I. Introduction of GSA Executive Members 2021-22
II. Review of GSO Rights and Responsibilities
III. Review of Reimbursements and Funding
IV. Report on State of GSA
V. Launch of GSA’s official website
VI. GSA Awards 2020-21
VII. GSA’s open positions
VIII. GSO Announcements
IX. Any Other Business
X. Adjournment
I. Introduction of GSA Executive Members
2021-22
GSA Members

Sonal Gahlawat  
President

Shawn Rumrill  
EVP

Danielle Kozlosky  
Secretary

Mary Pat Reiter  
Treasurer

Kiara Actis  
VP Marketing & Affairs

Niranjan Vaidya  
Events Manager

Jessica Reed  
Business Manager
GSA Members

Natalie Losada  
Health & Nutrition C.

Yue(Rita) Li  
Health & Nutrition C.

Stephania Emma  
Mental Health C.

Kristyn Lambert  
Mental Health C.

Melisa Woortman  
Senator

Luis Carrero  
Senator
II. Review of GSO Rights and Responsibilities
I. The general council is the highest decision-making body of the GSA.

II. The GSA is organized so that the executive committee is meant to make most decisions in the place of the council for efficiency and in general has the full authority to make GSA decisions. However, the general council has the right to revoke this authority for a specific issue, in which case all decisions on the issue would be made by the general council via voting.

III. Council members have the right to request:
   A. information about all standing GSA policies.
   B. clarification on the interpretation of the GSA constitution.
   C. information about the GSA’s allocations to GSOs.
   D. that a message be sent to all other council members.

IV. Six academic GSOs in concert may initiate the process of removing a GSA officer, a substantive vote from the full council with 2/3rds or more is required for removal.
GSO’s Rights and Responsibilities

- Meeting Schedule is first Monday of every month. 7pm - 8:15pm
  a. 10/4, 11/1, 12/6

- Please visit the new website: https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/

- Constitution
  a. Article IV. Graduate Student Organizations states:
     ■ All GSOs shall remain active, updated and led by respective president
     ■ Shall attend all regular meetings of the Council
     ■ The organization must serve the concerns and interests of the graduate student body, directly or indirectly
  b. Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R1CoAc3w5eN4SBKeU8r8DRa6gDQq7S2t/view
III. Review of Reimbursements and Funding
Reimbursement Types

I. Post-Event Reports (PER):
   A. Submitted no later than 2 weeks after an event is held

II. Honoraria:
   A. GSO’s can be reimbursed for a guest speaker (*See reimbursement limits & speaker qualifications*)
   B. GSO’s can request to receive a check prior to the date of an event to ensure that a guest speaker receives payment on
      the day (*See deadlines*)

III. Durable Goods:
   1. Long lasting decorations
      a) Think of items that do not get “used-up” Ex: Games, Kuerigs, Tea Trays, Posters etc.

NOTE:
1. GSO’s that overspend their budget will not be reimbursed for the overspent amount
2. There are two special cases where funding can be requested and provided prior to the date of an event:
   A. Honoraria (e.g. guest speakers)
   B. Large expenses (> $500 with an attached invoice)
3. Procedures & Policies regarding all reimbursements will be detailed in a separate presentation and/or “how to” video
I. No GSO shall be allotted funding:
   A. to pay honorarium to personal or students of RU
   B. to pay for alcoholic beverages
   C. to pay for durable goods (i.e. office supplies, sports equipment, kitchen equipments, etc)
      1. However, GSO’s may receive funding for semi-durable goods that can be reused for future events such as decorations, posters, and name tags
   D. to pay for or contribute towards payment for prizes (i.e. monetary awards for papers or any exhibited work, gift cards, etc.) or any fundraising events
   E. for events involving religious proselytizing
   F. for events that violates the laws of NB, the county of Middlesex, NJ, or the US or any jurisdiction which is relevant to the event in question.
IV. Report on State of GSA
President’s Report
New GSA Website

I. Website can be found at https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/

II. Got any suggestions/feedback, please please please reach out to us!!!!

III. The website is work-in-progress!!!
Advocacy for Graduate Students

I. The GSA signed the Letter Advocating for the Right of Graduate Assistants to Unionize.

II. More information can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YN-X6botvefgNKVBkRdYjVg39f-38GlWjJavTOIXd28/edit

III. IMPORTANT POINTS from the letter:

A. Graduate students to be recognized as employees, form unions, and collectively bargain to improve their quality of life.

