President’s Report: Amani Edwards

Executive Summary: The spring semester is dedicated to getting feedback from graduate students and drafting a plan for the GSA for next year.

Liaising:
- Met with Karla Jaime-Benitez, new Director of the Campus Center, to talk about the GSA room change.
- Attendance at the President’s Council on Diversity and the Conversations for Change committee
- We have two new RSSW’s for this semester
- The downtown printer is set up
- The Building naming committee is reconvening. Apparently the President and his council did not like our suggestions so we are meeting again

Oversight:
- Approved PR’s and made sure all bills were up to date and paid for in coordination with the Treasurer
- Updated the GSA employees list with UAS

Meetings:
- Bi-weekly meetings Mike Christakis to speak on GSA issues and a possible space change for the future
- President’s Council on Diversity
- President’s Council for the university administration and student leaders
- The Conversations for Change Committee has not met this semester
- Met with Ray Webb and Pamela Alexander regarding bystander training for student leaders and My Involvement updates
- Currently sit on the Strategic Plan implementation committee, University Policy committee, and attend senate meetings
- The University Policy Committee is looking at a change to the sexual harassment policy for the university

Recruitment / Outreach Contributions:
- Spoke with the President of SUNY Stony Brook to generate ideas about changes/initiatives we can implement with the GSA
- Hosting three town halls – one on each campus – to hear student feedback

Financial Activity:
- Everything is set!
Vice President’s Report: Winston Heslop

Liaising:
- Working with the GSA President to ensure a seamless transition of power
- Working with SORC to ensure MyInvolvement, VirtualEMS, and Financial acess.

Programming/Training:
- 3/8 at 11:00AM in LC 22 – Final Title IX Training / Student Leader Sexual Violence Training

Meetings:
- 2/8 SORC Compliance Meeting
- 2/15 Policy Planning Committee
- 2/22 SORC Compliance Meeting
- 2/22 GSA Town Hall

Information Management:
- Loading files to the sharepoint drive and beginning review of old/outdated RGSO documentation.
- Fully updating the sharepoint RGSO budget

Treasurer’s Report: Onur Bugdayci

Executive Summary: This month nothing unusual occurred for me. I paid bills, reconciled the ledger and responded to questions

Financial Activity
- Reconciled ledger to Myinvolvement report
- Paid extra attention to follow the Credit card usage because they are recorded with different names on ledger.
- I made the budget transfers according to Ebord requests. RGSO budget lines have received their requested money for their activities.
- Income from UAS has caught up, everything is all set.
- All the accumulated PR’s has been processed.

Equity and Inclusion Chair’s Report: Wenqian Wang
Executive Summary: Since after last Assembly, our team did some information gathering and meetings, and approve EI events

Liaising
- SUNY SA EI meeting (02/07/2019, 02/13/2019)
- Two resolution we are working on preferred pronoun and gender neutral restroom
- we are doing background research now
- President’s council meeting of EI (02/14/2019)
- ULC meeting (02/20/2019)

Oversight
- Make sure all e-board members have information of EI events and attend EI event.
- Also, all RGSOs do not forget to hold your own EI events need to be approved.

Activity
- schedule meeting time with my committee member
- gathering syllabus, first class PowerPoint, and other class materials of how to combine EI in class.

Programming Chair’s Report: Jeremy Berman

Executive Summary: Since the last Assembly Report, I’ve been planning the upcoming GSA Game Night event, as well as the end-of-the-year event.

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 upcoming programs are the GSA Game Night (tentatively early March) and the End of the Year Event (tentatively Saturday April 6). I worked with Sodexo to order food for the events and contacted the respective places for reservations.

Meeting(s): The main meeting was with my programming committee to reserve and plan the GSA Game Night 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’ve also been active with the GSA Facebook Page, Twitter, and Instagram 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 has completed processing all purchase requests (pending 1) for the Fall 2018 grant cycle.

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 Tuesdays 12pm-2pm

Information Management
- All grants documents have been updated to the GSA share page
- All tracking documents on the GSA share page
- Committee members tracked on GSA share page

Financial Activity
- Currently reviewing payee certification forms and processing reimbursement paperwork.

Lead Senator’s Report: Kaylynn Enright
University Senate Meeting February 4, 2019
- President Rodriguez gave a report to the Senate about fundraising goals, NYS budget negotiations, SUNY State of the System Address, Prodigy program to increase faculty diversity at SUNY, Strategic Allocation of Resources (STAR) initiative to grant $50,000 to applicants that meet core priorities of Strategic Plan
• Brought up issues with graduate student stipends, President said that $300,000 will be given to Ph.D. students, unsure whether this is to recruiting new students or to stipends
• President was unclear where we are on the graduate school, needs more details from Kevin Williams
• Could not vote on resolutions because we did not meet quorum, but will be voting on December/departmental graduation resolutions next meeting
• Following this meeting, UPPC Chair Karin Reinhold approached me asking my thoughts of not including students towards quorum since undergraduates never show up
• I reached out to undergraduate Senate representatives and a few said they cannot attend because they have class
• Resolved issue with SA President Langie and Karin, sharing that I was concerned that not including students towards quorum would disincentivize students even further from showing up, and gives the impression that student votes aren’t as important since a number of other faculty/staff Senate representatives also do not show up and they are not targeted

