President’s Report: Amani Edwards

Executive Summary: On the weekend on November 16-18th, myself, the VP, Equity and Inclusion Chair, Lead Senator, and RGSO leader – Hope Shuttleworth – attended SUNY SA. There are some changes in the pipeline regarding the GSA office space. Mainly concerning updates to the space and possible room changes.

Liaising:
- Met with Debra Cheney in ITS services to discuss printing in the graduate student offices. The goal is to expand printing services as well as develop a new way to register graduate students
- Attendance at the President’s Council on Diversity and the Conversations for Change committee
- Attended the President’s State of the University address, President’s Council meeting with university administrators and Dean’s, and the State of Student Affairs address

Oversight:
- Approved PR’s and made sure all bills were up to date and paid for in coordination with the Treasurer
- Sent the information regarding our sexual harassment policy to MO Schifley
- Spoke with the Treasurer regarding budget updates

Meetings:
- Bi-weekly meetings with Mike Christakis to speak on GSA issues and a possible space change for the future
- Am planning a meeting with Randy Stark to discuss HR issues for graduate students
- Will be meeting with graduate student leaders from other SUNY campuses, as well as the Provost for SUNY, Todd Larson, to discuss graduate student issues
- Have a strategic plan implementation meeting on Monday November 26th
- Attended the President’s council on diversity meeting

Recruitment / Outreach Contributions:
- Am continuing to meet with EOP students regarding graduate school
- Attended the International Student Fair along with our Equity and Inclusion Chair
- Working with the Lead Senator to fill seats on university wide committees

Notes
- We are going to get a new wages and benefits committee started soon!
- The downtown printer needs to be connected and we are working with ITS to get this done

Vice President’s Report: Winston Heslop
Executive Summary:

This month was focused on preparation for 2019. I communicated with the university to ensure all RGSOs are up and running so that PRs and room rentals can run smoothly next semester. I attend the SUNYSA Conference which was good for learning all the initiatives taking place across the state that could be beneficial to Albany graduate students.

Liaising:
- Attended the SUNYSA Conference.
- Voted on Legislation for:
  - Environmental Sustainability
  - Diversity and Inclusion
  - Academic Success
  - Campus Safety
  - Child Care Accommodations

Programming/ Training:
- I have worked with the Title IX Coordinator in planning two dates for GSA Sexual Harassment and Violence Prevention training. Erin Leeper has provided us with:
  - Sunday December 2nd at 4:00pm.
  - [https://myinvolvement.org/event/2902289](https://myinvolvement.org/event/2902289)

Treasurer’s Report: Onur Bugdayci

Executive Summary: Everything is on track. All the spending’s are going as expected and explained.

Financial Activity:
- Reconciled the ledger with the budget tracking file and myinvolvement.
- Cancelled PR’s from the last fiscal years have been recreated and paid.
  - Paid pending PR’s
    - Final list of registered RGSO has received from Vice President and all the RGSO’s received their budget lines.
    - RGSO’s have started submitting bills to be paid.
  - We are spending a little bit more money than what we budgeted for the drinking water spending but we are aware of it and it would not be a problem.

Equity and Inclusion Chair’s Report: Wenqian Wang
Executive Summary: In November, we had our second and last of this semester EI committee meeting. GSA e-board members went to SUNY SA and discussed some really interesting and important topics.

Liasing
- GSA EI committee meeting
  - We had our second EI committee meeting on 11/13/2018
  - discussed old business (e.g. put it in syllabus) and new business (MSA and Hillel office)
- SUNY SA meeting
  - I applied to join the SUNY SA EI committee
  - I encourage you, who are interested in getting more involved into EI stuff, to join too.

Information
- “make our faculty look like us!”
- we will have about 1,000 faculty positions open in SUNY system for SUNY graduates.
- Sustainability
  - Reduce greenhouse gas, save energy, reduce plastic, design buildings on campus
  - If you have good idea, please donate
- Food security
  - Do you know we have food pantry on campus or not?
  - Do you want one
- Diversity and Inclusion
  - an activity that helps us realize stereotype
  - gender neutron names
- Stop Drowsy Driving
- Yeardley funding
  - escalation workshop (YouTube)
  - THATISNOTLOVE
  - ONELOVE foundation
  - LOVE BETTER

Advocacy
- “Diversity and Inclusion – Put It in the Syllabus!” statement (Nicole Da Silva)
- Stop Drowsy Driving
  - stopdrowsydriving.org
  - you will be so surprised that how drowsy you are
  - you need to know how to identify drowsy driving and solutions to deal with it.
  - March 10th, funding

Programming Chair’s Report: Jeremy Berman
Executive Summary: Since the last Assembly Report, most of my attention has been focused on designing two events: the Board Game Night in early November and the upcoming Study Snacks in mid December. The Game Night was well received by the about 20 people who attended. Meanwhile, the Study Snacks event is being organized on all three campuses.

Oversight: Most of the oversight has been keeping track of my own discretionary line for the year, but I’ve also had discussions with the GSA President and Vice President on ways to better manage my discretionary fund and collaborate with other organizations.

Programming: The main programs were the Game Night and the upcoming Study Snacks. I worked together with the undergraduate organization called “the Guild” to plan the event. They graciously let us borrow their extensive board game collection, and offered to help teach the games to graduate students. Additionally, I ordered food for the event. The event was held from 6-9pm on a Thursday, and I collected RSVPs. Some students in the RSVPs said the time did not work well for them (Computer Science Masters), but I found it hard to decide when is the best time to hold these events; therefore I likely will try different times for future events. Overall this event was well enjoyed by many students and I plan on doing the event at least one more time next semester.

