Graduate Student Association

Student Council Meeting
March 07, 2022
Agenda

I. Guest: Frank Fabiano (VPVA)
II. GSA Elections 2022-23
III. Report on the State of GSA
IV. Updates from the Senate
V. GSO Announcements
VI. Any Other Business
VII. Adjournment
I. Guest: Will Zarillo (VPVA)
II. GSA Elections 2022-23
GSA Officer and Senator Positions

Nominations will be open for the GSA Officer and Senator positions for the 2022-23 AY. Open positions are:

- **Executive Board Positions:** President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

- **VP Positions:** VP of External Affairs, VP of Events and Programming, and VP of Marketing Orientations and Communications

- **Directors:** Professional Development, and Academic Development
  
  - NOTE: GSA Director positions are appointed by EC and confirmed by council after elections

- 4 School of Graduate Studies (SGS) University **Senators**

**Expected Timeline**

- Nominations Open: March 28th
- Nomination Close: April 10th at Midnight
- Election Period: April 12th - 15th
## Are you eligible?

### Who can run for an officer position

- Any graduate student enrolled in the following schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
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<th>School Name</th>
<th>School Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward J. Bloustein</td>
<td>Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology</td>
<td>Graduate School of Education</td>
<td>Mason Gross School of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Planning and Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers Business School- NB</td>
<td>School of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>School of Communication and Information</td>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Environmental and Biological Sciences</td>
<td>School of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>School of Management and Labor Relations</td>
<td>School of Social Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Non-SGS, RBHS constituency is sometimes unclear. Get in touch if you have questions.
Procedure

How to run for Office:

- Email the GSA Elections Commissioner at elections@gsa.rutgers.edu nominating yourself for the position you are interested in, with the email of another graduate student who can second your nomination (cc’d)
- Email a brief statement of purpose
- A nomination form will be available on the GSA website

How elections work

- All graduate students in the GSA's constituency will have the opportunity to vote for the 72 hours elections are open (All students in SGS will be able to vote for Senators)
- Students will have access to candidate’s statement of purpose when voting to help make their decision.
The GSA will run at least one information session between now and the next council meeting (April) to provide in depth info about what being a GSA board member involves and approximate levels of time commitment.

- 1st session: March 11th 1-2 PM
- 2nd session: March 21st 10-11 AM
  - Check getINVOLVED for link!

We are looking for an election commissioner! please email: evp@gsa.rutgers.edu

- Duties:
  - Supervise GSA elections to ensure fairness and efficiency
  - Organize and publicize elections to maximize voter turnout
  - Compile nominations and votes
- Great way to interface with the GSA!
Reasons to join the GSA

- Community: Meet graduate students across campus and gain a broad perspective of the graduate student experience and how the university works

- Advocacy: Gain access to Rutgers administrators across many offices and advocate for graduate student interests

- Don’t just ask, create! Create new programs and resources for graduate students when just asking the university for new resources isn’t enough

- Professional development and resume building: Gain experience running a complex organization with an over $250,000 budget

- GSO Support: Work to improve and maintain the quality of the funding and reimbursement system for GSOs across Rutgers
Reasons to join the Senate

- Serve as a representative of School of Grad Studies graduate students to a university wide body of faculty, staff, and students
- Select your committee from 7 options including Student Affairs, Instruction, Curricula, and Advising, University Structure and Governance, and Budget and Finance
- Gain the opportunity to run for a position representing graduate students to the Rutgers Board of Trustees (which oversees and advises the president)
- Gain a deeper understanding of how the university works and how the university’s many constituencies (faculty, admins, alumni) interact
- The Senate meets just one Friday a month from 1:10 to around 3:00pm, with committee meetings in the morning
- Learn more about the Senate at senate.rutgers.edu
III. Report on the State of GSA
President
Renaming Graduate Student Lounge

- The GSL will be renamed as The Schuster Graduate Student Lounge
- The GSL is an open space for all graduate students for:
  - Work-related purposes
  - Organizing events and meetings
- Any graduate student is welcome to utilize the space as per their needs
- GSA can help you reserve GSL space! Email at events@gsa.rutgers.edu
Meeting with the Higher Administration

