

# Graduate Student Association, Minutes, January 10, 2017

University of Toledo Graduate Student Association

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**5<sup>th</sup> Graduate Student Association (GSA) General Meeting**  
**Minutes of Graduate Student Association (GSA) General Meeting**

**DATE: January 10, 2017**

**VENUE: Student Union Building – Ingman Room, University of Toledo**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by 6.06pm by the presiding officer – Mr. Eric Simpson. The following officers were present:

1. Eric Simpson – President GSA
2. Colins Imoh – Main Campus Secretary
3. Geethika Liyanage – Communication Specialist

There were 13 representative present at the meeting with 22 other members. There were 38 members present at the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes – October 2016**

Motion for the adoption of the December meeting was moved by Alicia Nammavong and seconded by Abolade Oladimeji and was approved without corrections by all representatives present.

**III. Representative Office hours Update**

Office hours for the semester will hold on a weekly basis. Some of the representatives' office hours will overlap. There is the possibility of reps moving office hours in the spring, please communicate to Neha as soon as possible if you wish to change your hours.

**Action point: Representatives should inform Health Campus Secretary if they are changing their hours in the spring.**

**IV. GSA Graduate Student Research Award**

GSA Graduate Student Research Award announcement of successful applicants will be published before end of next week. The graduate Student Affairs Committee met on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the selection

process. The list of successful candidates will be placed on the GSA website.

**Action point: Graduate Students should look out next week for the list of successful candidates for the Graduate Student Research Award.**

#### **V. External Committees Update(s): University Governance:**

There was no updates as no meeting have taken place since the last updates. The next meeting is as follows:

1. President's Advisory Committee – Next meeting is February 2nd
1. Graduate Council – Next meeting is January 24th
1. Provost's Lunch – Next meeting is January 20th
1. Strategic Planning Committee – No Updates

#### **VI. Communication Specialist Position Election**

Three persons indicated interest in the position of communication specialist. They are: Michell Haines, Alisa Nammavong and Ebuka Ogbuoji. The presiding officer asked for further nomination and there was none. A motion was thereafter moved that if at the end of the GSA meeting no further interest was indicated, the nomination will be considered closed. Emily Lilli moved the motion and it was seconded by Dylan Krendl. The three candidates were thereafter called to present a brief manifesto which they did.

The committee for the election comprises of the president, the vice president and the health campus secretary. There will be a link in the GSA website for voting. The results of the election will be announced immediately after the close of voting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Action point: Graduate students should try and vote.**

## **VII. MGRS Steering Committee Updates**

Each year the GSA hosts a symposium where graduate students from across the Midwest can present their research or study topics in either a poster or presentation format. This is a multidisciplinary event and anyone can present projects at the symposium. This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> year and is the largest event of its kind in the Midwestern United States.

The symposium begins at 8:00 am and ends approximately 7:00 pm. This will be an all-day event and the GSA will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all attendees. This year MGRS will be held on **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

All MGRS Steering Committee Positions are now filled:

**a. Lead Symposium Co-Coordinator: Eric Simpson & Jessica Sherman**

Event venue and food have been arranged.

**b. Keynote Coordinator: Eric Simpson** – There is expectation of receiving the list of possible speakers from the COGS later this week.

**c. Contributions Coordinator: Mansi Brat**

No update

**d. Recruitment Co-Coordinator: Mitchel Haines**

Contacts have been made with 50 universities. There will be follow up and outreach to other universities this week.

**e. Scheduling Coordinator: Shin Cho**

Work in progress.

**f. Program Coordinator: Sahar Atshan**

Design of MGRS ready.

**g. Volunteers Coordinator: Nam Tran**

Volunteer's recruitment is still on going, there is need for more people to volunteer.

**h. Judges Coordinator: Alisa Nammavong**

Twenty judges have accepted their positions and effort is being made to recruit another 20 judges to complete the expected number of 40 judges.

**i. Certificates Coordinator: Mandy Lautzenheiser**

Coordination begins in March.

**j. Press & Media Coordinator: David Barboza**

Contacts and follow up with media is ongoing.

**The second steering committee meeting for MGRS coordinators will be scheduled before the next GSA meeting.**

**Action point: Graduate students should assist the committee in having a successful MGRS by pointing out potential judges and other aspects of the event.**

**VIII. Upcoming Events:**

**None**

**IX. Committee Breakout session:**

**There was no committee breakout session and there was no update report.**

**X. Budget Report / Updates**

The new treasurer informed that 4 travel reimbursement was done and there are 6 pre travel request received. The budget for the year \$153, 807.00 and of that amount a total of \$101,963.10 have been committed or spent. The breakdown is as follows: **Total budget till date, office expenses - \$298.57, travel -\$13,849.70,**

**communication/ promotional – \$1,283.25, sponsored program - \$16,000.00, Stipends and Tuition 69,507.24**

**Old Business:** Not discussed

**J. New Business:** There is a proposal for a change from the 16 week semester to 15 weeks. The details are not yet available, but hopefully by the 24<sup>th</sup> January meeting more details will be given. There were lots of clarification needed on how it will run and its effect on graduate student's stipend, summer classes among others. Update will be given at the next meeting

**K. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6.40pm; motion by Alisa Nammavong and Jaclynn Sullivan