Meeting(s): The main meeting I had was with the Guild club to organize the Game Night. In addition, I placed several calls and sent several emails to reserve and plan the GSA Study Snacks event.

Recruitment/Outreach: We have increased the visibility of the GSA by inviting students to join our GSA listserv. Moreover, we are collaborating with the Office of Graduate Education, which should make broadcasting events easier in the future. We have added several new student members to the GSA listserv, so we can expect a greater turnout to our planned events this year. I also have collected RSVPs from the Game Night, which we can use to add more students to our listserv. I’ve also been active with the GSA Facebook Page to broadcast our events.

Grant Chair’s Report: Lizzie O’Rourke

Executive Summary: The spring semester grants submission is open on MyInvolvement and the deadline has been extended to March 1st, 2019. Grants chair is currently receiving purchase requests and is in the midst of processing reimbursements as they come in.

Oversight:  
- Tracking of grants funding lines  
- Contact and oversight of grants committee  
- Compilation of a list of available grants for graduate students

Meetings:  
- Weekly office hours set for Fridays 10am-12pm
Financial Activity

- Currently reviewing payee certification forms and processing reimbursement paperwork.

Lead Senator’s Report: Kaylynn Enright

- Attended SUNY SA Conference and brainstormed ideas with other student leaders
- Replaced resigned position on ULC with Emily D’Angelo- MPH candidate
- Campus Recreation Committee:
  - Campus Rec and Athletics are in the beginning stages of planning for SEFCU Arena, the Physical Education building, and some of the fields to be renovated -- this renovation will not begin for at least 2 years, though.
- Provost Search Committee has begun meetings, Anna Agnes is GSA’s representative
- Undergraduate Academic Committee (10/19):
  - There is a review of the school’s Institution Review Board (IRB) and the school is looking to get feedback from students and faculty involving any delays, issues, or suggestions involving the IRB or even the Institution Research Foundation (IRF).
  - Those looking to provide feedback can reach out to Christy Smith or Rob, Director of Certs.
  - Gen Ed: 2 competency plans to be looked over; approved anthropology international perspectives requirement
  - Interdisciplinary Studies: working on a student initiated major/minor in health sciences
  - Curriculum & Honors: minor in social welfare studies will be presented to senate on Nov. 12th; looking into micro credentials
- Graduate Academic Council (11/19):
  - Dean’s Report: President announced several initiatives that are moving forward
    - Graduate Education- establishment of a graduate school
    - No details surrounding this yet
  - Web Update- end of this month- academic program online revisions
  - 5-Year calendar plan- removal of religious-based holidays
  - LACS (Latin American, Caribbean and & U.S. Latino Studies): BA/MA-
    - No change to curriculum or entry requirements- just combining two existing programs.
    - Motion Approved
  - CEHS (College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity): 2 BA/MA programs-
Approved through State Ed about 1 month ago
Counting several master’s courses in the undergraduate degree
Waiver of the GRE for these students- this is common among other duality programs.
Motion Approved

Micro-Credentials- UAlbany Wide
- Programs available at other universities
- Smaller than a certificate- fewer courses
- Does not rely on credit-load but rather competency- signature assignment that demonstrates that acquisition of skills or knowledge.

External credential software- Credly:
- Badges on Credly
- Signature Assignment will be attached to this badge
- Credential will show what the student did to earn this credential
- Also, added to the transcript
- Needs University Endorsement
- Both graduate and undergraduate implementation plans
- Doctoral Program- research distinction in micro-credentials
- Concerns with student information being sold by these private companies
- Not a departmental requirement by the university- will vary between departments.

Report CCI (Committee on Curriculum and Instruction)-
- Change admission requirements for two in Special Education certificates
- Mathematics MA- remove comp exam and capstone requirements
- Kicked back and request for further explanation for the capstone course.
- Lacks culminating experience

Evening MBA- Change concentration requirements based on interest and opportunity

GIS MS program- remove GRE because Geography doesn't require it.

Council on Research (11/19):

Presentation from the Center for Human Services Research (CHSR):
- Transition from School of Social Welfare to Division for Research; from local to university-wide that reports to the VP on Research.
- Multidisciplinary (even when housed in SSW)

Conducts studies of social programs and social issues
Emphasis on receiving federal money through grants (soft-funded?) but also directly from NIH, NIDA, etc.
University-wide resource; scholars could use in their grants. Can conduct an evaluation component (often required by grants).

How would graduate students utilize this resource?

- They have hired students in the past, who went on to find research-oriented jobs.
- Students could possibly use this data for dissertations (but often the data has restrictions).
- It sounds like they're open to working with students and advisors on a case-by-case basis.

Why would this center move to be university-wide?

- Different centers and departments (across the university) are not entirely aware of each other’s capacities, including the CHSR’s.

Other committee meeting agenda:

- * (Unanimously) approved the previous meeting’s minutes
- Reviewed COR subcommittee compositions and followed up on next steps for subcommittee meeting sand award evaluations.

Update from Satyen Kumar, Associate VIP for Research Grants Development

- Indicated some potential faculty rewards in the hard sciences
- Discussed the dissolution of the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights