



Graduate Student Association

Student Council Meeting
May 02, 2022

Agenda



- I. Remarks: Outgoing GSA Board
- II. Summary Report on State of the GSA: 2021-2022
- III. Guest: Amanda Liyanaarachchi (Election Commissioner)
- IV. Brief Updates: Wrapping up the Year and Beginning Anew
- V. Updates from the Senate
- VI. GSO Announcements
- VII. Any Other Business
- VIII. Adjournment



I. Remarks: Sonal Gahlawat and Outgoing GSA Board



II. Summary Report on State of the GSA: 2021-2022



President

Accomplishments for 2021-22



- I. Reestablished the GSA's position as the voice of the graduate students at the NB campus
- II. Developed and strengthened connections with the University's leadership, which enabled us to voice concerns on crucial matters affecting graduate students:
 - A. More transparency in graduate student fees distribution and its allocation
 - B. Clear and open communication between the University and graduate students
 - C. Better mental health resources (Passed on to CAPS as well)
 - D. Tackling workplace and TITLE IX issues
 - E. Need for increased GSA's budget to meet the growing needs of graduate students
- III. Developed successful relationships with Office of Student Affairs, OGSL, CAPS, OEE, SGS, VPVA, and many more offices within Rutgers
- IV. With the help of GSO's, helped build a more inclusive and cohesive graduate student community

Accomplishments for 2021-22



V. Redesigned the new GSA website

- Easy to navigate and find information

VI. Organized several events targeting the greater graduate student population: monthly coffee and breakfast mixers, Mental Health and Resources Town Hall, professional development activities, game nights, trivia, and movie screenings → fostered new connections

VII. Amazing representation in the University Senate by the SGS Senators

VIII. Revived three GSA Committees: Mental Health, Health and Nutrition, and DEI (new!)

- Impressive work to support the graduate student needs
- Mental health survey to better understand the needs of graduate students and identify better and effective ways for support
- Food positivity workshop for healthy eating
- Closed virtual space for graduate students to discuss various topics

IX. Awareness about available resources regarding workplace discrimination and harassment



Executive Vice-President



Treasurer

Achievements



- Improved and clarified language in describing the process of Determination of Annual Entitlements
- Added new definitions for student members and participants in GSOs and GSO events to engage a larger audience while respecting the unique needs of departmental GSOs
- Provided new options for GSOs to access communal event supplies through Durable Goods
- Introduced new protocols for Durable Goods to allow GSOs more freedom in the frequency of requests
- Behind the scenes: constructed four re-usable, adaptable spreadsheets to be used long-term to track and manage the funding of the GSA and GSOs



III. Guest: Amanda Liyanaarachchi (Election Commissioner)

Announcing New Members



President: Shawn Rumrill

Executive Vice President: Nusrath Yusuf

Treasurer: Mary Pat Reiter

Secretary: Dheeraj Goli

Vice President of Events and Programs: Jodh Singh

Vice President of External Affairs: Arthur Lee

VP of Marketing and Public Affairs: Niharika Krothapalli

SGS Senators: Sonal Gahlawat, Natalie Losada, Pragun Mittal, Chelsea Cary

More info on newly elected officers here -

<https://gsa.rutgers.edu/current-executive-officers/>

Presidential Oath of Office



- I do solemnly pledge to faithfully execute the duties of the President of the Graduate Student Association of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



IV. Brief Updates: Wrapping up the Year and Beginning Anew



President

Reappointments & Vacancies



- Blog Manager: Reappointment - Ashlea Coulter
- Social Media Manager: Reappointment - Gagan Gowda Madaiah
- VACANCIES:
 - Professional Development Director
 - Academic Development Director
- Committee Openings
 - Mental Health: Seeking Co-Chair
 - Health & Nutrition: Seeking Co-Chairs
 - DEI: Seeking Co-Chair

Please reach out if interested! ec@gsa.rutgers.edu

Transitioning to getINVOLVED



- Past year:
 - Usage of getINVOLVED required for GSOs
 - GSA Meetings share exclusively via platform
- Upcoming:
 - All document and form submissions on getINVOLVED
 - Recognition/funding applications
 - Reimbursements
 - GSL reservations, checking out games/items
- Benefits
 - Centralized
 - Immediate notification and tracking by all assigned GSA members

Join the GSA on getINVOLVED now!

<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/gsa>

2021-2022 GSA Awards



- Call for Nominations!
 - Form on getINVOLVED:
<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/541524>
 - All Graduate students, regardless of degree objective, program, or school are eligible.
 - Students are welcome to self-nominate.
 - -or the Faculty award, any member of the Rutgers University faculty is eligible.
 - For the Support Service to the Graduate Community Award, any person or organization is eligible. This includes local community leaders or services so long as their work directly and positively affected the Rutgers Graduate Student community.
 - Nominations:
 - OPEN NOW
 - CLOSE May 16th
- Also need reviewers! Questions? Email: president@gsa.rutgers.edu



Treasurer



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.

