



GSA Student Council Meeting

December 6, 2021 - *Minutes*

7pm; zoom

Meeting Start time: **7:03pm EST**

- I. **Voting for GSA Positions**
 - A. Arthur Lee (VP of External Affairs)
- II. **Recognition of New Organizations**
 - A. Rutgers Graduate Students for Rare NORD Chapter
 1. [Mission: network for students interested in rare diseases](#)
 2. [President: Ruhi Shah shahr12@hgij.rutgers.edu](mailto:Ruhi%20Shah%20shahr12%40hgij.rutgers.edu)
- III. **GSA Awards 2021-2022 Ceremony**
 - A. Graduate Student Organization of the Year: Italian Graduate Society
 - B. Graduate Student Organized Program/Event of the Year: Nutrition, Endocrinology & Food Science (NEFS) 2021 Graduate Student Conference organized by the Nutritional Sciences, Endocrinology, and Animal Biosciences, and Food Science GSO's
 - C. Excellence in Graduate Leadership: Ashley Bernstein (Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology) and Jordy Padilla (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering)
 1. Recognition of Excellence: Che Gossett and Vimmi Surti
 - D. Excellence in Graduate Service: Kristyn Lambert (Department of Nutritional Sciences)
 1. Recognition of Excellence: Aakanksha Deoli
 - E. Excellence in Graduate Advocacy: Rulaiha Taylor (Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology)
 1. Recognition of Excellence: Giuseppe Grispino
 - F. Outstanding Faculty Support to the Rutgers Graduate Community: Prof. Alessandro Vettori (Prof. of Italian and Comparative Literature, Department of Italian Studies)
 1. Recognition of Excellence: Prof. Deborah Gray White
 - G. Outstanding Support Service to the Rutgers Graduate Community: Dr. Matthew Winkler (Assistant

IV. Report on State of GSA

A. Treasurer (T) treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu

1. Reiterating GSO meeting inclusivity
 - a. Events and meetings must be open to ALL Rutgers Graduate Students.
 - i. getINVOLVED Organization page: Must say meetings are open to all graduate students
 - ii. getINVOLVED Events: Visibility must be set to Public
 - iii. Constitution: must not have restrictions on members
 - b. BY WEDNESDAY: SEND A SCREENSHOT TO treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu OF YOUR GSO'S ORGANIZATION PAGE AND THE LINK TO YOUR getINVOLVED PAGE
 - i. Url to getINVOLVED page:
<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/gradient>
 - c. Why?
 - i. GSA mission: Provide resources to enrich graduate student life and promote unity in the graduate student community
 - ii. GSO funding: GSO's are funded by student fees. All graduate students pay these student fees, thus GSO participation must be open to all graduate students.
2. Durable Goods
 - a. Durable Goods Google Form application will open this week!
 - i. Rolling basis until AY budgeted funding is depleted
 - b. For more information on what qualifies as a durable good and their restrictions, see the GSA Funding Guidelines.
 - c. Note: due to the winter break, some application requests may not be processed until we return in January.

B. GSA Subcommittees

1. Health and Nutrition (HN) healthandnutrition@gmail.com

- a) Past Event: Cook with Us - Overnight Oats
- b) Planning Events
 - (1) Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate in December. Location likely BME, time is 10-11:30 am on Fri 12/17
- c) Social media posts

2. Mental Health (MH) mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu

- a) Survey deadline is end of the semester
 - (1) https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GH9M9TB3Gu4hRI
- b) Recruiting new members!
 - (1) Contact: mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu

V. Senate Update

- A. The University Senate met on November 19, 2021
 - 1. Meeting agenda: <https://senate.rutgers.edu/meeting/senate-meeting-14/#>
 - 2. President Holloway gave an administrative report
 - 3. Voted on and approved recommendations to the “No Smoking” policy to be inclusive of all tobacco products
- B. Student Caucus met for first time
- C. Next Senate Meeting: December 10, 2021 at 1:00pm

