Dear Graduate Student Community,

The new executive board is excited to announce a proposal to change the current grant application process to make it more user-friendly, streamlined, and less time consuming for applicants. We would like to make the process paperless by posting documents, which can be edited electronically online and submitted directly to the grants program email. The bylaws for our former constitution state that changes to the grants guidelines must be approved by 51% of the assembly. Although new bylaws are being written for our recently approved constitution, they have not yet been approved. Since the new bylaws and the new grants guidelines require assembly approval, the first assembly meeting is scheduled for September 6th, and the normal fall grants deadline is September 6th, this presents a challenge. We find it unfair for the student body to have to apply to a cumbersome program because the assembly could not meet at an earlier date, but it is also unfair to the assembly to call an emergency meeting just to pass the guidelines. Therefore, as noted in our former bylaws that the grants chair is "responsible for creating or revising the grants guidelines as necessary" (p. 4) for the fall 2013 semester only, we will be pushing back the application deadline to October 1st. In the mean time, we will shortly be posting the proposed documents on the grants information page on the GSA website and ask for any feedback on these new materials. There is still time for us to make revisions and we want to ensure the new process works for you! Should you have suggestions or comments on the new proposed application materials, please direct all messages to the GSA grants email address gsagrant@albany.edu. Thank you for your patience and understanding in the delay. As an organization, our goal is to effectively support graduate students and a revised grants program is one of the ways that allows us to do this.

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