



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK
Graduate Student Association

Plenary Council Meeting

Graduate Student Association
April 3rd, 2023



**Special Guest
Ghada Endick
Dean of Graduate Student Life**



Presidential Update





GSA Elections 2023-24



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Call for Election Nominations!

*Have a member in mind you want to celebrate?
Submit the nomination form in the description
and in our bio!*

No Treasurer nominations yet!

Elections!

It's time for elections! We've revised the timeline a few times to accommodate as much participation as possible. Please view our constitution to see positions.

Nominations: Open until April 7 at midnight

Elections: April 10 - 14 at midnight
subject to change

Please email elections@gsa.rutgers.edu with questions!

Nominations form!





GSA Officer and Senator Positions

Nominations will be open for the GSA Officer and Senator positions for the 2023-24 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 20th

Nomination Close: April 7th at Midnight

Election Period: April 10th - 14th *subject to change*



Are you eligible?

Who can run for an officer position

- Any graduate student enrolled in the following schools:

**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 Management
and Labor Relations**

School of Social Work

- 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.



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



Proposed Amendment - Constitution DEI Statements

“In accordance with the Rutgers’ DEI strategic plan, all recognized GSOs are required to include a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement in their constitution which is in alignment with the 5 goals set forth by the plan including:

1. Recruit, Retain, and Develop Diverse Community
 2. Promote Inclusive Scholarship and Teaching
 3. Define Sustainable and Substantive Community Engagement
 4. Build the Capacity of Leaders to Create an Inclusive Climate
 5. Develop an Institutional Infrastructure to Drive Change”
- GSA will prepare a template for use by GSOs.
 - GSOs will be allowed to adapt or draft their own DEI statements
 - Per constitutional review, all statements are subject to review and approval by the GSA EC



EVP Update





Recognizing New Organizations

3 Groups to be recognized

1. Women's and Gender, and Sexuality Studies GSO (WGSS GSO)
 - a. President - Arpita Biswas, Treasurer - David Carre
 - b. Academic GSO affiliated with the WGSS department code
2. Rutgers University Society for Human Resource Management (Graduate Chapter)
 - a. Officers - Sanchali Mukherjee, Chiomo Okonkwo
 - b. Academic GSO affiliated with the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations (SMLR) department code
3. Chemical and Biochemical Engineering GSO
 - a. President - Dharanidaran Jayachandran, Vice-President - Maricely Ramirez
 - b. Academic GSO affiliated with Chemical and Biochemical Engineering department code



Treasurer Update





Funding Guidelines Amendment Vote

4.2.2 General Funding Prohibitions: Transportation

Special permission requests for off-campus events or field trips must be accompanied by a transportation proposal.

- Public transportation proposals
 - Departure/arrival locations/times, transit systems/stations, est. cost/attendee
- Carpooling Proposal (at least two passengers attending the event)
 - Planned departure/arrival locations+times, est. # of vehicles, method of coordinating carpools

PERs for approved events must include:

- Public transportation
 - All original receipts
- Carpooling*
 - Screenshot of origination and destination locations with total distance tracked on Google Maps/MapQuest
 - List of vehicles, drivers, and # of passengers in each
 - Parking and tolls can be reimbursed with original receipts

*Carpooling with personal vehicles will be reimbursed at the IRS determined mileage rate. As of Jan 1, 2023, this rate is \$0.655/mile. [More information on Rutgers policy here](#). This carpooling policy (with the exception of passenger requirements) will be put into effect for guest speakers in section 4.2.2 General Funding Prohibitions under Speakers and Invited Participants.



Proposed Amendment

Funding Guidelines: Prizes and Giveaways

GSOs are permitted to spend up to \$75 per semester on prizes and giveaways combined from their allocation. This does not roll-over. The GSO must submit a Prize and Giveaway Request to the GSA EC detailing the intended use prior to the purchase including the event details, link to the prize and details, and how the winner(s) will be selected. The EC will take a vote in which the majority must agree.

Events with prizes or giveaways must be advertised through the GSA events list mailer and the GSA calendar, in addition to the GSO's getINVOLVED page. The event listing description must indicate that there will be a prize or giveaway.

Prizes can be for subjective contests with voting either by a panel or audience (such as posters or presentations), objective contests (such as trivia or game winners), or winners by lottery where all graduate student attendees have an equal chance.

Giveaways are intended to be small items, such as pens, stickers, or buttons, and do not require a contest to be acquired.



DEI Campus Climate Survey Request

University Equity and Inclusion has distributed a survey to gain better understanding of DEI attitudes and issues in our community. Historically, graduate students are very underrepresented voices in these discussions.

I strongly encourage you all to take the [DEI Campus Climate Survey](#) before April 10th. Please share with colleagues as well (especially you, GSO Leaders!). The survey is 10-15 minutes and will greatly inform the University and GSA about shortcomings overall, but we particularly want strong graduate representation in the results.

To thank you for your time and consideration, you will be entered into a random drawing to win either one of 50 \$25 value gift cards or one of 50 “Work Towards Inclusion” sweatshirts.



Secretary Update





Business Manager Update





Business Updates

Important Dates:

- May 30th: Last day to submit ANY reimbursement requests.
 - reimbursement requests after this date will be denied - no questions, no exceptions.

Important Notes:

- Required: Submit final spending tracker by **May 30th** (portal will be on getINVOLVED)
 - Important for spotting discrepancies
- Summer budget requests are made on a case-by-case basis
 - Not to exceed \$1000 total
 - Reimbursed at the start of Fall semester, with successful funding application
- Public spending records ONLY include expenses reimbursed by check
 - To confirm your spending thus far, contact the Business Manager (help@gsa.rutgers.edu)
- Get your honoraria requests in 4 weeks in advanced!



