Assembly Speaker, Heather Sussman called meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

March Assembly meeting was visited by the leaders of the GSA and all the RGSOs.

Then there was motion to approve December’s Meetings minute.

   Result: Yes – 15 No – 0 Abstain – 2

Then there was motion to approve the Agenda.

There was a public comment added on GSEU fee and new business discussion on Pronouns in several GSA forms are added to new agenda.

Approval of new Agenda:

   Results: Yes – 15 No – 0 Abstain – 2

A) Confirmation of new Lead Senator:

   Li Deo is appointed as the new Lead Senator of GSA and he was introduced by Ajay to the meeting.

   There was a motion to approve the appointment:

   Yes – 18, No – 0, Abstain – 2

B) There was a motion to vote on remaining changes in ByLaws which were tabled for further discussion. Dylan Card has given a short explanation and motivation on what the changes are and referred to the documents sent to all prior to the meeting. He said the changes are more of clarification changes.

   Motion to approve:

   Yes – 15, No – 1, Abstain – 3

C)
GSA Diversity and Inclusion chair Elizabeth spoke about the optional pronouns field in the RGSO registration form, GSA general elections form and Declaration of Candidacy form and said that these pronouns are for easy processing of the forms.

Motion to approve:
Yes – 18, No – , Abstain – 2

Officer Reports:

- **Ajay Raghavendra (President):**
  
  Executive Summary: Working with the Division of Research and the Graduate School to increase funding opportunities for research and professional development for graduate students. This work is being closely carried out with the GSA Grants Chair.

  Participated in the SUNY Success Outreach conversation hosted by SUNY Chancellor Dr. Kristina M. Johnson. Also, discussed increasing graduate student funding and other professional opportunities directly with the Chancellor.

  Meet Mr. Gerard Marino (Budget Director, Financial Management & Budget) and discussed issues pertaining to university fees. The fees will only be increased by less than 2% for the 2020-21 academic year.

  Requested Mr. Mike Nolan, Senior Communications Specialist/Strategic Communications to highlight and publicize graduate students research work in official university communications.

  Appointed a new GSA Lead Senator and three new GSA Office Managers to fill the vacancies.

  Issued a statement on behalf of the GSA Executive Board criticizing the “Coronavirus-Themed Party” hosted by a group of undergraduate students at UAlbany.

- **Alexander M. Tomoff (Treasurer):**

  Executive Summary: Purchase requests being processed as usual now. Some delay during the winter break. Most Fall Semester grants approved and sent to UAS. Payroll through midFebruary is documented. New UAS staff hired.

  Liaising: Continued talks with UAS and Student Activities
Programming / training: Help office managers and RGSO members with financial tasks as needed.

Meetings: Scheduled weekly meetings with the campus designee on Friday afternoons • Train new UAS hire Katie Maloney • Council of Research

Information management: Granted two more individuals from UAS access to budget records to help with information flow management.

Financial activity:
- $119,163.80 (~64%) of annual budget spent
- $38,500 from Grants
- $18,800 in Programming
- $9,800 in RGSO funds
- $6000 in Printing and Paper
- Transfer funds / sponsorships

Strategic plan progress:
- Strategic plan is going accordingly.

**Qingyang Liu(Vice President):**

Executive Summary:
During February, I was holding several training meetings with three new Recognized GSOs and assisted them to become familiar with RGSO responsibility. I was focused on processing and approval of the PRs. I was coordinating with Student Resource Center liaison for the new RGSOs to apply for preregistration and set up MyInvolvement account. Liaising:

- Approve three new Recognized GSO at Spring 2020 and coordinate with SORC to set up MyInvolvement account for these three new RGSOs:
  - Next Generation GSO
  - Students’ International Affairs Association
  - University at Albany Mind Studies Association

On the behalf of RGSO committee, approve the following events:
- Educational Psychology GSO Brown bag event.
- English GSO graduate student conference event.
- Social Welfare GSO review for academic journal event

Meetings:
- Meeting with SORC RGSO liaison to discuss RGSO pre-registration procedure at February 5, 2020
- Meeting with International Affairs GSO president and treasurer for RGSO training at February 12, 2020.
- Meeting with UAlbany Mind Studies GSO president and treasurer for RGSO training at February 19, 2020.
Meeting with Next Generation GSO president for RGSO training at February 27, 2020.

