



## **GSA Student Council Meeting**

**April 4, 2022 - Minutes**

**7pm; zoom**

Meeting Start time: **7:02 pm EST**

### **I. Guest: Emmet von Stackelberg (Rutgers AAUP-AFT)**

- A. This is faculty union which also covers TAs and GAs (over 8,000 academic workers)
- B. Grad workers have been part of the union for over 50 years
- C. What is union
  - 1. Has legally recognized negotiating power to promote the interests of everyone
- D. Why do we need to get organized?
  - 1. Union contract expires this June for TAs/GAs
    - a) Need to make gains in salary and working conditions
  - 2. Some are running out of funding imminently
  - 3. Many are excluded from the contract (e.g. graduate fellows)
- E. Salary over the years
  - 1. Over last 15 years we have made gains (\$19,815 in 2007 and \$30,162)
    - a) Years where there were large spikes were years in which workers organized
- F. What do we want now?
  - 1. Want living wage
  - 2. Stable funding- all grad workers to be guaranteed 5 years
  - 3. Caregiver support because university sees us as children rather than as head of household (elder and child care are important)
- G. Grad contract demands
  - 1. Funding extension post pandemic
  - 2. Fellows to be part of bargaining
  - 3. Salary demand: \$37k next year and to increase with inflation
- H. Columbia paves the way
  - 1. Student workers went on strike and won large salary increases
  - 2. Paved the way for fellowship/stipend increases at Princeton which has similar cost of living as us
  - 3. Amazon workers formed union in Staten Island by organizing with one another and having

conversations with fellow workers (independent union)

- I. Funding extensions
  - 1. University claims no one needs funding extensions as that can be taken care by programs
    - a) Gathering testimonials from those who are affected and will share with university at next Board of Governors meeting
- J. What about fellows?
  - 1. Fellows are grad workers too
    - a) Do same labor as TA/GA
    - b) Performs service to keep departments functioning
    - c) Research benefits community and university
  - 2. University claims fellows aren't employees
    - a) Even though paid like TA/GA
  - 3. Fellows don't enjoy protection of TA/GA
  - 4. Fellows Town Hall
    - a) April 26 at 4 pm
    - b) Email [emmets@hey.com](mailto:emmets@hey.com)
    - c) Survey: <https://bit.ly/36e3Od2>
    - d) University doesn't share information about fellows or stats so it is unknown how many there are so please reach out
- K. Get involved in Union!
  - 1. [aaup@rutgersaaup.org](mailto:aaup@rutgersaaup.org)
  - 2. Jacob Chaffin is grad point person: [jchaffin@rutgersaaup.org](mailto:jchaffin@rutgersaaup.org)

## II. Guest Amanda Liyanaarachchi (Election Commissioner)

- A. Did not attend

## III. GSA Elections 2022-23

- A. GSA Officer and Senator Positions
  - 1. Nominations will be open for the GSA Officer and Senator positions for the 2022-23 AY.  
Open positions are:
    - a) Executive Board Positions: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
    - b) VP Positions: VP of External Affairs, VP of Events and Programming, and VP of Marketing Orientations and Communications
    - c) Directors: Professional Development, and Academic Development
      - (1) NOTE: GSA Director positions are appointed by EC and confirmed by council after elections
    - d) 4 School of Graduate Studies (SGS) University Senators
    - e) This is a great way to make changes at GSA that you would like to be done!
  - 2. Expected timeline
    - a) Nominations Open: March 28th
    - b) Nomination Close: April 10th at Midnight

- c) Election Period: April 12th - 15th
- B. Are you eligible?
  - 1. Any graduate student enrolled in the following schools:
    - a) Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
    - b) Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
    - c) Graduate School of Education
    - d) Mason Gross School of the Arts
    - e) Rutgers Business School- NB
    - f) School of Arts and Sciences
    - g) School of Communication and Information
    - h) School of Engineering
    - i) School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
    - j) School of Graduate Studies
    - k) School of Management and Labor Relations
    - l) School of Social Work
  - 2. Non-SGS, RBHS constituency is sometimes unclear. Get in touch if you have questions.

## IV. Report on the State of GSA

- A. President
  - 1. Website domain updated
    - a) The updated website address for GSA is [gsa.rutgers.edu](http://gsa.rutgers.edu)
    - b) NOTE: Reimbursements via Electronic Submission Portals
      - (1) Please use the right portals to file for reimbursements.
    - c) Please email at [president@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:president@gsa.rutgers.edu)
    - d) [Old website is still out there for now but](#)
      - (1) [Please do NOT use the old electronic submission portals for reimbursements. Be mindful of where you are submitting](#)
      - (2) [If reimbursements are late, think about where you are submitting and contact EC](#)
  - 2. Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week
    - a) April 6-11, 2022
    - b) We strongly advise all the GSO leaders to attend the Mental Health and Resources Town hall on April 11, 2020 at 5 pm.
      - (1) Invite additional students in your cohort, organization, department, etc!
    - c) Please email at [president@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:president@gsa.rutgers.edu)
    - d) Events:
      - (1) 4/6: Breakfast and Coffee Mixer from 9-11 am in BME Building Atrium
      - (2) 4/7: Paint Knight from 6:30-8 pm (Zoom)
      - (3) 4/8: Afternoon yoga at 1 pm in Busch Campus Center
      - (4) 4/8: Foods of the World from 5-7 pm in GSL
      - (5) 4/9: Hiking from 9-12 pm on Livingston Trail
      - (6) 4/11: Professional Headshots from 10 am-3 pm in GSL

