



**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
**University of Rhode Island**

## **URI GSA Executive Meeting**

**Date:** 05/01/2024, 5:00 p.m. – 6:03 p.m.

**Location:** zoom

**Members in Attendance:**

Asta Habtemichael	President
Karolina Wojcik	Vice-President
Obed Baah Amoah	Treasurer
Showrov Rahman	Webmaster
Joseph Owusu-Sarfo	GAU Liaison
Helani Singhapurage	Secretary

**Members in Absence:**

Abraham Otele	Social Media Manager/Event Coordinator Assistant
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**[1] Call to order:**

The GSA's second executive meeting for the Spring Semester convened virtually on May 1st, 2024, commencing precisely at 5:02 p.m.

**[2] Old Business Report**

- The meeting minutes of the March 2024 GSA Executive meeting were unanimously approved. Showrov motioned for approval, with Karolina seconding the motion.

**[3] Committee Report**

Asta provided an overview of the committees' ongoing activities:

- A. Election Committee: The committee has distributed the self-nomination form. Due to the scheduling conflict with the GAU election on April 12th, the GSA election date has been postponed. The new date is pending confirmation.
- B. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Progress is being made on finalizing their tasks. Once the updated constitution is completed, it will be presented for a vote at the final general assembly in May. Additionally, all members will be required to report on their respective work and milestones during this assembly.

**[4] New business**

A. Remuneration

- a. Regarding remuneration inquiries, Asta asked about the remuneration status of executive roles within the organization. It was stated that Karolina, Showrov, Obed, and Helani had received remuneration, while Joseph and Asta had not. Asta further asked regarding interactions between e-board members and the past president concerning official GSA duties, excluding personal conversations. The past president asserted compliance with constitutional obligations and the validity of remuneration, emphasizing her fulfillment of duties but declined to provide details of activities performed towards role fulfillment. However, it was noted that the governing body recommended against remunerating unfulfilled roles. To proceed with remuneration, Asta and Obed sought clarity on interactions with the past president to ascertain guidance and support in fulfilling their roles, given the less visible nature of her advisory role compared to others. The leadership has to fulfill its fiscal responsibility and report back to the governing body with full confidence.

Asta - stressed the need to justify financial transactions and ensure transparency. The Governing body has been clear about fiscal responsibility throughout the semester.



Obed - detailed his recent interactions with the past president for tax filing purposes. He received one email with the previous year's completed tax form.

Asta - suggested considering this interaction toward the consideration of role fulfillment of the past president's advisory role. No other interactions with other executive council officers on advising towards their respective roles. Also, no record of other role parts being fulfilled.

Karolina - provided updates on meeting attendance and social media management issues within the organization.

Asta - Since there are questions surrounding performance of the roles and the executive leadership lacks confidence to justify performance. Asta proposed the governing body vote on these two role performances [past president and social media manager roles].

Karolina - suggested e-board endorsement of the past president's remuneration.

Asta- reiterated the importance of governance and decision-making clarity.

Showrov - advocated for contesting all positions to ensure accountability.

Asta - underscored the governing body's role in safeguarding organizational integrity. It is important to follow the GSA constitution in such cases, especially when the governing body is questioning how remunerations are being released without justification of role performance. Article 7 Section 2 of the GSA constitution puts the governing body in charge of making such decisions.

Asta - proposed a vote on role performances during the next general assembly.

#### B. Transfer of roles

Asta – Between May and the end of June, the transition of roles within the organization will occur, emphasized that all necessary documents, procedures, information, and any pending activities should be prepared for transfer during this period. Once the individual transfer of roles is finalized, both outgoing and incoming e-board members will arrange for a lunch retreat to foster continuity and connection. A When2Meet invitation for an on-campus or off-campus lunch retreat will be sent out accordingly. The new e-board will officially assume their roles by July 1st.

Karolina -Provided an update on the self-nomination process, indicating that there have been 10 nominations received along with acknowledgment forms signifying full commitment to their respective roles for a 12-month term. Notably, Quinn Tucker, the nominee for Vice President, has indicated plans to graduate in December. Engaged in discussions with the elections committee regarding this matter, expressing openness to allowing Quinn the opportunity to serve until December while actively seeking a replacement for his role. Awaiting Quinn's response to proceed accordingly.

Showrov – Inquired whether the election committee will be putting this information under ballot.

Karolina – Stated that the ballot for the upcoming elections is scheduled to open on Thursday and close on Friday night, with Helani responsible for disseminating it to the GSA community. Joseph has prepared photos featuring the self-nominated individuals for various roles, intending to post them on our social media platforms. However, the social media manager has yet to publish them, although there is still time for him to do so before Thursday. The ballot will include the names, roles, and qualifications of the candidates. It was also noted that the current e-board will receive information about the new e-board by next week to facilitate the transition process.



C. Off agenda discussion

Showrov – Informed his loss of access to the GSA email to send emails anonymously which is affecting his work.

Asta – Advised Showrov to contact Jesica regarding his email access issue. Asta clarified ownership of the email account, stating that while he is the owner, others are designated as members. Additionally, Obed and Asta offered assistance in restoring Showrov's access to the email account.

Helani – Sought guidance from the President regarding the process of endorsing the updated version of the constitution and bylaws document before relinquishing her secretary position.

Asta – Stated that endorsement of the updated document will occur upon approval by the governing body. Once passed, Helani can proceed with signing the updated version of the constitution.

Asta – Directed Karolina to arrange a meeting with the governing body before May 15th.

Karolina – Confirmed that Helani can initiate the meeting if she has already begun the process.

Helani – Noted her upcoming conference and the need to prepare for it, requesting assistance in scheduling a meeting. Additionally, Helani specified her availability for a meeting between May 13th and May 21st, as she will return on May 13th.

Asta – Recognized the busy schedules of the Vice President and Secretary, agreeing to send out a When2Meet invitation for the next general assembly. Asta clarified that the invitation will be extended to the past president as well and confirmed that the meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

**[5] Announcements:**

N/A

**[6] Adjournment:**

Showrov made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Obed seconded. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 6:03 p.m.

Helani Singhapurage, Secretary  
05/01/2024