VI. Join the Team

- A. Contact Sonal (president@gsa.rutgers.edu) or Shawn (evp@gsa.rutgers.edu)

VII. Town Hall

- A. Holding events off campus? University generally wants to have events on campus due to accessibility but if there is a venue immediately off campus that supports your group in a way that cannot be supported on campus
 - 1. Contact GSA to see if we can help reserve a space for your GSO
- B. Policy that GSOs have to be open to every graduate student on campus- seems counterintuitive concerning academic GSOs. Why have GSOs specific to graduate program if they are open to all?
 - 1. Vast majority of people who attend events are in the academic GSO but this policy is in place because of how we obtain student fees (from the university). Has to be open to all.
 - 2. Plus, we need inclusiveness in the event that someone has interest in another GSO. Can enrich the community
 - 3. Difficult for students to connect especially during the pandemic. Have received complaints from students, deans, and chancellors about this problem
 - 4. One solution is to have open and closed sessions
 - 5. All GSA funded events should benefit all graduate students. CANNOT use GSA funds for internal e-board meetings or departmental discussions
- C. Life cycle of obtaining reimbursement and holding event was about 4 months. Is this an issue with the way the GSO went about it or is it inherent in the process?
 - 1. With the pandemic, this causes additional delay
 - 2. Need secondary signatures on checks and not all staff is always on campus so that adds delay

3. If there are suggestions on how to better streamline the process, please send GSA an email
- D. Trying to invite several people for conference type of event. There are some outside of the US (England and North Africa). We can only pay through checks but is there some flexibility on how we can pay speakers? Can funds be wire transferred?
1. GSA has had discussions with administration about this. There is no other alternative besides checks
 2. Administrator of department and GSA business manager would connect to work on this if department is willing to complete wire transfer. Email Jess help@gsa.rutgers.edu
- E. Can we get reimbursement if non-graduate students attend events?
1. Non-graduate students can attend events but we cannot reimburse event for the individual. This is because money we receive is strictly from graduate students
 2. Even if there are non-graduate students, they should still sign in
- F. When purchasing food, if we are concerned about number of attendees, how do we manage food reimbursement? Worried that too little could be purchased or over purchase without reimbursement.
1. Should send out RSVP forms ahead of time.
 2. Can make event public so they get more reach and there is no worry about overbuying
- G. Board members of GSO purchase items and are reimbursed by one person who is responsible for reimbursement. Is that acceptable?
1. That is acceptable as long as receipts are submitted properly
- H. Talking Points
1. How is GSA doing?
 - a) Pre-approval necessity?
 - (1) [Allows GSA to catch problems with events and ensure reimbursements can be completed](#)
 - b) Funding/reimbursement challenging
 - c) Supportive and responsive, efficient communication, love the activities
 2. GSA advocates for the important issues
 - a) Not sure who they are advocating for: who to turn to for faculty abuse?
 - b) Yes, addressing mental health, social wellbeing, etc
 3. Quality of GSA events?
 - a) Great diversity and types of events
 - b) Monthly meetings are not focused
 4. What kinds of events would you like?
 - a) Policy changes around parenting
 - b) Advocacy for international students
 5. Access to information: getting answers to questions?
 - a) Website and responses great but emails are too wordy/redundant

6. Improving GSA emails
 - a) Send event notices further in advance
 - b) Links blocked, not clickable, or get redirected to another page
7. GSA website: <https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/>
 - a) Allow more student interaction
 - b) What website?
 - c) Well organized, professional, easy to find documents
8. Other comments
 - a) GSA is burdensome, frustrating, stifling the desire of students to plan events
 - b) Resource with examples of events, costs, how the event went, etc.
 - c) GSA members only working for their CV
 - d) Great job, love the hard work, keep it up!

VIII. GSO Announcements

1. N/A

IX. Any Other Business - Open Forum

1. N/A

X. Adjournment

Meeting end time: **8:00 pm**

Post-meeting minutes

N/A