



GSA Student Council Meeting

March 7, 2022 - *Minutes*

7pm; zoom

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

I. Guest: William Zarillo (VPVA)

- A. Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance
 - 1. 1991: office established to support survivors
 - 2. 1995: university wide department created and named Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance
 - 3.
- B. Available 24/7: 848-932-1181
 - 1. Counseling, advocacy, prevention education, awareness
- C. Campus Climate Assessment
 - 1. 18% reported unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers
 - 2. >50% students reported some form of victimization in context of dating relationship
 - 3. 28% students reported some form of unwanted sexual contact prior to coming to Rutgers
- D. Additional Findings
 - 1. Perpetrators tend to be men regardless of sexual orientation and gender of victim
 - 2. Sexual violence and dating violence higher among queer spectrum students compared to heterosexual students
 - 3. Graduate students reporting dating and sexual violence less aware of resources than undergraduates
- E. Short term peer support
 - 1. Find private space
 - 2. Be present and listen
 - 3. Believe
 - 4. Help break myths you hear being repeated

5. Discuss any safety concerns
 6. Gently explain you'll need to report
 7. Provide resources
 8. Empower them to make their own decision
- F. Long term peer support
1. Check in
 2. Remind them you are there
 3. Remind them of resources
 4. Be understanding
 5. Be patient
- G. Other ways to get involved
1. Create spaces to openly talk about topics
 2. Admitting we don't know everything
 3. Educate ourselves and learn from each other
 4. Changing policies within chapters
 5. Men's engagement: email Will at wtp12@echo.rutgers.edu
 6. Joining VPVA Student Coalition and SCREAM Theater
 7. Volunteer with local shelters and groups
 8. Educate yourself on issues (interpersonal violence, anti-racism, etc.)
- H. Questions?
1. william.zarillo@rutgers.edu

II. GSA Elections 2022-23

- A. Nominations for officer and senator positions are:
1. Executive board: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
 2. VP Positions: VP of External Affairs, VP of Events and Programming, and VP of Marketing Orientations and Communications
 3. Directors: Professional Development, and Academic Development
 - a) NOTE: GSA Director positions are appointed by EC and confirmed by council after elections
 4. 4 School of Graduate Studies (SGS) University Senators
- B. Expected timeline
1. Nominations Open: March 28th,
 2. Nomination Close: April 10th at Midnight
 3. Election Period: April 12th - 15th
- C. Are you eligible?
1. Any student enrolled in: Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, Graduate School of Education, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers Business School- NB, School of Arts and

Sciences, School of Communication and Information, School of Engineering, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, School of Graduate Studies, School of Social Work, School of Management and Labor Relations

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

D. Procedure

1. 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)
2. Email a brief statement of purpose- [why do you want to run for a particular position](#)
3. A nomination form will be available on the GSA website

E. How elections work

1. 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)
2. Students will have access to candidate's statement of purpose when voting to help make their decision.

F. Key extra information

1. 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.
 - a) 1st session: March 11th 1-2 PM
 - b) 2nd session: March 21st 10-11 AM
 - c) Check getINVOLVED
2. We are looking for an election commissioner! please email: evp@gsa.rutgers.edu
 - a) Supervise GSA elections to ensure fairness and efficiency
 - b) Organize and publicize elections to maximize voter turnout
 - c) Compile nominations and votes
 - d) Great way to interface with GSA!
3. Reasons to join GSA
 - a) Community: Meet graduate students across campus and gain a broad perspective of the graduate student experience and how the university works
 - b) Advocacy: Gain access to Rutgers administrators across many offices and advocate for graduate student interests
 - c) Don't just ask, create! Create new programs and resources for graduate students when just asking the university for new resources isn't enough
 - d) Professional development and resume building: Gain experience running a complex organization with an over \$250,000 budget
 - e) GSO Support: Work to improve and maintain the quality of the funding and reimbursement system for GSOs across Rutgers
4. Reasons to join Senate

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

III. Report on the State of GSA

A. President (P) president@gsa.rutgers.edu

1. Renaming graduate school lounge
 - a) The GSL will be renamed as The Schuster Graduate Student Lounge
 - b) The GSL is an open space for all graduate students for:
 - (1) Work-related purposes
 - (2) Organizing events and meetings
 - c) Any graduate student is welcome to utilize the space as per their needs
 - d) GSA can help you reserve GSL space! Email at events@gsa.rutgers.edu
2. Meeting with higher administration
 - a) Meeting with Dr. Jonathan Holloway, Dr. Prabhas Moghe, Dr. Salvador Mena, and Dr. Anne Newman.
 - b) Agenda items:
 - (1) GSL space for the GSA and graduate students usage.
 - (2) Transparency in the graduate student's fees distribution
 - (3) Need to increase the budget of the GSA to support the increasing needs of graduate student community
 - (4) Acknowledging that graduate students are an integral part of the University
 - (5) Need for clear communication between the University and graduate student community
 - (6) Better system for tackling workplace harassment and Title IX issues
3. Workplace harassment and Title IX
 - a) Resources
 - (1) Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: Available 24 hours per day