Senate Executive Council Meeting February 11, 2019
• Provost gave report similar to President Rodriguez’s report at University Senate
• Report from CPCA committee chair about adjudication process, voted in favor of changing their quorum to 5 committee members
• Microcredentials- UAlbany will give students badges when they have acquired specific skills and/or competencies; asked if there is actually value in microcredentials if you can get a certificate or minor that will show up on your transcript and you can already list your skills on a resume, they said employers look at it; voted in favor bc it won’t hurt to have it
• Voted in favor of new minor in Forensic Science

Undergraduate Academic Council February 8, 2019
• General Education – Jaime Galusha
  -music major competency plan is under review
  -approved GEO & Planning course
  -approved EHC major competency plan
• Curriculum and Honors – Kathie Winchester
  -trying to cut through channels for combined programs (4 programs currently in pipeline & will be reviewed by committee)
  -honors proposal for music
• Proposal for changes to the History major – approved via email.
• Proposal for new major in English with a concentration in Creative Writing.
  - approved unanimously
* Proposal for new minor in Geographic Information Science. -approved unanimously

Campus Recreation Advisory Board
• Showed us numbers of how many students are using what gyms, going to what classes, etc. (not many grad students)
• Colonial Quad Dining Hall is empty now and will be turned into an extension of Campus Rec (new gym space, new rooms for classes like yoga, etc., a rock climbing wall, personal training space, etc.)
• Campus Rec is trying to get approval to up their fee by $7 for next year (does not impact grad students as we do not pay the fee)
• Graduate Academic Council February 1, 2019
• We approved a proposal to revise the admissions requirements for the MS in Secondary Education. The change brought our admissions requirements more closely in line with other comparable programs’ requirements.
• Discussion of microcredentials

Governance Council January 30, 2019
• Karen Reinhold (UPPC) brought some proposed amendments to the guidelines for the UAlbany Selection Committee to the attention of GOV, for informational purposes.
• The changes would allow for recipients of excellence awards to serve on the UAlbany Selection Committee itself, and; would allow that rules for quorum allow for a quorum of professors, and not count the two student representatives, as there has been attendance issues.
• UAlbany does not have as many Distinguished faculty, etc, as other institutions, so the University would like to increase its numbers.
• These changes are being sent to the Office of the Provost for consideration..
• Zina Lawrence presented the interim UAlbany policy and procedures for the use of a preferred first name for faculty and students. There have been policies in practice but have not been written down. GOV is encouraged to review and provide feedback by next Wednesday. The idea is to construct a more permanent policy, currently operating on an interim basis.
• Zina Lawrence presented the interim UAlbany policy on freedom of expression; similar situation to the prior item. There have been cases where
the University has lost lawsuits relating to not having a written policy regarding freedom of expression and is on recommendation of legal counsel.

- Campus Security Committee (CSC) asked GOV to make nominations for that committee; this is a good opportunity for those interested in security and a host of logistical facility issues to be involved. Christy Smith (Education) and Jayson Kratoville (CEHC) recommended, but there are still two vacancies. CSC typically meets once a month. Nominations must be a faculty member.

- GOV has been asked to generate a policy on Senate email use. Who can use the Senate listserv, and what types of information can be disseminated? Zina Lawrence will be taking a first draft, based on existing policies, and will bring to the Council shortly. The aim is to complete this by the end of the semester. Zina Lawrence presented her report as Chair:
  - A reasonable timeline has been created for this year, and GOV will shortly begin approaching people and filling slots for the Senate.
  - Spring 2019 is the first time that part-time faculty will be voting for their own representation.
  - Senate newssheet. Beginning on February 11, GOV (Zina Lawrence) will generate a monthly newssheet with information on upcoming Senate activities and the various ways it serves the University community. This will be sent electronically to faculty via the Provost’s Office. The motto is: we have an active role, and you can have an active role.
  - The subcommittee working group on contingency issues has put forth a definition of contingency: “any individual appointed to a State-funded position in an academic, professional or library title or obligation that does not lead to continuing or permanent appointments.” Reaching this group of people will be an ongoing concern. This working group will not definitely stay under the auspices of GOV. Regarding graduate student participation, there has been contact with Samantha Rider (GSEU) and there is a possibility of a permanent graduate student member. The definition—and the inclusion of graduate students within it—was contentious within GOV and was tabled mid-way.
  - GOV will help shape the content for the University Senate website in order to reduce its use for internal Senate communication and enhance its reach to a broader audience.