- Meeting with Dr. Jonathan Holloway, Dr. Prabhas Moghe, Dr. Salvador Mena, and Dr. Anne Newman.
- Agenda items:
  - GSL space for the GSA and graduate students usage.
  - Transparency in the graduate student’s fees distribution
  - Need to increase the budget of the GSA to support the increasing needs of graduate student community
  - Acknowledging that graduate students are an integral part of the University
  - Need for clear communication between the University and graduate student community
  - Better system for tackling workplace harassment and Title IX issues
Workplace Harassment and Title IX

- Confidential Resources:
  - **Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance**: Available 24 hours per day and 7 days per week
  - **Office of Employment Equity** (OEE)

- Confidentiality depends on your reporting:
  - **Student Affairs Compliance and Title IX**
  - **List of Title IX coordinators** across the University

- Meeting with the Harvard University’s Student Union to discuss best practices to tackle and resolve harassment

- If unsure, reach out to the GSA. We will try our best to direct you in the right direction.
Highlights from the Union’s Town Hall

● What are we fighting for?
  ○ A just salary increase
  ○ Grad Funding: Five years of guaranteed funding
  ○ Research Support: Reduce the fringe rate
  ○ Enforceable right to a safe workplace
  ○ Housing justice for students, staff, faculty, and residents
  ○ Caregiver support: Caregiver allowance, subsidized backup care, dependent care travel allowance

● For more information, check out these slides.
Celebration of Life for Dean Mark Schuster

Save the Date:
FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2022
3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

In-person by RSVP with capacity limits at the Zimmerli Art Museum and virtual via livestream.

More information to come.

RUTGERS
Student Affairs
Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week

- April 6-10, 2022
- The GSA will be collaborating with the Office of Graduate Student Life and Rutgers Global to plan a week long celebration.
- Interested in collaborating with the GSA? Got any ideas for events?

Please email at president@gsa.rutgers.edu
Executive Vice-President
I. GSOs have autonomy to host events, honoraria, etc within the University and GSA guidelines

II. Graduate student funds are to be used for events planned for and by graduate students

III. Departments have no right to ask GSOs to host events, nor tell them how to host events, whom to invite to speak, etc.
   A. Ex. A department pushing a GSO to hold a “typical” or “annual” speaker series is not acceptable.
   B. You may ask your department for guidance, but they have no say over how GSO monies are spent.
      1. Frankly, it is unethical for departments to dictate how funds are used, or to intimidate folks to spending how they “usually” do.

IV. GSA will advocate for you and make these guidelines clear to departments - anonymously if desired
   A. Contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu if you have an issue!

PSA: GSOs are Independent!
Invited Speaker Guidelines

I. In-person honoraria not currently allowed
   A. Per guidelines, honoraria are only to be paid to speakers NOT part of the RU community
      1. RU faculty, staff, employees, etc cannot be paid by honoraria!
   B. Therefore, any in-person invited speakers would have to be from outside the University
   C. However, the University will not currently allow us to reimburse guests to speak in person who are not part of the RU community
      1. Restrictions on outside members visiting campus

II. Virtual honoraria are still reimbursable

III. Guidelines always changing… Expecting an update soon.
Funding Guideline Reminders

I. All events which benefit from GSA funding must have the GSA logo present on any flyers and advertisements with the caption “Funding provided by the Graduate Student Association”
   A. If you need a copy of the logo, contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu

II. Events should be held on RU campus per GSA and University guidelines unless justification can be made why this is not possible.
   A. Affords accessibility
   B. Reach out if you have trouble finding a space to utilize!
   C. There are lots of great study, event, work, and activity spaces on campus!
   D. Contact events@gsa.rutgers.edu for assistance finding a space, reserving the GSL, etc.

III. Keep in mind honorarium amounts based on the venue and VALUE of the engagement. You don’t have to pay every $500/hr on Zoom - especially not because your advisor said so!
   A. Highly discourage using honoraria as a means to “use up” “leftover” funds. This is frowned upon by GSA.
Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) Summary

I. GSAB: A group of graduate students and leaders across the University who are involved in graduate student life

II. Hosted by Office of Graduate Student Life

III. Purpose: Identify concerns related to graduate student resources, engagement, work or personal issues, academics, etc.

IV. We can make a real difference! Please send along your input regarding any campus or University issues.

A. Contact: president@gsa.rutgers.edu or evp@gsa.rutgers.edu
New Initiatives

I. Big 10 Outreach
   A. Goal: extend the beloved community of RU and serve as a hub to connect other Big 10 Universities
   B. Benefits
      1. Leverage data from other Universities to make cases for increased accessibility or resources for graduate students at RU
      2. Join national initiatives for advocacy and graduate student success
      3. Build a professional network for internship, employment, and other career opportunities.

