

GSA Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

Meeting was conducted on September 17, 2021 beginning at 3:30pm over Zoom, in accordance with university guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic. 23 Graduate Students were present. Meeting closed at 4:30pm.

1. Committee Updates

- a. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The committee is working on the response to the GSA's letter. A department training session on Implicit Bias is being held Friday March 19.
- b. Outreach: No new opportunities to report. Alicia asked about interest in an outdoors opportunity such as assisting at Olbrich Gardens.
- c. Treasurer: Calendar sale made \$1975.71. The university's Badger Days fundraising event is April 6-7.
- d. No update from the Welcome committee as the chair was not present.
- e. Seminar: Seminars are about every other week for the rest of the semester. The next few are masters thesis presentations from fellow graduate students.
- f. Faculty liaisons:
 - i. The zoom-bombing of weather watch was reported to L&S.
 - ii. TOP program is in year 3 of 5.
 - iii. The professional masters program accepted 26 students for Fall 2021. 5 have already accepted.
 - iv. Faculty are looking to re-evaluate the qualifying exam. In regard to next year's exam, they are looking to determine if it will be in-person or at-home.
- g. Alumni: The last alumni board meeting occurred before the February GSA meeting.
- h. Social:
 - i. Beginning on March 18, weekly coffee socials will be held on Thursdays from 12-1:30 pm (CT). This time is open to change if needed. Discussion topic for the first meeting is "things to do around Madison."
 - ii. With vaccination for Covid-19 on the horizon, we can start looking at holding in-person social activities. Ideas thrown out for people available to socialize in-person: list of vaccinated people, use of badger badge.

2. Graduation

- a. Zoe presented a case to the Faculty for graduation to be organized by staff or faculty instead of the GSA. Response was mixed, with some agreeing and some wanting to stay the status quo.
- b. A subgroup is further discussing what graduation should look like.
- c. Fall/Spring/Summer graduates are encouraged to provide their input on graduation.
- d. Moving forward, better support is expected from the faculty. Additionally, approval for paying student hourly rates to graduate students such as the chair and the video editor has been obtained. Not everyone who works graduation will be paid; payment is based on expected work load of the role.

3. Additional Items

- a. Committee chairs for the 2021-2022 school year will be elected at the last GSA meeting of the semester. Descriptions of the positions will be sent out in advance.
- b. An informal discussion about the Qualifying exam was proposed. This would cover format, sharing study materials, whatever else people would like to know about it.