(7) 4/11: Mental Health Town Hall from 5-6:30 pm (Zoom)

- e) Please distribute information to GSOs and friends!
- f) We strongly encourage all GSO leaders to attend Mental Health Town Hall!
  - (1) Will talk about resources that each office provides to tackle mental health, workplace harassment, and title IX issues

B. Executive Vice President

C. Treasurer

1. Reimbursement Submissions

- a) LAST DAY FOR PER REIMBURSEMENT SUBMISSION IS MAY 31, 2022.
- b) Reimbursements must be submitted by this date so that they may be processed for this fiscal year.
- c) 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.

2. Proposed Durable Goods Amendment

- a) Current policy: purchase frequency once per year, funding source dedicated pool from GSA Internal Budget, status report of goods at request of GSA EC, maximum request is at discretion of GSA on case-by-case basis, and ownership of goods is GSA
- b) Proposed policy: purchase frequency once per year, funding source GSA Annual Entitlement, status report of goods annually, maximum request is at discretion of GSA on case-by-case basis, ownership of goods GSA
- c) Google Document Contents:
  - (1) The above table
  - (2) Reasons for changes
  - (3) Re-written Funding Policies Section 4.5
  - (4) Current Funding Policies Section 4.5
  - (5) COUNCIL MEETING VOTE DATE: TODAY (APRIL 4TH)
- d) Vote on Durable Goods Funding Policies

(1) PASSED!

3. Policy for Communal Durable Goods

- a) Supplies that may be useful to multiple GSOs may be purchased by the GSA and kept for loaning to GSOs
  - (1) Available for short term loaning on a check-out and check-in basis
  - (2) May include things such as board games, sports equipment, etc.
  - (3) Purchased at the discretion of the GSA EC
  - (4) Would not be funded by the GSO's entitlement
- b) Benefits
  - (1) Reduce duplicity of goods owned by GSA
  - (2) Maintain quality of goods
  - (3) Reduce burden of purchasing goods on the GSOs
  - (4) Encourage collaboration for events

4. Durable goods request form open
    - a) [gsa.rutgers.edu](http://gsa.rutgers.edu) → 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.
  5. GSO Co-Hosting GSA Events
    - a) If your GSO is interested in co-hosting an event with the GSA, email [treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu) & [events@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:events@gsa.rutgers.edu).
    - b) Upcoming Major Annual Event:
    - c) End-of-Year BBQ: April 29
      - (1) Set-up: 3 pm, event: 4-7 pm, clean up 7 pm
- D. Health and Nutrition Committee
1. Food positivity workshop
    - a) Message us if you are interested in watching
    - b) YouTube: RUHealth&NutritionCommittee, Facebook: @HealthNutritionGSARU, Instagram: @healthandnutrition\_gsa\_ru, Twitter: @Health\_GSA\_RU
  2. Social media posts
    - a) International Carrott Day: 4/4
    - b) International Artichoke Heart Day
- E. Mental Health Committee
1. The MHC is recruiting new members!
    - a) Please contact us if interested: [mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:mentalhealth@gsa.rutgers.edu)
    - b) <https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/resources/health-and-wellness/>
    - c) List of downloadable mental health resources
    - d) "How to find a therapist" doc
  2. Events
    - a) We strongly encourage everyone to attend the Mental Health and Resources Town hall on April 11, 2022 at 5 pm
    - b) There will be a Paint Knight on April 7th 6:30 - 8:00 PM (If you RSVP'd please let us know to coordinate pickup)
  3. Mental Health Survey
    - a) Survey opened in May 2021
    - b) Closed February 2022
    - c) 254 responses
    - d) Look out for a report after the Town Hall Meeting on April 11th!
  4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee
    - a) Upcoming March events
      - (1) A workshop with Center for Social Justice Education titled "Gender in Society: Feminism" - led by Diversity Peer Educators - on Zoom on April 26th - RSVP Link here
    - b) [Frankly Speaking event happened where grad students can share concerns](#)

about DEI issues

- (1) Talked about identities and bringing them into academia
- (2) Will do another in the future on imposter syndrome

## V. Updates from the Senate

### A. Update: Senate Meeting

#### 1. The University Senate met on March 25, 2022

##### a) Meeting agenda:

<https://senate.rutgers.edu/meeting/senate-meeting-new-brunswick-campus-report/#>

##### b) Chancellor Conway gave a report on the state of Rutgers-NB

##### c) Passed 7 resolutions, including one that redefined what the presidential search committee should look like, and another that recommends better pay and benefits for PTLs

- (1) Identities were kept secret in selecting Pres. Holloway and Senate rep wasn't included

- (2) Grad course credit legislation

##### d) Budget and Finance Committee - Submitting a recommendation to President Holloway for increasing accessibility to the university budget

- (1) Want to put on web, make it interactive so you can see changes from year to year

##### e) Next Senate Meeting: April 29th, 2022 at 1:00pm

- (1) Organizational Meeting to elect new Executive Council

## VI. GSO Announcements

## VII. Any Other Business

## VIII. Adjournment

Adjourned: 7:37 pm