Advanced Annual Entitlement



Requirements for Advanced Annual Funding (must meet at least 3 to be eligible)

1. Is the GSO an academic GSO?
2. **Has the GSO publicized at least three events to the GSA Events List or another venue aimed at a wide multi-departmental audience in the last academic year and has the GSO notified the treasurer of the GSA of such *prior to the conclusion of the last academic year*?**
3. Has the GSO missed fewer than three GSA council meetings in the last academic year?
4. Has the GSO spent at least 90% of its annual entitlement in the last academic year?
5. **Has a member of the GSO volunteered to assist with a GSA-run event or committee and has the GSO notified the treasurer of the GSA of such *prior to the conclusion of the last academic year*?**

If a GSO is eligible for Advanced Funding for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the GSO is responsible for reporting it to the EC via the treasurer ***prior to the conclusion of the academic year.***

Status of Rollover Funding



There will be no rollover funding for the 2021-2022 AY into the 2022-2023 AY.

- Determination of Annual Entitlements for 2022-2023 AY will be performed as described in the amended Funding Guidelines.
 - If you have any questions about this process, please contact treasurer@gsa.rutgers.edu

2022-2023 Recognition & Funding Application



**ALL ACTIVE GSOs MUST APPLY FOR RECOGNITION AND FUNDING BY
SEPTEMBER 19TH FOR THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR .**

Recognition application will include the following:

- A list of the organization's current graduate student officers and their emails
- A current constitution
- A list of the emails of the current graduate student members of the organization (official university email accounts preferred)
- A designated contact person who is to be contacted in case the EC has a question regarding the request (this person must be a graduate student member of the organization)
- Information on whether the GSO is an academic GSO associated with a curriculum code (or codes) or a non-academic GSO
- Requested Funding Value (treasurer will post a sheet with the maximum amount that each GSO can request)

NOTICE: Summer Events



- If a GSOs wishes to hold an event over the summer, they must receive explicit permission from the GSA since no funding has been allocated for the summer months.



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Health and Nutrition Committee



2021-2022 Accomplishments!

15+ people
In-person

~10 people
In-person

~5 people
Virtual

15+ people
Virtual



 GSA Health and Nutrition Committee presents...

Fall semester kick-start with Milk Tea

Where?
semi-outside - grad student lounge

When?
Oct. 12th 9-10:30am

What else?
bring a friend & a mask

 @HealthNutritionGSARU
 @healthnutrition_gsa_ru
 @Health_GSA_RU

 GSA-Sponsored Event



 GSA Health and Nutrition Committee presents...

WINTER BEVERAGES:
Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate

Where
When
Grab a friend & a mask

 @HealthNutritionGSARU
 @healthnutrition_gsa_ru
 @Health_GSA_RU

 GSA-Sponsored Event



 GSA Health and Nutrition Committee presents...

Cook with Us Overnight Oats

Where?
Zoom - sign up on GetINVOLVED

When?
Nov. 28, 8pm

What else?
print out google form w/ ingredients!

 @HealthNutritionGSARU
 @healthnutrition_gsa_ru
 @Health_GSA_RU

 GSA-Sponsored Event



 Health and Nutrition Committee presents...

Food Positivity

A discussion about food bias. Learn to love all foods while staying healthy.

Mar. 13 @ 5 PM

sign up at the link or QR code

 @HealthNutritionGSARU
 @healthnutrition_gsa_ru
 @Health_GSA_RU

 GSA-Sponsored Event



Continuous Social Media Posts



Foodie Fridays and Food celebration days



Upcoming Collaborative Event

Invited Guest Speaker

***Wednesday, June 1 at
12 noon via zoom.***



Elizabeth Reverri, PhD, MS, RD


Elizabeth (Beth) J. Reverri, PhD, MS, RD is a Nutrition Scientist, Registered Dietitian, and Mother to three young children, one of whom is medically complex. Since 2017, she has worked at Abbott Nutrition in Pediatric Nutrition Science on science, research, and innovation.



About

Host by

Toxicology Department,

 Health & Nutrition Committee-GSA,
Nutritional Science Department





Looking for someone to pass the torch to...

Email: healthandnutrition@gmail.com



@healthnutrition_gsa_ru



@HealthNutritionGSARU



@Health_GSA_RU



RUHealth&NutritionCommittee



Mental Health Committee

2021-2022 Accomplishments!

Mental Health Survey & Resources

Grad student mental health survey

- Opened May 2021
- Closed February 2022
- **254 responses** → recently analyzed and summarized in our Mental Health Survey Report

Compiled the mental health resources available across Rutgers (and beyond)

- List of resources can be found on the GSA website > Resources tab > Health & Wellness
 - <https://sites.rutgers.edu/gsa/resources/health-and-wellness/>
- Including - “How to find a therapist outside of RU” downloadable doc
- **Mental Health Survey Report will be added to the webpage today!**



2021-2022 Accomplishments!