Vice President of External Affairs Updates





- Applications have been collected for the Graduate Student Delegation and are being reviewed.

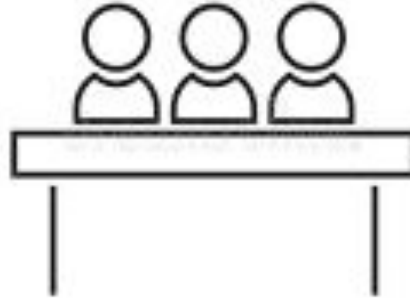


Professional and Academic Director Development Updates





Committee Updates





Recreation Committee



**Thanks for a great winter of events!
Stay tuned for a fun spring!**





Mental Health Committee

RU Maintaining Peace, April 12th, 11am-3pm

- The RU GSA is presenting a destressing Event named RU Maintaining Peace.
- This event will take place Wednesday, April 12th 11am-3pm in Busch Campus
- This will be a space for students to destress and share how they can maintain self care
- Snacks, and RU merchandise will be available



GSA Events Update

- GSA Coffee Mixer on Wednesday, April 5th, 9-11AM at the GSL
- GSA/RU Global Friendship Fridays: Trivia Challenge on Friday, April 7th 4-5PM at the GSL
- GSA End of Year Backyard Grill Party - Wednesday, May 3rd, 4-7pm at the Busch Campus Engineering Quad

Please RSVP on [getINVOLVED!](#)



HIRING: GSA Events Manager

- Applicants can expect a wage of \$20/hr with an anticipated 12-15 hr/week

Key Duties

- Manage GSA and GSO event bookings using CenterRes online system — Liaise with the Office of Meetings and Events in Cook Campus Center in order to manage all GSA bookings and GSO bookings set up by the GSA.
- Communicate with Executive Council regarding GSA events that require a reservation.
- Ensure timely submission of documentation to pay vendors on behalf of GSA — Prepare internal expense reports promptly to ensure payment of GSA accounts with campus vendors, such as food vendors and Rutgers Office of Meetings and Events.
- Manage GSA Events and GSA Market Listservs — Check the events@gsa email account, and reply promptly to any queries; Compile the weekly notices and send out to the events listserv by Monday morning.
- Maintain GSA Events calendar — Enter all GSA sponsored events and events submitted for publication by GSOs; ensure office hours are listed in GSA Events calendar.
- Maintain GSA website
- Attend and manage most GSA events (typically in evenings).

Eligibility

- Any current Graduate Students at Rutgers University who is a constituent of the GSA may apply for this position.



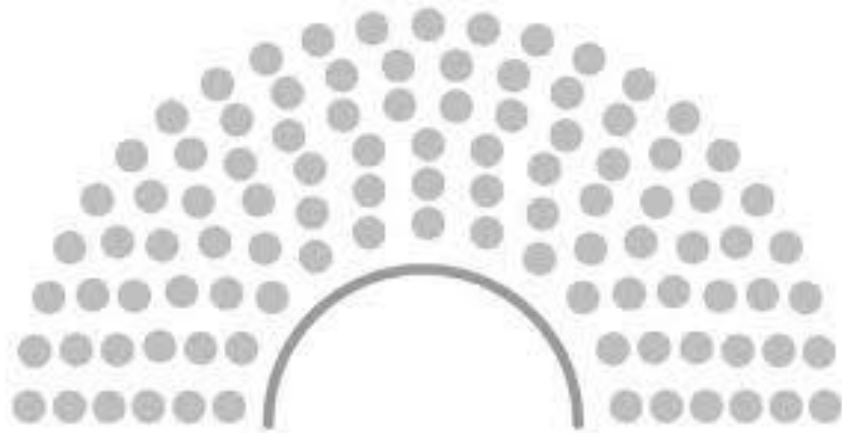
HIRING: GSA Events Manager - Application

Application Procedure

- Address your application materials (resume, cover letter – no more than one page, and 2 references) by email to Shawn Rumrill, the GSA President, at **president@gsa.rutgers.edu** with the subject line “**Application for GSA Event Manager**”.
- Please send it from your scarlet/Rutgers email.
- Include your following information in the email.
 - Name
 - Department
 - Degree and program
 - Contact No.
 - Rutgers Email id.
 - Expected Graduation Date
-



Senate Updates





Open to all
New Brunswick RU
Graduate Students!



**SCAN
HERE**

To join the Rutgers Graduate
Student Association Discord
Server!

Please share with your
GSO members and at
your GSO events!

Questions? Email discordmod@gsa.rutgers.edu

[Rutgers GSA Discord Server Link!](#) (or) <https://discord.gg/QGKjYJ62vX>



Questions? Comments? Announcements from
GSOs



Contract Campaign Update Rutgers AAUP AFT

- A living salary increase that keeps pace with inflation
- Fall 2022 minimum: \$37,150 and increasing each year to \$41,504 in fall 2025
- Increased pay for Winter/Summer Instructors
- Equal funding
 - Union inclusion for Fellows so that they can have TA/GA pay and benefits
 - Five years of guaranteed graduate funding across the university
- Funding extensions for grad workers affected by pandemic delays
- Annual diversity graduate dissertation assistantships (DGDAs) with TA/GA pay and benefits
- Expanded medical and caregiver leave
 - Childcare subsidy
- Bargaining for the Common Good demands:
 - a community fund for local residents
 - rent freeze for Rutgers-owned properties
 - forgiveness of internal student debt and fines
- Picket Line Training Sign up -
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduuHb0NprX9vcv4Gde54FdX2UuFdssUSe5k4-7jVXMVCTz1g/viewform>