

# GSSA Meeting

[2016-04-07] – [LBC 202]

- I. Call to Order - **6:30**
- II. Approval of Minutes - **Motion to approve minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passes, minutes are approved.**
- III. Guest Speakers
  - a. Raquel Horlick – Research & Instruction Librarian for the Sciences - **Thank you all for having me back. I am now the only science librarian. This is Sean Knowlton - research and instruction librarian for the humanities. We are hoping to become more involved in GSSA and GAPSA. You might also see Eric W., who came last February. We're here to help and support, to make sure that your issues and concerns get heard back at the library. Tony VanHolme was the other science librarian - he has now changed career paths. He is now a farmer! So now it's me. We are hoping to fill that position once the hiring freeze lifts. If you have any questions, suggestions, you want to purchase something, database, journal, anything - feel free to reach out to me. If I can't help, Andrew Corrigan, who is the Dean of the Libraries can. Some of you had volunteered to be part of the Grad Student Advisory Council. I do know that they have met with the dean and one of the associate deans as well and some issues kept coming up. We know there is a big issue for space at both libraries - Howard T. and Downtown Matas. We're working really hard on that. We have a lot of room for study spaces and there are some other areas we're hoping to turn into more study spaces, seating, collaborative spaces...with an emphasis on graduate students. This is something we're hoping for and we are just waiting on funding. Another thing that has come up alot has been ILL. We've heard about it taking longer, requests getting rejected. Obviously there is a lot of problem if a lot of you are unhappy, but we are not able to figure out what it is yet. The turn around time based on our information has not changed. Articles get rejected if there is full text available, so be sure to scroll to bottom of the email if you get a rejection to find it. If you're having a problem with ILL, email ILL so we can figure out what the problem is. Take screenshots, send emails. Contact me or Hayden Battle who does ILL. If you love it and think it's**

awesome you can send me an email as well. The Grad Student Advisory Group will likely reconvene in May for another discussion, so we're interested to hear from you the topics you'd like to cover. I think in the New Business there is something about creating a committee to make sure there is equal representation for all departments. Send me an email with anything I need to know! And finally, this is just me: what do you all think about workshops in the summer? We have them in the spring and fall...since you all will be here, is this something you would attend? - Yes - Ok, send us emails with what you'd like to see covered in the workshops. Send us emails about when we should schedule workshops. Most of us librarians are here all summer so feel free to make a one-on-one meeting or one-on-two, research groups, labs, etc. I know summer is the heavy time for grants, so just know we are here for you. Q: Is there any way you could link the deadlines for returning ILL documents to the deadlines that are already assigned by the library? Now, everything you check out has a different deadline and it's often a very short amount of time that we can have it. A: We will take that back. It's tough because we work with a nationwide system, so we can't promise any changes. But it's a good idea. There might be a way to see if certain systems allow you to borrow for longer. Q: Last ILL request I made came in twice - maybe related to the problems. The second one had a later return date. Q: Would there be any way to have a library pub night instead of a grad student open house? A: I would love that! Maybe if we could collaborate on funding. If you have any ideas for collaborations, within your department, student orgs, etc. we might be able to help you. Look for the chat box on the library homepage. Troubleshoot us, we are happy to help.

IV. Advisor Reports

V. Officer Reports

a. President – Jacobs Jordan ([jjordan2@tulane.edu](mailto:jjordan2@tulane.edu))

- i. Orgsync – permissions - **We've been going on with the training. Everyone should be trained by now, we will get rid of the untrained category. If you're an existing rep, train your new reps on how to use it correctly. That way when you contact the new exec board to tell them you're the new rep, it will be easier and clean up OrgSync**

**issues. If you're staying on, make sure new reps know how to submit events.**

- ii. **Faculty Awards – Did meet. Several nominations with very strong letters. Congratulations to those faculty members and their departments. I have already reached out to their reps to let them know their department won. If you have any questions about the award ceremony, planning the event with the \$250 allotment, email me. Plaques will be available about 2 weeks after we get things in for them. Reach out to the new exec board for that.**
  - 1. SLA – Antonio Gomez – SP&P
  - 2. SSE – Elizabeth Derryberry EEB
- b. **Vice President – Nicholas Fears ([nfears@tulane.edu](mailto:nfears@tulane.edu)) - Trivia next week, crawfish boil is on 4/22. Everything is in place. FYI: If you have something that is on Blackboard that you don't have a hard copy of, take it off of Blackboard! Tulane is transitioning to a new platform called Canvas, maybe over the summer. All of Blackboard will be erased. Canvas and Banner, the system Gibson is built on, are seamlessly integrated.**
- c. **Treasurer – Jordan Adams ([jadams15@tulane.edu](mailto:jadams15@tulane.edu))**
  - i. **New Treasurer: Jordan will be out of town during week of April 11, but available by e-mail. Will be around to help transition through May. (Thanks everyone for a great 18 months, wish I could be there to thank y'all in person!) No office hours next week that Jordan will be running, that is the new treasurer. She will be back to help with transition after that.**
  - ii. **Budget Approval. - Has been submitted to and approved by GAPSA. Slightly lower than last year due to lower enrollment, but proportionally has not changed. We have \$5,000 less in the budget than last year. Any questions about the budget we submitted or how it breaks down? Domestic transportation/domestic lodging earlier is GSSA travel funds. That is an account code - doesn't mean we cover lodging because we don't, it is usually used for registration or other conference fees. Just an accounting term. I know that has come up before.**