Emotional Wellness & Mental Health in Graduate School

Dr. Francesca Maresca

Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health & Wellness, Director of Health, Outreach, Promotion & Education (HOPE)



Yoga at the GSL with MHC!

Marcus Allen Reynier
Pabellon



Meditation Wednesdays Event & SKY Breath Meditation Workshop



Rutgers Meditation Wednesdays

Introduction to
SKY Breath Meditation

Feb 9: 7-8 PM ET

Feb 16: 7-8 PM ET



Contact:

Pooja Bhalode

PhD candidate Chem. Eng.

prb63@rutgers.edu



tiny.cc/RutgersMeditates

- Powerful breathing exercises
- Experience deep meditation
- Remove stress and anxiety

FEATURED IN:

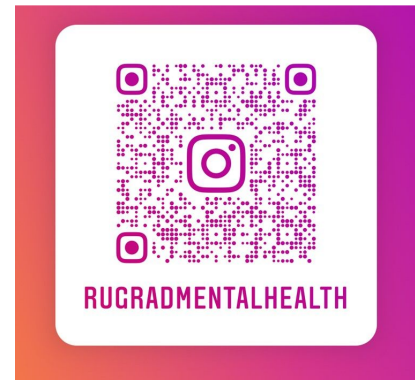
The MHC is recruiting new members!



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



**Looking for new
Co-chairs!**





Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee



2021-2022 Accomplishments!

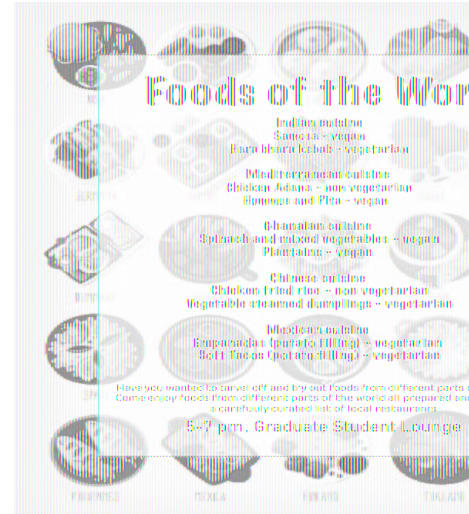
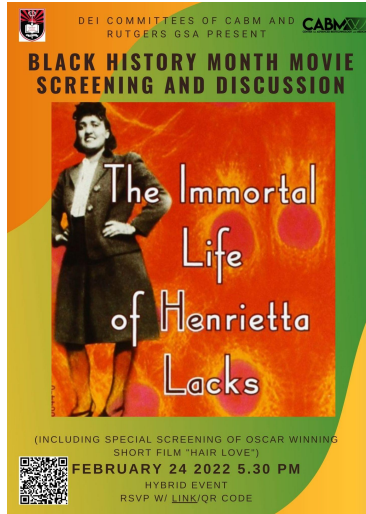
Established New Committee! Mission Statement [here](#)

Black History Month
(February)

Graduate Students Safe
Discussion Space
(March)

Food event, Grad student
appreciation week
(April)

Grad Student Appreciation
week and SJE for Women's
History Month (April)





Upcoming Plans

Recruiting co-chair for this committee. We are looking for folks who are interested in continuing to build an inclusive graduate student community at Rutgers and work alongside the diversity strategic plan set by Rutgers University!

We are also looking to support any ongoing department specific DEI activities. Tell us if your department has a DEI group and we are open to collaborating for events and other activities!

Reach out to diversity@gsa.rutgers.edu!



V. Updates from the Senate



Update: Senate Meeting

- University Senate meeting - **April 29, 2022**
 - Meeting agenda: <https://senate.rutgers.edu/meeting/senate-meeting-13/#>
 - Chancellor Tillis gave a report on the state of **Rutgers Camden**
 - **Michael E. Zwick, Senior Vice President for Research**, presented on the state of Rutgers research
- **Budget and Finance Committee** - Presented a recommendation to the senate for increased accessibility to the university budget via a website
- **Organizational meeting - April 29, 2022 (morning)** new executive committee was elected, with Adrienne Simonds becoming Chair and Lucille Foster Vice-Chair



Update: Senate Meeting

- Outgoing Senators:
 - Melissa Woortman
 - Ashley Bernstein
 - Danielle Kozlosky
- Incoming Senators:
 - Sonal Gahlawat
 - Natalie Losada
 - Chelsea Cary
 - Pragun Mittal



VI. GSO's Announcements



VII. Any Other Business?



VIII. Adjournment