Information Management
• Apply funding for event from GSA
  1. All RGSO has initial funding ($1,000). Aiming for allocate and use this initial funding, RGSO need to send the event flyers (with GSA logo) and itemized budget at least three weeks before the actual event for approval;
  2. Before using up the initial funding, RGSO cannot request the additional funding.

Reminder
• All RGSOs are required to meet the Equity and Inclusion requirement by either submitting an event proposal or holding an E&I event. Please reach out to EI chair if you have any additional questions.

**Equity and Inclusion Chair: ElizabethAnn S. Kelly**

Liaising:
• The EI committee met on March 2nd and discussed the creation of a resource guide for graduate students, as well as the GSA’s reaction to the Coronavirus.
• As EI chair I represented the GSA and the graduate student body at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and spent the day escorting Benjamin Jealous (former president of the NAACP) around campus and coordinated a number of events in which graduate student could engage with him.

Activity:
• The February Social Justice on Tap focusing on Queer Identities was a success, we had 38 attendees from across all three campuses. Our speakers were Ian Callahan, Joanne Kaufman, and Kate Averett.
• The next Social Justice on Tap will be March 13th 2020 and we will be focusing on research related to People with Disabilities.
• We are have hired three new office managers.

Reminder
• All RGSOs must host an Equity and Inclusion Event or Project before May, so far only seven RGSOs have done so.

**Grants Chair’s Report: Rae D. Drach**

Executive Summary:
The Grants Chair has completed processing of reimbursements for Fall 2019 awards. The submission portal is open on MyInvolvement for the Spring 2020 submission deadline of March 2nd, 2020. A significant number of grant applications have already been submitted. The Grants Chair continues to communicate with grant applicants and reviewers.

Oversight:
• Tracking of grants funding line
• Creation, contact, and oversight of grants committee

Meetings:
• Weekly office changed for spring semester to Wednesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm
• Meeting with GSA President and University officials to discuss streamlining and improving the application process for various grant opportunities available for graduate students from the University

Information Management
• All grants-information documents maintained on the GSA share page
• All grants-tracking updated in Financial Budget worksheet created by GSA Treasurer
• List of committee members maintained on GSA share page

Financial Activity
• Approximately 92% of total rewarded amount for Fall 2019 awards processed at Grants Chair level
• Approximately 6.6% of total rewarded amount not claimed
• Fall 2019 purchase requests completed with the exception of one student who was granted an extension due to circumstances beyond their control

Programing Chair: Mitchell B. Torres

Previous & Upcoming Events:
Every 2nd Thursday, Spring 2020 | 12:00 pm start time | Milne 215
Proposed speakers:
Mary Feeney (https://spa.asu.edu/content/mary-feeney), Arizona State University
Sonia Ospina (https://wagner.nyu.edu/community/faculty/sonia-m-ospina), New York University
Micah Rothbart (https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/pa/cpr/Rothbart_Michah/), Syracuse University

[2] GSA sponsorship of Institutions and Societies 2020
Downtown Campus | February 21, 2020
The Rockefeller Students Association (RSA) and Students of Educational Leadership and Policy (SEACchange) hosted the Institutions & Societies Graduate Student Conference. Submissions in the form of papers/research proposals, panels, and posters were presented in a low-key/lowstress academic conference, networking with other graduate students in political science and other fields.
For more information visit the conference web site:
https://sites.google.com/site/institutionsandsocieties/home

[3] GSA Programming committee planning Spring semester social as weather improves; dates tbd aiming for end of March/beginning April.
Note: Due to an increase in student group requests for funding/sponsorship, Programming would like to request that the assembly increase the programming budget
line from unallocated funds if possible, for the remainder of the semester in order to host an additional social event as well as the annual end of the year event.