II. Ad-hoc committee: Guidelines and Duties of GSO Advisors
   A. Problem: there are no clearly established guidelines for the duties and responsibilities of GSO advisors.
   B. Benefits:
      1. Informed and responsible faculty advisement helps maintain continuity between organization administrations and aids in GSO “success”
      2. Help reduces concerns whereby faculty and departments may take advantage of GSO resources
   C. Looking for committee members! Contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu
Treasurer
Proposed Student Involvement Definitions

- **GSO Member** – a graduate student regularly involved as an attendee at GSO events. Any graduate student from any department must be permitted to be a GSO member.
  - **Voting Member** – if and only if a GSO is an academic GSO may there be a difference between member and voting member. Voting membership will be reserved for graduate students from the associated department(s). The distinction must be clearly stated within the GSO's constitution.

- **Executive Board** – a GSO’s leadership committee including but not limited to President, Treasurer, Vice-President, and Secretary. These positions must be open to any graduate student from any department. Appointment procedures for Executive Board positions must be clearly stated in the GSO’s constitution.
  - For Academic GSOs, it is allowable to limit these positions to voting members and to limit voting of these positions to voting members. This must be clearly stated within the GSO’s constitution.

- **Attendee** – a student who attends a GSO event but does not want to assume an active role in the organization

[View Google Doc of Proposed Student Involvement and Gathering Definitions]
Proposed Gathering Definitions

- **Event** – a GSO-hosted gathering either in-person or virtual for which attendance may be beneficial to a student through enrichment of knowledge, professional networking, or social connections. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Professional events such as seminars, Q&A panels, group study sessions, and meet-and-greets.
  - Social events such as game nights, movie nights, and festive gatherings.
  - All gatherings that use GSA funds or GSA funded equipment (such as materials procured from the Durable Goods fund)

- **Open General Meeting** – a general meeting either in-person or virtual open to any graduate student who wishes to attend. To encourage unity across the graduate student population and to recognize the value in diversity of opinions and backgrounds, this is open to any graduate student. Funds may be used for this type of gathering if in accordance with the GSA Funding Policies.
  - **Closed Secondary Meeting** – if and only if a GSO is an academic GSO may there be a closed meeting reserved for Voting Members following the Open General Meeting. This must be clearly stated within the GSO’s constitution. GSOs are prohibited from using GSA funds or GSA funded equipment for secondary meetings.

- **Executive Meeting** – a private planning meeting either in-person or virtual reserved for the appointed Executive Board. No GSA funds nor GSA funded equipment may be used for these meetings.

[View Google Doc of Proposed Student Involvement and Gathering Definitions]
Vote on Proposed Student Involvement and Gathering Definitions
## Proposed Changes to Funding Policies: §5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Change</th>
<th>Change Made</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determination of Advanced Annual Entitlements</td>
<td>Change “by multiplying their AMR by the ASR” to “by multiplying their ASR by the APR”</td>
<td>This part was mistakenly copied verbatim from Determination of Standard Annual Entitlements, and thus the acronyms were inconsistent with the context. This is changed in this proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 GSA Procedures for Determining GSO Entitlements</td>
<td>Add declaration of acronyms used in Sections 5.0-5.3.4</td>
<td>Identifies which values are established by GSA EC, which are calculated, and which are overall vs per GSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1</td>
<td>- Create acronym “RFV = Requested Funding Value”</td>
<td>Clarifies Requested Funding Value since it is used several times including for calculations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Refer to 4.1.1 regarding maximum that a GSO can request</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Add equations representing the text</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2</td>
<td>Add a section and 4 acronyms</td>
<td>Clarify calculation of Standard and Advanced Pools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Standard Pool Percentage = SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Budgeted Standard Pool = BSP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Advanced Pool Percentage = APP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Budgeted Advanced Pool = BAP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2</td>
<td>Remove “18/19” year and add the values used for 21/22 year</td>
<td>2018 was when this was last updated. Using our newest numbers makes more sense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2 and 5.3.3</td>
<td>Move the 3 paragraphs relating to calculating Standard Annual Entitlements to Section 5.3.3</td>
<td>If the section is added, SAE information needs to be moved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 (all subsections)</td>
<td>Retitle subsections due to addition of 5.3.2</td>
<td>General change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1-5.3.4</td>
<td>Add indented calculations based on the circumstances of each GSO</td>
<td>Calculations of funding entitlements is a numerical process. Including the equations used for these results is important for transparency of the GSA with GSOs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[View the Google Doc of edited Section 5 with tracked changes](#)
Vote on Proposed Changes to Funding Policies Section 5
# Proposed Durable Goods Amendment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Policy</th>
<th>Proposed Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase Frequency</td>
<td>Once every three years</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Source</td>
<td>Dedicated pool from the GSA Internal Budget</td>
<td>GSO’s Annual Entitlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status Report of Goods</td>
<td>At the request of the GSA EC</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Request</td>
<td>Discretion of GSA, case-by-case basis</td>
<td>Discretion of GSA, case-by-case basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership of Goods</td>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>GSA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Google Document Contents:**
- The above table
- Reasons for changes
- Re-written Funding Policies Section 4.5
- Current Funding Policies Section 4.5

