



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
University of Rhode Island

URI GSA General Meeting Agenda

Date: 1/10/2024, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Location: Virtual

Members in Attendance: (Executive Council)

Asta Habtemichael	President
	Vice President
Obed Baah Amoah	Treasurer
Showrov Rahman	Webmaster
Joseph Owusu-Sarfo	GAU Liaison
Caitlyn Shea	Event Coordinator
Abroham Otele	Social Media Manager/Event Coordinator Assistant
	Secretary

GSA Members in Attendance:

Cherie Rowe
Karolina Wojcik
Md Abdullah Rumon
Orianna Carvalho (absent)
Helani Achintha Singhapura Singhapurage (absent)
Adelina Herbst
Akissi Nelly Aka
Rafeed Hussain (Absent)
Justin Mayers (Absent)
Shannon Howley
Dennis Sagamang
Behreez Khaalillo
Florence Fields
Raffi Donoian (Absent)
Fred Odo (Absent)

I. Old Business Report, 5:06pm

1. Asta
 - o Transition to fill president role (filling in for day today activities, but not signatory on financial accounts)
 - o Electing VP,
 - open nominations request, opportunity to interview given to senators
 - o Working committees,
 - reiteration of all committees
 - o Officers and senators Remunerations
 - Discussion regarding expectations for appropriate remuneration
2. Obed, 5:16 pm
 - ★ Account balance
 - o total cash balance as of December 31, 2023
 - o coverage of the Karaoke event in December, plus conference reimbursements



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- (virtual shared screen, excel, presented by Obed)
- remainder in account, \$20,761.58, Savings \$15,680
- clarification question regarding eboard expenses, and senator expenses posed by Abdullah
- Obed motion for passage of budget, Showrov Seconded, vote, all in favor: Dennis, Cherie, Abdullah, Raffi, Shannon, Showrov, Karolina
 - passed via
- ★ Non-profit filing status
 - Obed presentation of non-profit filing benefits
 - discussion re meeting with Cara Mitnick, non-profit filing not included in Constitution
 - unable to finalize prior to the end of 2023
 - tasks/to-dos:
 - identify requirements
 - ought to be done prior to next tax season

5:28 pm

- Question: Asta, "Are we paying taxes for 2023?"
- Answer: Obed, "Yes, we are still a non-profit"
- Directive given: Asta, "please prepare forms and work with Cara Mitnick the graduate faculty advisor on finalizing process as a priority"
- Obed, acknowledged

II. New Business, 5:31 pm

1. Council members resignations and nominations/appointments for replacements
 - a. Resignation of Kara Li Liu, as of February 3rd, 2024
 - b. Resignation of Caitlyn Shea
- Asta
- VP recommendation/nominations and voting
 - again, reiteration of open nominations for VP position
 - Request to extend the window for 48 hours made by Cherie Rowe, to Thursday midday
 - Cherie Rowe, motion to extend
 - vote, Shannon, Dennis, Justin, Raffi, Obed
 - passes unanimously
- Secretary recommendation/nomination
 - open request for nominations,
- Event Coordinator recommendation/nomination
 - open request for nominations, elections committee

Question & Answer:

Showrov, "how will we elect/hire an Event Coordinator and Secretary?"

Karolina, "proposition to send nominations to Asta, and elections committee: Joseph, Karolina, Joseph, Dennis"

Dennis, "a suggestion to make an open request to all senators, call for nominations for either Secretary and/or Event Coordinator"

Karolina, "how many senators are there at this time?"

Asta, "13 Senators on the General Senate, will email the 13 Senators. Will make them aware of the open positions, and provide opportunities for people to submit nominations. The general



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assembly furnished me with the power to nominate VP. We will call for nominations for the Secretary and/or Event Coordinator.

Asta, "table the positions, only one position per person, cannot assume two. Nominations are to be sent to Dennis, Joey, Karolina, Asta"

Karolina, organization of events,

Dennis, "clarification, the positions are for the next four months, correct?"

Asta, "Yes."

Dennis: Motion to keep the nominations for the Event Coordinator and Secretary

Vote, Pass, Shannon, Dennis, Justin, Raffi, Obed,

Passed unanimously

Asta, "Nominations are requested via email to Karolina, Joseph, Asta, and Dennis, together, they will select the positions. The language will be provided within the call for nominations."

Dennis, "may we extend nominations to January 22nd?"

Cherie, "a signatory request requires a shorter deadline"

Karolina, "agreed"

Asta, "agreed, the Secretary is an immediate filling. Therefore, split the CFN. The Secretary is immediate, while the Event Coordinator is second. Shannon, Dennis, Justin, Raffi, Obed, Karolina agreed. Secretary TBD within one week, VP TBD by Friday, January 12th, 2024, Event Coordinator at the end of January."

- o Tasks for committees 6:05 pm
 - community events committees - cover events while Caitlyn Shea withdraws
 - bylaws and constitution committee, meet with Cara Mitnick, and amend the language of the fee based on the. Remuneration wording (50% of student fees/whatever is set up in manual, technological fee, health services fees, 1024\$) decision to furnish footnotes and explanations of specific language, not arbitrary items.
 - elections committee - send out the call for nominations
 - Finance and Budgets -Strengthening the GSA Council and finish the year strong

Shannon: question: how ought the chair perform the work within the bylaws and constitution committee

Asta: the scheduling of meetings, coordinating with Cara Mitnick, and reporting to the general membership later on the progress. Committees move forward with the GSA agenda. Solve problems and seek solutions. As chair, maintain a working knowledge of the matters within the purview of this committee.

2. Spring Events. 6:19 pm

- Caitlyn shared a document with the committee, and reshuffling might affect work going forward
 - GSC and the working of the plan suggested by Caitlyn.
 - 3-minute thesis cohost/co/sponsor the event.



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- Abdullah, explanation of the 3-minute thesis, March the presentations. Participants submit videos, luncheon, and goody-bag/swag. The university winner will go to the national.
- Cherie, promotion, not financial contribution
- Showrov they have solid funds and budget, so we can participate.
- Karolina: open to communication; the events committee presence is absent.
- Asta, let's vote to defer the 3-minute-thesis discussion
- Karolina, motion to defer the contribution discussion to the next meeting.
- passed, in favor, Shannon, Dennis, Justin, Raffi, Obed,

III. Announcements 6:38 pm

- sponsorship of URI event in March, (14th, 24th)
 - Dennis, to the members of the event committee ... My friend Alison Jackson Frasier, who is coordinator within the Center for Student Leadership Development at URI, is an instructor for rock climbing and high tree path travel.
 - Cherie, stewards and hosts for the 3 minute-thesis.
 - Asta, request to Obed, to furnish the financials for the events
 - Obed- discussion regarding conference reimbursement and remunerations.

IV. Adjournment, 6:48 pm

- Dennis, motion to end the meeting, second Karolina next meeting will send out when to meet.