- and 7 days per week
- (2) Office of Employment Equity (OEE)
- b) Confidentiality depends on reporting
 - (1) Student Affairs Compliance and Title IX
 - (2) List of Title IX coordinators across the University ([depends on if you have provided your name](#)). [If anonymous, this limits what they can do to help](#)
- c) Meeting with the Harvard University's Student Union to discuss best practices to tackle and resolve harassment
- d) If unsure, reach out to the GSA. We will try our best to direct you in the right direction.
- 4. Highlights from the Union's town hall
 - a) What are we fighting for?
 - (1) A just salary increase
 - (2) Grad Funding: Five years of guaranteed funding
 - (3) Research Support: Reduce the fringe rate
 - (4) Enforceable right to a safe workplace
 - (5) Housing justice for students, staff, faculty, and residents
 - (6) Caregiver support: Caregiver allowance, subsidized backup care, dependent care travel allowance
- 5. Celebration of Life for Dean Mark Schuster
 - a) Friday 3/25 at 3-6 pm in person with capacity limits at Zimmerli and via livestream
- 6. Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week
 - a) April 6-10, 2022
 - b) The GSA will be collaborating with the Office of Graduate Student Life and Rutgers Global to plan a week long celebration.
 - c) Interested in collaborating with the GSA? Got any ideas for events?
 - d) Please email at president@gsa.rutgers.edu

B. Executive VP (EVP) evp@gsa.rutgers.edu

- 1. PSA: GSOs are independent
 - a. GSOs have autonomy to host events, honoraria, etc within the University and GSA guidelines
 - b. Graduate student funds are to be used for events planned for and by graduate students
 - c. Departments have no right to ask GSOs to host events, nor tell them how to host

events, whom to invite to speak, etc.

- i. Ex. A department pushing a GSO to hold a “typical” or “annual” speaker series is not acceptable.
- ii. 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.
- iii. GSA will advocate for you and make these guidelines clear to departments - anonymously if desired
 1. Contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu if you have an issue!

2. Invited Speaker Guidelines

- a. In-person honoraria not currently allowed
 - i. 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!
 - ii. Therefore, any in-person invited speakers would have to be from outside the University
 - iii. 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
 - iv. Virtual honoraria are still reimbursable
 - v. Guidelines always changing... Expecting an update soon.

3. Funding Guideline Reminders

- a. 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”
 - i. If you need a copy of the logo, contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu
- b. Events should be held on RU campus per GSA and University guidelines unless justification can be made why this is not possible.
 - i. Affords accessibility
 - ii. Reach out if you have trouble finding a space to utilize!
 - iii. There are lots of great study, event, work, and activity spaces on campus!
 - iv. Contact events@gsa.rutgers.edu for assistance finding a space, reserving the GSL, etc.
- c. 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!
 - i. Highly discourage using honoraria as a means to “use up” “leftover”

funds. This is frowned upon by GSA.

4. Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) Summary
 - a. GSAB: A group of graduate students and leaders across the University who are involved in graduate student life
 - b. Hosted by Office of Graduate Student Life
 - c. Purpose: Identify concerns related to graduate student resources, engagement, work or personal issues, academics, etc.
 - d. We can make a real difference! Please send along your input regarding any campus or University issues.
 - i. Contact: president@gsa.rutgers.edu or evp@gsa.rutgers.edu
5. New Initiatives
 - a. Big 10 Outreach
 - i. Goal: extend the beloved community of RU and serve as a hub to connect other Big 10 Universities
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Ad-hoc committee: Guidelines and Duties of GSO Advisors
 - iv. Problem: there are no clearly established guidelines for the duties and responsibilities of GSO advisors.
 - v. 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
 - vi. Looking for committee members! Contact evp@gsa.rutgers.edu

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

1. Proposed Student Involvement Definitions
 - a. 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.

- i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 1. 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.
 - iii. Attendee – a student who attends a GSO event but does not want to assume an active role in the organization
 - iv. View Google Doc of Proposed Student Involvement and Gathering Definitions
- b. Proposed Gathering Definitions
- i. 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:
 1. Professional events such as seminars, Q&A panels, group study sessions, and meet-and-greets.
 2. Social events such as game nights, movie nights, and festive gatherings.
 3. All gatherings that use GSA funds or GSA funded equipment (such as materials procured from the Durable Goods fund)
 - ii. 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.