**COUNCIL MEETING VOTE DATE: APRIL 4TH, 2022**

[View Google Document of Proposed Durable Goods Amendment](#)
Durable Goods Request Form

Durable Goods Request Form
sites.rutgers.edu/gsa → Records → Electronic Submission Portals

DISCLAIMER: NO GOODS MAY BE PURCHASED UNTIL EXPLICIT WRITTEN APPROVAL IS PROVIDED.

For more information on what qualifies as a durable good and the restrictions, see the GSA Funding Guidelines.
GSO Co-Hosting GSA Events

If your GSO is interested in co-hosting an event with the GSA, email treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu & events@gsa.rutgers.edu.

Upcoming Major Annual Event: End-of-Year BBQ!
LAST DAY FOR PER REIMBURSEMENT SUBMISSION IS MAY 31, 2022.

Reimbursements **must** be submitted by this date so that they may be processed for this fiscal year.

If your GSO wants to hold an event between June 1st and October, you must receive explicit approval from GSA since no funds are allocated for that period of time.
VP of External Affairs
SAGE

- SAGE White Papers and Day on the Hill
  - Committees
    - Student Debt
    - International Student Issues
    - Campus Safety
    - Climate Change
  - Day on the Hill Conference
    - Date TBD
    - Last Year was on March 29th
    - Advocacy training and meeting with politicians
Health and Nutrition Committee
Health and Nutrition Committee

Food Positivity
A discussion about food bias. Learn to love all foods while staying healthy.
Mar. 13 @ 5 PM

Get INVOLVED:
https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/event/7924758

@HealthNutritionGSARU
@healthnutrition_gsa_ru
@Health_GSA_RU

RUHealth&NutritionCommittee
Health and Nutrition Committee

Social Media posts
Questions?

Email: healthandnutrition@gmail.com

**Actively Recruiting Members!**

- @healthnutrition_gsa_ru
- @HealthNutritionGSARU
- @Health_GSA_RU
- RUHealth&NutritionCommittee
Mental Health Committee
The MHC is recruiting new members!

Please contact us if interested:
mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu

https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/resources/health-and-wellness/

- List of downloadable mental health resources
- “How to find a therapist” doc
Potential Events

1. Paint night (hybrid event)
2. How to talk to your PI about mental health (workshop)
3. Town Hall (get grad student feedback)
Mental Health Survey

Survey opened in May 2021
Closed February 2022
254 responses

Look out for a report at the next Council Meeting!
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee
Upcoming March Events

1) Frankly Speaking - a new closed safe-space series for graduate students to support and process various DEI issues and practices - RSVP - each session will focus on a different topic

2) Women’s History Month event - Workshop with Center of Social Justice Education on the week of March 28th titled “Gender in Society: Feminism” - stay tuned for the announcement in the GSA newsletter
IV. Update from the Senate
Update: Senate Meeting

- The University Senate met on February 18, 2022
  - Meeting agenda: https://senate.rutgers.edu/meeting/senate-meeting-rbhs-campus-report/#
- President Holloway gave a financial state of the university and an administrative report
- Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee - research information systems (RIS) charge update
- Next Senate Meeting: **March 25, 2022** at 1:00pm
- Want to join the senate? SGS Student Senate Info Session **March 17th, 2022** at 6:00 pm
  - Zoom link: https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/97413980503?pwd=NjdLOWdsaGJwT1ZXQlBcGxZSU4yZz09
V. GSO’s Announcements
VI. Any Other Business?
VII. Adjournment