Liaising: Attended two Council of Academic Assessment meetings. Minutes of those discussions forwarded to Lead Senator.

**GSA Lead Senator: Deo Li**

Executive Summary
- Gathered all the current GSA representatives’ contact information to be updated on the GSA Directory (https://www.albany.edu/gsa/directory.shtml).
- Courtney Yule, our UAC representative, reported that “the Honors College curriculum requirements are being updated to be more rigorous and include experiential and service learning. Experiential and service learning will build off of foundational coursework. Honors Students are also required to take general education courses at the honors level.”
- Dylan Card and Billy Zakrzewski Jr, our GAC representatives, reported that “online Proctor English proficiency test Duolingo may be used to waive TOFEL due to the novel coronavirus. Combined human development BS/CAS in School of Psychology, combined human development BS/MS in Higher Education, and combined various BA/MS or BS/MS in Secondary Education were all accepted by the GAC.”
- Mitchell Torres, our CAA representative, reported that “Africana Studies claims to be top rated, but there is disagreement on how those standards were based in claiming such title. Certain departments have been sent assessment forms and their statements/performances reviewed.”
- The University Senate met on 02/26/2020. Proposal to establish a new informatics concentration in game design and development was approved.

Liaising
- I have been in contact with the new appointees as they begin their committee/senate assignments.

Meetings
- The GAC committee met on 02/24/2020.
- The University Senate met on 02/26/2020

**University Council Representative: Brad Hershenson**

Executive Summary: The Council met on Friday, December 13th, and discussed various strategic initiatives such as the University Middle States process, strategic enrollment management through Student Affairs, expansion plans for food security programs such as the Purple Pantry, and passed a naming resolution for unnamed campus roadways. Council Representative Hershenson also had the opportunity to join SUNY students from across the state for Higher Education Action Day (HEAD) on Thursday February 27th at the NYS Capitol to advocate for investment across the system.

Liaising – President Rodriguez, Provost Kim, Vice President Christakis, Vice President Foreman, Members of the State University of New York Board of Trustees
Meetings – The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 1:00PM UNH 306. Meetings are open to all members of the public and are available via live stream. Due to the scheduling of this meeting this written report will not reflect the events/details of the March 6th meeting.

Information management - University Council December 13th, 2020, items of new business
• Middle States Self-Study Part 2 – Jason Lane, Interim Dean & Professor, Jeanette Altarriba, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
• Strategic Enrollment Management – Michael Christakis, Vice President for Student Affairs
• Food Security – Clarence McNeill, Assistant Vice President / Dean of Students Luke Rumsey, Assistant Dean of Students / Off-Campus Student Services
  Key data points
  o The level of food insecurity has a significantly negative association with students’ term GPA
  o The association between food insecurity and GPA is stronger among undergraduate students than that among graduate students
• Naming resolution, campus roadways – Todd Foreman, Vice President for Finance & Administration
  o Alumni Drive, Wellness Lane, Athletics Lane, Indian Pond Lane

Recruitment / outreach contributions – General graduate student body communication, correspondence with other members of the University Council / Boards of related institutions.

**Judicial Board: Dylan Card**
The judicial board has finalized the accepted Bylaw changes and the updated document is now available on the GSA website. The judicial board has also made the elections committee and student involvement aware of the Constitutional changes that were accepted by the Assembly, so those changes will appear on the ballot during the election. We encourage all RGSOs to vote yes on the Constitutional Amendments and please tell your friends and constituents to also vote yes.

UAS: Dylan Card UAS Report:
At the University Auxiliary Services Meeting the following agenda items were discussed;
> RFPs for various contracts
> Updates to both the State and Indian Quad Dining Halls
> Expansion of Gluten Free Friendly Options on Campus

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6 pm.