

# Graduate Student Association, Minutes, February 22, 2017

University of Toledo Graduate Student Association

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## **Minutes of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) General Assembly: 2/22/17**

The regular monthly meeting of the University of Toledo graduate student association was held in the **Health Education Building Room 103 at 6 p.m.** The presiding officers were the President (Eric Simpson), the Vice President (Jessica Sherman), the Health Science Secretary (Neha Nandedkar), the Main Campus Secretary (Colins Imoh) and the Communications Specialist (Mitchell Haines).

**The representatives present were:** Jaclynn Sullivan, Nam Tran, Amit Chougule, Emily 'Lilli' Fishman, Alisa Nammavong, Saloni Daftardar, Jacob Westfall, Erica Loroff, Abolade Oladimeji, Nykolas McKissic, Jeremy Holloway, Bipin Gaihre, Iman Samani, Emily Van Wasshenova (Proxy), Gophal Dahal

**The representatives absent without proxy were:** Mandy Lautzenheiser, Dylan Krendl, Sahar Atshan, Saleh Alaqel

The call to order was made by Mr. Simpson at 6.06 pm. 39 students attended the meeting.

Mr. Simpson informed general assembly that the approval of January and February meetings' minutes will be done in March 2017 general assembly meeting.

Mr. Simpson presented a treasurer report to general assembly for academic year 2016-2017. GSA has \$37,000 allocated for travel reimbursement. GSA has spent \$17,344 out of travel reimbursement budget till February 2017. In addition, College of Graduate Studies (COGS) is helping GSA with Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS) Keynote speaker's travel expenses. COGS is providing this money by a grant for minority group and STEM background within 6 universities in Ohio. Mr. Simpson also informed that budget for treasurer's stipend has been reduced by \$1750. It was done by reducing working hours.

Mr. Simpson updated about president's advisory committee meeting. They talked about the government's decision on increasing tuition fees by 1%. Currently, University of Toledo has less tuition fees as compared to other colleges in Ohio. In addition, University of Toledo has high ranking in course completion ratio and expenditure ratio in Ohio state. Later, Mr. Simpson talked about Graduate Council (GC) committee meeting updates. GC is working on increasing credit hours to 15 from coming fall semester. They are working on how to implement it, how it's going to affect stipend, tuition fee and general fees. Classes will be extended for 5 minutes more. It is already implemented in College of Law and College of Medicine. Mr. Simpson also mentioned that Provost is working on intellectual property policies which need improvement. Moreover, IT department has fixed the GSA website and they are helping GSA in sending emails to all

graduate students. Mr. Simpson also informed about strategic planning committee meeting and how they are working on listening sessions.

Mr. Simpson congratulated Mr. Haines for his victory in special election for communication specialist position. It was reported to Mr. Simpson that students were interested to know how many votes were received by each candidate. Due to current policies, GSA didn't release the number of votes. However, Dean Dr. Bryant-Friedrich is working to resolve this issue. Next GSA meeting will be the election for academic year 2017-2018. Nominees will give a brief speech about why they should be elected for the particular position. The new elected E-board will address April general assembly meeting. Mr. Simpson provided the dates of election: Deadline for nomination is open from February 22,2017 to March 14, 2017, voting period will be from March17, 2017 to March 31, 2017.

Mr. Simpson talked about MGRS. He requested general assembly to spread the word about MGRS. Ms. Roberts is working on MGRS program designing and scheduling. She enquired if anyone from the General Assembly was interested to help with sorting the abstracts based on their major. GSA is also giving 50 undergraduate students an opportunity to attend MGRS. There will be a question-answer session for undergraduates where they will get a chance talk with a panel of graduate students from different majors. GSA professional development committee had done similar kind of workshop in 2015. They are willing to help in MGRS panel session.

Ms. Sherman also informed general assembly that MGRS will have a variety of workshops such as cover letter and resume writing, online professional LinkedIn development, ResearchGate, Citation Index, Endnote and Teaching Parascope. Ms. Sherman mentioned about the perk of volunteering at MGRS. There will be seven sponsor awards, some of them are broad while some are specific. All Women in Sciences (AWIS) is sponsoring two awards for presentations in Science background. UT Erie center aquatic science is sponsoring \$100 gift card. Then, Ms. Sherman gave an update about MGRS steering committee.

### **Coordinator Updates**

Recruitment Co-Coordinator: Mr. Haines has contacted 50 universities in mid-west region, few of them are interested to be a part of MGRS.

Scheduling Coordinator: Ms. Cho is sorting the abstracts based on their major. She is also preparing a new format for scheduling.

Program Coordinator: Mr. Atshan is designing the cover of program. He is also preparing a program booklet for MGRS.

Ms. Sherman applauded the work of Ms. Cho as well as Mr. Atshan. She also requested coordinators to submit their photographs to Mr. Atshan so that he can include it in program booklet.

Volunteers Coordinator: Mr. Tran requested GSA representatives to send an email to all graduate students regarding MGRS volunteering.

Judges Coordinator: Ms. Nammavong has emailed 32 professors/postdocs, 25 professors/postdocs have accepted the request for judging the presentation at MGRS. Ms. Nammavong requested GSA representatives to send an email to professors requesting them to be a judge for MGRS.

Certificates Coordinator: Ms. Lautzenheiser will start working once MGRS registration closes.

Press & Media Coordinator: Mr. Barboza has done great work with advertising. He was able to bring MGRS flyer on University of Toledo calendar screensaver

Afterwards, GSA general assembly discussed about budget proposal. GSA had \$9200 left for different college budget proposal. Department of biological sciences has a Science career fair in March 2017 and they requested \$3000 from GSA for this event. Ms. Fishman gave a presentation explaining their budget proposal. After discussion with GSA representatives, Ms. Sullivan motioned to vote full amount \$3000 for Science career fair. Motion was seconded by Mr. Westfall. 13 representatives voted in favor. Later, Judith Herb College of Education had presented a budget proposal for Navigating Education and Peace Studies in a Post-Truth Democracy symposium. They requested \$5,550.00. After discussion with representatives, Ms. Loroff moved to vote \$5550 full amount for Navigating Education and Peace Studies in a Post-Truth Democracy symposium. Ms. Nammavong made an amendment to give \$4000 to the College of Education. Ms. Sullivan seconded the amendment. Eight representatives voted in favor while 5 representatives abstained from voting.

At the end, Research and Development committee gave an update that they are conducting skill and network survey for GSA.

Ms. Sullivan motioned to adjourn a meeting at 7.35pm. It was seconded by Ms. Fishman