It is the sense of Congress that, pursuant to the definition of "employee" in section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152)--

(1) graduate student workers at colleges and universities are employees and should be granted every right and responsibility conferred to them under such Act; and

(2) graduate student workers should not be excluded from the definition of "employee" on the basis of an educational relationship with an employer.
I. Signed The EAGLE Act (H.R. 3648):

The EAGLE Act (H.R. 3648) would phase out the 7% EB visa cap for all countries and adopt a first come first serve model. This would clear out the EB backlogs for visas from some countries (i.e., 436 years for a Master's degree holder from India) and create a first come first serve system where the visas are not dependent on the country of origin. The Act includes a 9-year transition period, as opposed to last year's 3-year transition, where current applicants will not experience increases in their wait times; the act also includes a hold harmless clause. Note this will not add more visas or green cards, it will just streamline and equalize the current process. Additionally, the bill has been endorsed by advocacy groups across the political spectrum, including the immigrant's rights advocacy group leading FWD.us.

II. More information about the endorsement can be found at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xXTEPwubFaabOyg-OmjfzP04520mUEdRsCOH857-Bik/edit.
I. National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) will be hosting an **Immigration Services Workshop on Sept 30 at 7pm EST**.

II. This event is open for all graduate-professional students for FREE! An immigration attorney will be present.

III. Register for the event here  
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqf-6sqjopHNA6cm_XLwzIz5Mses5_lig0

IV. More details about this event can be found on their [website](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqf-6sqjopHNA6cm_XLwzIz5Mses5_lig0)
Work with the FAARM project

I. The GSA worked with the FAARM project to discuss
   A. Next Steps to End Sexual Harassment in Federally-Funded Science
   B. Graduate Student Mental Health Crisis
   C. Congressional Outreach about graduate student life

II. If anyone wants to work with them, please reach out to us.
Fall 2021 Bus Schedule

- Meeting with:
  - Antonio Calcado, Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning and Operations and Chief Operating Officer
  - Henry Velez, Vice President, IPO.
- Discussed about the routes and RU buses frequency with other student councils.

Student organizations disclose their work with U. behind scenes to revise bus routes

Victoria Yeasky and Joanne Chung
Sep 1, 2021, 12:01 AM
Questions?

- Contact:
  - Email: president@gsa.rutgers.edu
  - Office Hour:
    - Virtual and Weekly
    - Zoom information shared via GetInvolved Platform
Executive Vice-President’s Report
Update on In-Person Events
Rutgers Event & Activity Certification System (EACS)

I. Top priority is **health and safety**

II. CDC, NJDH, and Rutgers University guidelines

III. All events must be submitted through EACS
   A. An event is 25 persons or more
   B. Virtual events exempt

IV. After September 1st, only reporting required **by EACS**

V. Department leadership should review programming and content regardless of size

VI. Reporting is not an approval of event or content, programming & merit
Rutgers Event & Activity Certification System (EACS)

Must follow complete EACS guidelines on EACS website

https://ipo.rutgers.edu/events
GSA In-Person Event Guidelines

I. GSO’s must:
   A. Obtain explicit, written departmental review for any in-person event
   B. Submit documentation via the website for GSA pre-approval
   C. Submit events to EACS where necessary (25+ attendees)
      1. Provide documentation of submission and outcome
   D. Must complete these steps & receive GSA clearance before holding event
   E. Documents must be included in final reimbursement submission
   F. Masking still required at all times indoors
Update on getINVOLVED

I. All GSOs must advertise events on getINVOLVED for reimbursement
   A. No exceptions
   B. Provide documentation in reimbursement submission

II. Future GSA meetings:
   A. Remote: Zoom link shared via getINVOLVED
   B. To do:
      2. Ask to join GSA organization
      3. An officer will approve your request
University Senate

I. GSA appoints all SGS senators
   A. Two vacant seats

II. Monthly meetings (Friday afternoons) with additional sub-committee duties

III. Recommend changes across all aspects of RU to administration

IV. Email: evp@gsa.rutgers.edu to learn more

Senate Webpage: https://senate.rutgers.edu
Treasurer’s Report
I. **DUE SEPTEMBER 15TH**

II. All GSOs must submit [2021-2022 AY GSO Recognition and Funding Application](#) form found on the new website under Graduate Organizations.

III. Maximum requestable amount for GSOs found at the above page and is calculated as per GSA Constitution.

IV. Academic Year allocations to be determined and announced by October 1st, 2021.

V. If you are planning to hold an event before allocations are announced, you must reach out to the Treasurer directly ([treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu)) for event permission, and your event must abide by the requirements in the GSA Funding Guidelines Section 4.1.2.
I. All GSO representatives are expected to familiarize themselves with the GSA Funding Guidelines document found on the new website under Records > Governing Documents. This outlines many of the requirements and stipulations for funding reimbursements.

