



**University of Rhode Island
Graduate Student Association
Executive Board Meeting (Emergency)
Minutes**

Date: January 29, 2025

Time: 6:36 – 8:10 pm

Location: Zoom

Members in Attendance: (Executive Council)

Karolina Wojcik	President
Quinn Tucker	Vice President
Mariam Oladepo	Treasurer
Evelyn Mensah	Secretary
Asta Habtimachael	Past President
Behtom Adeli	Webmaster
Evans Boateng-Boakye	Social Media Manager/Event Coordinator Assistant
Marianne Otoo	GAU Liaison

Member in Absence

Waqar Alam	Event Coordinator
------------	-------------------

I. Call to order

President Karolina Wojcik called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

II. Discussions

- A. Karolina started with the URI land acknowledgment and emphasized the importance of shared governance during her presentation. She discussed the association's constitution and bylaws, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of the executive board members.
- B. Quinn, Marianne, Mariam, Evans, and Asta discussed GSA governance and communication issues. Marianne expressed her disappointment in how Karolina handled the problem that led to the emergency meeting. Karolina apologized for not consulting the Senate chair before inviting the university president to the senate meeting.
- C. Karolina, Quinn, Asta, and Evans debated about whether administrators should be routinely invited to Senate meetings, with Asta providing historical context on why this has not been common practice. Asta stated that the GSA has a faculty advisor who is aware of every activity of the GSA. If necessary, the senate chair will invite a faculty member to address issues raised during the senate meeting.

- D. Evans requested more transparency around complaints Karolina received about administrator involvement. The discussion highlights tensions and communication gaps between executive board members.
- E. Quinn discussed the upcoming Senate meeting, where reports will be printed out and distributed. He also addressed complaints about the meeting's dynamics, emphasizing the need for everyone's voice to be heard. Quinn clarified that he didn't force anyone to stay at home and encouraged participation. He also discussed the makeup meetings, suggesting a more structured approach.
- F. Regarding the event description, Quinn clarified that he wasn't the sole administrator and encouraged others to edit it. Lastly, he expressed exhaustion from his responsibilities and the need for better oversight and forethought.
- G. The EBoard addressed concerns about roles and clarified roles within the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Karolina emphasized the importance of fulfilling duties and holding Executive Board members accountable.
- H. The Eboard expressed frustration about being told what to do without proper communication and questioned the leadership style.
- I. Asta suggested setting a timeline for submitting agenda items and respecting communication channels. Karolina agreed to these suggestions and proposed that the Executive Board should submit amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- J. Evelyn expressed concerns about the sudden assignment of tasks without discussion and the need for the Executive Board to work together. She also clarified the role of the Vice President in scheduling makeup meetings for Senators who miss Senate meetings. Karolina stated that these make-up meetings are for senators to communicate any issues or concerns and not be provided with a recap of the senate meeting.
- K. Asta further explained that the purpose of these meetings is to allow Senators to contribute to the Senate proceedings once they are aware of the meeting details. Senators can also communicate any issues or concerns at any time, not just during Senate meetings. He also emphasized the importance of Senators being responsible for presenting information on their respective areas. There was a request to differentiate between Senate proceedings and the General Assembly.
- L. Evans raised concerns about the interpretation and application of the constitution, with some members suggesting the need for amendments to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- M. The issue of trust within the organization was also highlighted, with Marianne expressing concerns about the president's involvement in other members' duties. Evans also discussed the handling of minutes from meetings, expressing concerns about the editing and omission of certain points.

III. Action Items

Through the discussions, it was pointed out and more or less agreed upon without a vote that;

- Quinn and Karolina to establish a clear timeline for submitting agenda items for Senate and Executive Board meetings.
- Evelyn to implement a one-week deadline for Executive Board members to submit agenda items.

- E-board members can attend GSA senate meetings but are not required to do so unless asked by the senate to provide a report. If an e-board member wishes to address the Senate, they must submit the agenda item to the Vice President and Secretary according to the timeline established.
- Executive Board to create a shared document for proposing amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review and propose amendments to clarify roles, responsibilities, and procedures.
- Quinn to continue the current process for Senator makeup meetings.
- For e-board meetings, the President and the Secretary work together to set the agenda and the item submission timeline. The Senate does not vote on e-board meetings. These meetings will be posted on the GSA website and can be referenced by both senate members and the graduate community.
- Executive Board members to respect each other's roles and responsibilities and avoid interfering in others' duties. This ensures that each member performs their role effectively and promptly.
- Karolina to improve communication with Executive Board members and keep them informed of her actions.
- Executive Board to work on building trust and improving professional communication among members.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM following a motion by Quinn Tucker, seconded by Behtom Adeli.