gauge interest, work with the alumni office to spread the word out
 - v. Apple Picking - usually go to Beak and Skiff around the time of the Westcott Fair
 - vi. Pumpkin Carving - Emily's idea for fall event later in the semester
 - vii. Breakfast Party - Emily's idea for fall event around midterms week
 - viii. End of semester social ball, for students to dress up and celebrate the end of the semester, music and food provided - look to SU because they have an event like this at the end of each semester
- c. Funds Management
- i. Budget
 - 1. ~\$25,155 Available for Fall 23; SAF not yet added (~\$12,000)
 - 2. ~\$4600 outstanding from grad school for CCESS - Check should be cut for this amount by tomorrow (9/7/2023)
 - ii. **NEED BUDGETS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS (END OF WEEK 9/8/2023)**
 - iii. Allocating Money for Graduation Robes
 - 1. Currently all graduate students purchase/acquire their own robes making this process not consistent and everyone ends up wearing different robes
 - 2. Need to standardize the robes



3. Idea for GSA to come up with a particular color and design of robes and then partially fund the purchasing of robes only if the students like the design and are going to wear these robes
 4. Anindita and one other will lead the committee on these ideas - going to table the discussion until a little bit later in the semester
- iv. Communication
1. Listserv, Discord, Engage, Social Media
 - a. No longer using the Listserv for events
 - b. Still need people on Engage and Corq
 - i. Engage takes care of event approval, RSVP information, and feedback page on the event once it's over
- d. External Committees
- i. SU GSO – Amy X 2 (or three others)
 1. Still waiting to send the new graduate student information over to SU GSO Listserv - going through the graduated students and filtering out the excess information currently
 - ii. SUNY SA DGI Rep. – Emme (still being confirmed) & Amy
 - iii. Board of Trustees – Emme
 1. Silas from MOSA is the Student Trustee for this AY
 - iv. MOSA Liaison – Emme/Amy
 - v. MOSAIC – Gundeep Kaur
 - vi. OIDE/OIE/ISA – Gundeep Kaur
 - vii. SUNY ESF Auxiliary Corporation – Emme & Amy
 1. New body that oversees all of the Auxiliary Services (Trailhead, etc.)
 - viii. Sustainability Representative -
 1. Purpose is to maintain contact with the Sustainability Office to ensure that events are done in the spirit of sustainability and to maintain a good relationship with undergraduate students
 2. Someone from the Sustainability Office will come in to talk about what this means
 - ix. Academic Governance
 1. Executive Committee – Amy Owens
 2. Academic Affairs – Wondwosen Aga
 3. Student Experience – Emme Christie (interim)
 4. Faculty and Staff Advancement – Hamid Taye Muslim
 5. Research and Scholarship - Wondwosen Aga**
 - a. Spotlight on Student Research may be merged with the CCESS this coming year
 6. At Large Voting Members - Emme Christie; Abishek Poudel; Anindita Paul; Makayla Light
 - a. Attend AG meetings once per month, full speaking rights, voting rights
- e. Office Relocation
- i. Moving out of Bray - currently in Bray 12 (BRAVE Space), moving to the basement of Moon (Moon 15)
 - ii. Issues include no windows and therefore the spirit of the space may not be the same as it once was, but everything in that space was entirely funded by USA (currently MOSA) and so will be taken to the new space



- iii. UPD is going to take over the basement of Bray
- iv. Move should be happening by mid-October
- 6. Housekeeping
 - a. Bylaws Review
 - i. Meetings
 1. Wording changed in the Standard Meeting Operating Procedure section of the Bylaws
 2. Some role names were updated
 3. Some references were updated
 4. One committee meeting per month among the chairs and department representatives to plan events and hash out the specific details
 5. One executive meeting per month to talk about larger issues concerning graduate students and how to solve them
 6. One full meeting per month to talk about who needs engagement with administration and what solutions are being addressed for graduate students as a whole
 7. Engage will have events listed for the meetings to RSVP
 8. Motion to accept meeting procedure changes made by Anindita and seconded by Emily - unanimous vote to accept
 - ii. Funds Management
 1. Added VISA PEX cards as a funding option - internal to the GSA without having to go through a bank, eliminates the need for a reimbursement card for every single spend because PEX allows for receipt uploads which works well for the Business Office
 2. 3 PEX cards, 1 assigned to the Director of Internal Affairs, 1 assigned to the Chief Financial Officer, 1 assigned to Chair of Social Activities and Student Engagement
 3. Changed to be that budget is accepted by the second meeting of the semester
 4. Motion to accept funds management changes made by Emily and seconded by Anindita - unanimous vote to accept
 - iii. Disbursement Form
 1. Changed approval by 2 of 3 people (President, Chief Financial Officer, and Faculty Advisor) to approval by 2 of 4 people (added Director of Internal Affairs to this list)
 2. Changes structure to rely on President for reimbursements as a last resort to sign the form
 3. Motion to accept funds management changes made by Emily and seconded by Anindita - unanimous vote to accept
 - iv. Elections
 1. Changes the Presidential Succession to someone from the Senate instead of a Vice President (these positions no longer exist in the current structure)
 2. Motion to approve changes to elections document made by Anindita and seconded by Emily - unanimous vote to approve
 - b. Presidential Succession
 - i. Makayla self-nominating as successor
 - ii. Motion to approve by Emily and seconded by Anindita - unanimous vote to accept



- c. MOSA Training on Blackboard
 - i. Mandatory training - if not completed you will be asked to vacate your position on the Senate.
 - d. PEX Card Form for people who are approved to get one
 - i. Emily will have to fill one out
7. Adjourn
- a. Date of Next Meeting
 - i. Beginning of October for the next full Senate meeting
 - ii. Committees and Executives would have met before this next meeting date
 - iii. Baker 254 will be reserved every week from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for the rest of the semester for anybody who wants to use it for meetings
 - iv. October 4, 2023 in Baker 254 at 5:30 pm - look out for the event posted on Engage
 - v. Motion to adjourn by Anindita and seconded by Makayla