



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
University of Rhode Island

URI GSA General Assembly

Date: 09/02/2024, 4:00 p.m. – 5:52 p.m.

Location: College of Pharmacy, 7 Greenhouse Rd, Kingston, RI 02881, USA ROOM 207

Members in Attendance: (Executive Council)

Asta Habtemichael	President
Obed Baah Amoah	Treasurer

Members in Attendance: (Senators)

Helani Singhapurage	Md Abdullah Rumon
Karolina Wojcik	Nelly Akissi
Dennis Sagamang	Florence Fields
Adelina Herbst	Behrooz Khalil Loo
Cherie Rowe	Shanon Howley

Listeners: Luis Nunez

Total number of participants: 13

[1] Call to order:

The GSA General Assembly Spring Semester First Meeting was held in person on February 9th, 2024. It began at 4:02 p.m. and was initiated by Obed. Asta joined later.

[2] Update on Community Services and Event Organizing Committee:

- Until Asta joined the meeting Karolina gave an update on the upcoming event “Paint the town” glass painting event scheduled on Feb 10th.
- Helani gave the headcount of the people who has registered for the event.
- Since the expenses for the event are expensive Karolina suggested Rock climbing (a free-of-charge event) for the next month to balance finances for Spring semester events.
- Karolina informed about the upcoming Graduate Student conference that must be planned.
- Denis suggested inviting a keynote speaker from the Cybersecurity & Forensics department.

[3] Report on the GSA's financial status:

- Obed reported on the GSA's financial status for January 2024 to the executive board and general body.
- Motion to record was placed by Karolina. Denis and Abdul seconded.
- Obed, the regalia, conference, and other reimbursements as well as officers and senators remunerations need revisions.
- Asta requested Obed to check on the accounts to present for the next meeting in order to plan strategically on the different compensation and reimbursement adjustments.
- Cherie suggested sharing a document on accounts at the next general assembly meeting.
- Obed mentioned that the budget available for Spring 2024 is a carry-on from last semester (Fall 2023).

[4] Announce the newly selected officers for the GSA e-board and senate body:

- Asta welcomed the new GSA senator. Florence Fields – Biological Sciences.
- Asta announced the newly elected e-board members by unanimous votes.
 - ◆ Vice-president – Karolina
 - ◆ Secretary - Helani
- Motion made by Asta to confirm the appointments. Motion passed by unanimous votes.
- Asta described the newly appointed e-board members' duties and roles.



[5] New Business:

- I. Asta requested volunteers for the 4 committees below.
 1. The IT governance committee at the president's office URI – Denis volunteered.
 2. Health and wellness committee- Cherie and Adelina volunteered.
 3. Public safety committee – Karolina volunteered.
 4. Graduate Academic Committee- Cherie and Shannon volunteered.

- I. Asta discussed on,
 - ◆ Gaps of bylaws and revising the wording in bylaws and constitutions that are open to interpretation and need clarification. Mainly “student fee”, “full service of role” etc. Directed bylaws committee to initiate the work and draft the amendments for discussion by the senate.
 - ◆ Increasing reimbursements for Fall 2024.
 - ◆ Directed the elections and nomination committee to start working on the upcoming election for GSA e-board in April 2024.
 - ◆ Spring 2024 combined graduation of graduates and undergraduates. Thus, in graduate school working on a reception & award ceremony, GSA might be requested to assist in sponsoring the food just like the Luncheon for new students.

- II. Decision on funding the first event of a new student group.

Asta informed that the African Student Connect requested for USD 300 to screen the cup of the championship.

 - ◆ Motion placed – Karolina, Seconded - Denis and Abdul, Objections – 1
 - ◆ Motion passed after majority votes.

- III. The attendees in the meeting discussed on student groups and funding allocations. Discussion points are,
 - ◆ Should request funds with a budget 2 weeks before the event.
 - ◆ GSA should be informed in creating a student group.
 - ◆ Need to have a responsible and accountable approach to financial spending toward student groups and to add more scrutiny.
 - ◆ Asta explained the lack of policy grounds for such scrutiny based on the current GSA constitutions and bylaws. Reviewing such policies will be part of the new amendments to come. Having better student organization registration systems.

- IV. Karolina mentioned sending out an interest form about the graduate conference to graduate coordinators.

[6] Announcements:

N/A

[7] Discussion topics for next meeting:

- What to do for the change of structure.
- Graduate conference feasibility report by Karolina.
- Late payment of student fee for an hourly TA in the English department.

[8] Adjournment:

Denis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abdul and Florence seconded. The meeting ended at 5:52 p.m.

Helani Singhapurage, Secretary

02/09/2024