



**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
University of Rhode Island**

URI GSA General Assembly

Date: 05/14/2024, 11:30 a.m. – 1:13 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Members in Attendance: (Executive Council)

Asta Habtemichael	President
Karolina Wojcik	Vice-President
Obed Baah Amoah	Treasurer
Joseph Owusu-Sarfo	GAU Liaison
Helani Singhapurage	Secretary
Patricia Crawford	Past-President
Cara Mitnick	Faculty Advisor

Members in Attendance: (Senators)

Adelina Herbst	Justin Mayers	Nelly Aka	Shannon Howley
Cheri Rowe	Rafeed Hussain	Florence Fields	
Dennis Sagamang	Marianne Otoo	Md Abdullah Rumon	
Fred Addo	Luis Nunez	Olga Skende	

[1] Call to Order: The GSA Fourth General Assembly for the Spring Semester was held online via Zoom on May 14, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President at 11:30 a.m.

[2] Old Business:

1. Minute Approval:

- Motion to approve the April 2024 General Assembly minutes was made by Dennis and seconded by Adelina.
- The motion passed unanimously.

2. President's Updates:

- The President provided an overview of GSA activities and expressed gratitude to committee chairs and members.
- An update on the election results was given, along with information on the executive board transition, which is expected to be complete by the end of June, including a retreat to facilitate the transition.
- The President referenced the March 8 meeting minutes, noting that the Senate discussed justifying executive council officer performance before releasing remunerations.
- The Treasurer verified and justified remunerations, as outlined in the May 1, 2024, email to the governing body. A vote was requested on the performance of the Past President and Social Media Manager roles due to a lack of confidence to justify role performance (refer to email for details) per Article 7, Section 2 of the GSA Constitution.
- The Constitution and Bylaws Committee confirmed that Article 7, Section 2 was the appropriate section for this matter.
- After discussion, Karolina motioned to issue checks to all executive council officers for the Spring 2024 semester. Justin moved for approval, seconded by Rafeed.



- The motion passed with a majority in favor. There were no objections, and some members abstained.
 - **In favor:** Abdullah, Justin, Nelly, Adelina, Rafeed, Olga, Fred, Patricia
 - **Objections:** None
 - **Abstentions:** Shannon, Olga, Marianne, Luiz, Cherie, Florence, Dennis

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, GAU Liaison, and Secretary abstained from voting to avoid any conflict of interest.

[3] New Business:

1. Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

- The committee provided an update and discussed suggested changes.
- Shannon suggested an electronic vote to approve the recommended changes.
- Dennis and Obed reported on tax filing updates and the need for a CPA to resolve issues.
- Shannon proposed passing unfinished business to the incoming senators on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- Shannon also suggested increasing remuneration by 10% and graduate regalia reimbursement.
- Karolina shared information on a suggested 7% increase in graduate student compensation.
- Florence proposed sending the documents with the suggested changes to the Secretary for a vote.

[4] Off the Agenda Discussion:

1. Reports and Comments:

- Dennis reported on meetings at the URI IT Governance Committee.
- Joseph commented on recent GSA elections.
- Florence requested an apology for a contentious discussion surrounding remuneration, which Karolina acknowledged.
- Jason and Rafeed mentioned not having a revote on e-board remuneration, while Shannon suggested an electronic revote.

[5] Announcements: N/A

[6] Adjournment: Justin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rafeed. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Helani Singhapurage, Secretary
May 14, 2024