II. Business Manager and Treasurer will hold a workshop session as an overview of reimbursement procedures in the coming weeks.
Health and Nutrition Committee
The GSA-HNC offers opportunities for graduate students to ask health-related questions and receive professional assistance in making behavior changes towards a balanced healthy lifestyle.

- To provide opportunities for graduate students to build meaningful relationships and discuss health and nutrition.
- To promote health and nutrition by posting food and nutrition knowledge on social media.
- To educate graduate students on nutrition and health by holding food events and explaining nutrition facts.
Health and Nutrition Committee

Planning Events

Fall semester kick-start with Milk Tea

Where?
outside College Ave
Student Center

When?
Mid-October

What else?
bring a friend & a mask

Also Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate in December!

GSA Health and Nutrition Committee presents...

Cook with Us
Overnight Oats

Where?
outside College Ave
Student Center

When?
November

What else?
bring a friend & a mask
Health and Nutrition Committee

Social Media posts

Happy National Chop Suey Day!
AUG. 29TH
Chinese American Food
Quick-cooking with your favorite meat and different vegetables!!
Check this delicious recipe and substitute the meat with your favorite protein:
Chop Suey (Chicken Stir-Fry), https://www.recipestineats.com/chicken-stir-fry-chop-suey/

Happy National Rice Month
September
Brown Rice Nutrition Facts
1. Dietary Fiber
   a. 1.6g/100g
2. Antioxidants and other plant compounds
   a. Lignans
   b. Ferulic acid
3. Variety of vitamins and minerals
   a. Manganese, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B1, Selenium, Magnesium...

Health Benefits
1. Improve blood cholesterol level
2. Reduce risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity
3. Help with weight management
4. Provide anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial effects

National Peach Month
August
- Natural antioxidants
  - Act as protective scavengers against free radicals
  - Reduce various disease processes
- Vitamin A
  - Essential for eye protection and healthy skin
- Vitamin C
  - Required for the connective tissue building
    Develop resistance against infections

Low calories, and contains antioxidants
High in fiber, vitamins, and minerals
Health and Nutrition Committee

Social Media posts

Chickpea masala
Almond crumble pie
Thai Red Curry
Eggplant Rollatini
Grill Fish
Questions?

Email: healthandnutrition@ gmail.com

Actively Recruiting Members!
Mental Health Committee
Mental Health Committee

Contact: mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu
Mental Health Survey

Survey opened in May 2021
216 responses

Deadline: October 31st, 2021

Link: https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GH9M9TB3Gu4hRI
Goals for 2021-2022

Goals for 2021:
- Analyze the Graduate Student Mental Health Survey
- Create new mental health resources to support graduate students
- Reduce stigma around mental health seeking help by creating a safe space and community
- Reach out to other GSOs and have a representative for mental health advocacy
- More virtual events

First meeting of the semester on 9/29/2021 at 7:00 pm, please email us if interested!
V. Launch of GSA’s official website
New GSA Website - Tour

https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/
VI. GSA Awards 2020-21
GSA Awards 2020-2021

- 2020-2021 Graduate Student Organization of the Year:
  - Italian Graduate Society

- 2020-2021 Graduate Student Organized Program/Event of the Year:
  - Nutrition, Endocrinology & Food Science (NEFS) 2021 Graduate Student Conference (organized by Nutritional Sciences, Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences, and Food Science).

- 2020-2021 Excellence in Graduate Leadership:
  - Joint Winners: Ashley Bernstein (Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology) and Jordy Padilla (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering)
  - Recognition of Excellence- Che Gossett and Vimmi Surti

- 2020-2021 Excellence in Graduate Service:
  - Kristyn Lambert (Department of Nutritional Sciences)
  - Recognition of Excellence – Aakanksha Deoli
GSA Awards 2020-2021

2020-2021 Excellence in Graduate Advocacy:
◆ Rulaiha Taylor (Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology)
◆ Recognition of Excellence: Giuseppe Grispino

2020-2021 Outstanding Faculty Support to the Rutgers Graduate Community:
◆ Prof. Alessandro Vettori (Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature, Department of Italian)
◆ Recognition of Excellence - Prof. Deborah Gray White

2020-2021 Outstanding Support Service to the Rutgers Graduate Community:
◆ Dr. Matthew Winkler (Assistant Dean for Advisement Dean, Graduate School of Education)

NOTE: Awards information is available at:
https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/about-us/gsa-awards/award-winners/
VII. GSA’s Open positions
Current Open Positions

- Meeting with:
  - Vice President of External Affairs
  - Vice President of Events and Programming
  - Professional Development Director
  - Academic Development Director
  - SGS Senator (2)

- Interested in serving for any of the positions? Want more information?
  - Please reach out to us at president@gsa.rutgers.edu
VIII. GSO’s Announcements
IX. Any Other Business?
X. Adjournment