

Dec 7, 2023 | [GSA General Meeting](#)

Attendees: terpase.gbaa@uri.edu Showrov Rahman [Helani Achintha Singhapura Singhapurage](mailto:Helani.Achintha.Singhapura.Singhapurage@uri.edu) jowusu-sarfo@uri.edu Asta Habtemichael adelina.herbst@uri.edu obamoah@uri.edu oriannacarvalho@uri.edu Caitlyn Shea abraham_otele@uri.edu karolina_wojcik@uri.edu Md Abdullah Rumon akissi.aka@uri.edu dennis_sagamang@uri.edu rafeed_hussain@uri.edu shannon_howley@uri.edu

Notes

- Call to order at 6:40pm
 - Obed canceled at the last minute for a family issue and Cherie from the English department canceled for a family issue.
 - In attendance: dennis, Behrooz, joey, addina, akissi, showrov, helani, caitlyn, ruhmand, Karolina, shannon
 - Introducing new senators
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- Old business report
 1. Asta
 - a. Patricia's resignation and role changes
 - i. Our president has submitted her resignation - her workload has become too much for her to handle and she will not be able to serve the office to the best of her ability
 - ii. Change of roles - Asta will be assuming presidency per GSA constitution
 - iii. Patricia - Rejuvenated GSA after COVID - we are grateful for her
 - b. Senators recruitment update
 - i. 15 senators from different departments. Continuing efforts to increase # of senators
 2. Obed (not present)
 - a. Expense report
 - i. Asta: I'm going to roughly report what I see on the screen from what Obed shared
 - ii. Requesting replenishment for \$15,000 - happened within the month
 - iii. Payments: Bowling event, senator payment from last year, conference reimbursement, postage stamps and usage
 - iv. Total expenses: \$1,363.29
 - b. Update on facilitating work with financial committee
 - c. Update on non-profit organization status
 - i. Obed and patricia are working on it - new form that needs to be completed for IRS
 - ii. This form should be a priority - needs to be sent by end of month
 3. Caitlyn
 - a. Karaoke night
 - i. Successful - i thought everyone had a lot of fun

- ii. 26 students present out of 39 responses on the google form
 - iii. Great turnout for a Thursday night
- 4. Showrov
 - a. One major change - URI is organizing a second graduation ceremony
 - b. Reimbursement for regalia - we need to adjust, made another application
 - c. Updated on website - anyone graduating this semester can apply
 - d. December 13 - deadline for regalia reimbursement application
 - e. Discussion one how many people graduating in december vs. may (3 more minutes allocated to this)
 - i. Why the short window for submission - people doing checks and balances have overwhelming receipts - the backflow goes to the new council and it makes it difficult
- New business
 - 1. Asta
 - a. Formation of committees and plan for operations
 - i. Creating committees will make workload split evenly and the e-board will not be as burdened
 - ii. **Community service and events committee** - Caitlyn and Abraham will be serving
 - 1. Basically the one that runs the activities we do
 - 2. Graduate student conference that GSA organizes
 - 3. Plan different events, bring ideas from community, communicate with executive council and budget committee
 - 4. Showrov I put forth a motion to establish a community service and events committee. Karolina seconds. Karolina, Helani, Nelly volunteered. Passed unanimously. Chair of committee - Karolina. Unanimously pass. Community service and events committee is established.
 - iii. **Nominations and elections committee**
 - 1. Preparing elections for grad council
 - 2. Works to establish our nominations and elections for April election done yearly. Verify the nominated personnel (fit the requirements to be part of the GSA governing body and executive council)
 - 3. Showrov I'd like to make a motion to establish a nominations and elections committee. I second the motion - Addina, Karolina, Dennis and Joey volunteered. Chair of committee - Joey Unanimously pass
 - iv. **Constitutions and bylaws committee** - Kara will be serving
 - 1. Updates the constitution and bylaws - helpful for us to be up to date with our work
 - 2. Denis I'd like to make a motion to establish a constitutions and bylaws committee. Karolina Seconded. Dennis and Shannon volunteer. Chair of committee- Shannon. Unanimously passed.
 - v. **Finance and budgets committee** - need to pick a chair today

1. Obed serves on this committee
 2. Justin (graduate student starting in spring as potential for future), Md Abdullah al Rumon, Behroez volunteer. Chair of committee - Md Abdullah al Rumon unanimously passed
- b. Each committee would have 30 minutes to an hour for a meeting depending on their own structure. Every committee chair will report back on our once a month general senators meeting. No fixed structure for meetings in committees.
 - c. Vice president nomination and election
 - i. Showrov I put a motion to select options for nominating the vice president. Densi seconded. Chairperson: I put forward the floor to pick an option.
 - ii. 1st choice: President to nominate and elect the vice president through executive power bestowed upon them. Unanimously passes.
 - iii. 2nd choice: Governing body nominate and elect a vice president.
2. Caitlyn
 - a. December event (Sip and Study)
 - i. Still in contact with the library to be sure we have a space before I send out the forms and flyer.
 - ii. Eisenstark is one; director of libraries (valerie)
 - iii. Possibly graduate writing center
 - iv. It will be on December 13: reading day
 - v. Tell Abraham to connect with the URI events page**
3. Other new business
 - a. Persian event: hope to see everyone from GSA there on December 16
 - b. Spring conference - agenda item for next meeting
 - c. Asta: Before we close the meeting, I would like to request the next GSA governing body meeting which will be virtual.
 - i. January 10, 2024 at 5pm: next meeting
 - d. Dennis motions to adjourn the meeting. Showrov second the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 8:06pm.