1. 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.
 - iii. 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.
 2. Vote on Proposed Student Involvement and Gathering Definitions
 3. Proposed Changes to Funding Policies: §5 **AFFIRMED**
 - a. View Google Doc of edited Section 5 with tracked changes
 4. Vote on Proposed Changes to Funding Policies Section 5 **AFFIRMED**
 5. Proposed Durable Goods Amendment
 - a. View Google Document of Proposed Durable Goods Amendment
 - b. [Will vote on this during April meeting](#)
 6. Durable Goods Request Form Open
 - a. sites.rutgers.edu/gsa → Records → Electronic Submission Portals
 - b. DISCLAIMER: NO GOODS MAY BE PURCHASED UNTIL EXPLICIT WRITTEN APPROVAL IS PROVIDED.
 - c. For more information on what qualifies as a durable good and the restrictions, see the GSA Funding Guidelines.
 7. GSO Co-Hosting GSA Events
 - a. If your GSO is interested in co-hosting an event with the GSA, email treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu & events@gsa.rutgers.edu.
 - b. Upcoming Major Annual Event: End-of-Year BBQ!
 8. LAST DAY FOR PER REIMBURSEMENT SUBMISSION IS MAY 31, 2022.
 - a. Reimbursements must be submitted by this date so that they may be processed for this fiscal year.
 - b. 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.
 - c. [HAVE TO GET GSA APPROVAL IF USING FUNDS OVER SUMMER because funding allocation only applies during semester](#)

i.

D. Secretary (S) secretary@gsa.rutgers.edu

1. N/A

E. VP of External Affairs

1. SAGE

- a) Committees

- (1) Student Debt
- (2) International Student Issues
- (3) Campus Safety
- (4) Climate Change

- b) Day on the Hill Conference

- (1) Date TBD
- (2) Last Year was on March 29th
- (3) Advocacy training and meeting with politicians

F. GSA Subcommittees

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

- a) Food positivity

- (1) A discussion about food bias- learn to love foods while staying healthy

- (a) getINVOLVED:

<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/event/7924758>

- (2) Social media posts

- (a) [Check Instagram page](#)

- (3) Questions?

- (a) [@healthnutrition_gsa_ru](#) on Instagram,
[@HealthNutritionGSARU](#) on Facebook

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

- a) MHC is recruiting new members. Contact mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu

- b) 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)

- c) Mental health survey

- (1) 254 responses and closed in Feb 2022
- (2) Will report next meeting!

G. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

1. Upcoming March events
 - a) 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
 - (1) [Zoom link will be provided upon RSVP. This is a closed event!](#)
 - (2) [Safe space so rule is to not share things outside of the event](#)
 - b) 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. Updates from the Senate

- A. The University Senate met on February 18, 2022
 1. Meeting agenda: <https://senate.rutgers.edu/meeting/senate-meeting-rbhs-campus-report/#>
- B. President Holloway gave a financial state of the university and an administrative report
 1. [Also COVID state of the university could be found online](#)
- C. Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee - research information systems (RIS) charge update
- D. Next Senate Meeting: March 25, 2022 at 1:00pm
- E. Want to join the senate? SGS Student Senate Info Session March 17th, 2022 at 6:00 pm
 1. Zoom link:
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/97413980503?pwd=NjdLOWdsaGJwT1ZXQlBcGxZSU4yZz09>

V. GSO Announcements

- A. [N/A](#)

VI. Any Other Business

- A. [Richard Cliver- issues obtaining reimbursement for BESS](#)
 1. [Email Treasurer and CC Jess to get status update](#)
 2. [Filed for reimbursement few days before deadline- will include confirmation of this](#)
- B. [Heidi Yeh- SPAR and Oceanography GSA will hold open workshop. Honorarium of \\$3000 through Rutgers Science Communications Initiative](#)
 1. [Cheaper than getting from outside vendor](#)
 2. [Will be open to everyone](#)
 3. [Need to send an email to President and EVP](#)

4. Business managers email gets bogged down so if there are issues with reimbursements or approval, please email President, EVP, and Treasurer!
- C. Carolina- cannot have honorarium with COVID restrictions. Can we use GSO funds (from another university) for food and department pay for honorarium?
 1. Keep in mind that there is \$15 per person policy
- D. Artun- German department conference. Reimbursement for honorarium and food but confusion about travel reimbursement because grad students came from other universities
 1. Grad student fees cannot be used to reimburse other university grad students
 2. Only works for food and international speaker
- E. Myla Mcqueen- Future Leaders of America Board. Anything to be aware of?
 1. Go to GSA website and read funding guidelines for GSOs
 2. Last day to submit reimbursement request is last day of May
 3. Funding apps for next year open in September
 4. Allocation is through end of May

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

Post-meeting minutes

N/A