iii. Event Requests under \$250.00 - \$2415.00 - **Dissertation Discussion Group is supposed to be Philosophy - NOT ANTHROPOLOGY! We will change this in the system so it goes to the right department. Two of the Chemistry events should be broken out into the next fiscal year, which ends June 30. So total of \$2415 should be reduced by \$160. LAST Brazil event will be on 4/11 instead of 4/12. Q: Any backup plan if you don't get funding? A: No food at grad student meeting, less food at faculty/staff event, less refreshments at Brazil event. Q: Times? A: Brazil event is 5PM on Monday, Jones 204. Faculty/staff event will be at 5PM at MARI, this coming Thursday 4/14.**

Dissertation discussion group	Anthropology	4/23/16	\$100.00
Dept Meeting	Chemistry	5/30/16	\$80.00
Dept Meeting	Chemistry	6/20/16	\$80.00
Dept Meeting	Chemistry	7/18/16	\$80.00
Dept Meeting	Chemistry	8/8/16	\$80.00
Spring BBQ	Chem/Bio Engineering	5/20/16	\$250.00
End of the Year Party	Economics	5/13/16	\$250.00
EEB End of Year Meeting	EEB	4/23/16	\$250.00
Monthly Graduate Student Meeting	EENS	4/13/16	\$175.00
LAGO Monthly Meeting	Latin American Studies	4/8/16	\$120.00
LAGO Faculty/Staff Appreciation Event	Latin American Studies	4/14/16	\$200.00
Forum on Brazil	Latin American Studies	4/12/16	\$130.00
End-of-Semester Celebration	Math	4/26/16	\$120.00
Crito Meeting Group	Philosophy	4/9/16	\$100.00
Grad Student Working-paper Group	Philosophy	4/22/16	\$75.00
Grad Student Working-paper Group	Philosophy	4/26/16	\$75.00
Physical Sciences BBQ	Physics	5/20/16	\$250.00

**Motion to vote as a slate for the remainder of this fiscal year. Motion seconded.**

**Motion to vote as a slate approved. Motion to approve slate. Motion seconded. Slate for the remainder of this fiscal year approved.**

**Motion to vote as a slate for next fiscal year (July and August chemistry meetings).**

**Motion seconded. Motion to vote as a slate for next fiscal year approved. Motion to approve slate. Motion seconded. Slate for next fiscal year approved.**

iv. Event Requests over \$250.00

Post-quals social	Biomedical Engineering	6/3/16	\$450
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**Motion to approve. Motion seconded. Motion approved.**

**Those events put us over the events budget by a couple of hundred bucks, but we are under in some other categories so we are ok. Some operations account, and VirtualPh.D. That is proposed budget, as well, not what was actually spent. No funds left for this fiscal year.**

- d. Secretary – Abigail Nixon ([anixon1@tulane.edu](mailto:anixon1@tulane.edu))
- i. Update to constitution for Graduate Organization for French Studies (ADEEFF). **Changes - in order to vote on the new executive board, you have to have attended 2 of the last 4 meetings. Also, have to do some kind of service for the department. We decided at the last meeting that it would be about half an hour a month working on anything that represents the French department. We want everyone to be involved in the improvements. How do you track that? A: We'll talk about it in meetings informally. Will be up to the exec board if there is an issue to talk to the person. I doubt that would ever be an issue but it is in there just in case. Seems like stripping the right to vote in the organization is kind of like penalizing people A: Yes, kind of, but it's not going to really...it's up to the board. What that means that if there is an issue the president will talk to that person. Q: Is there any consideration for contingencies that would mean someone couldn't come? Sickness? A: Yes, of course. If you're unable to do something, you'll be exempt. This is just a way to help us make people be a little more involved because right now no one wants to do anything. Q: Do incoming students have to go to two meetings before you're allowed to vote? A: Yes. Q: So if you're an incoming student you can't vote? A: It's only board votes...This is not supposed to be a strict thing, it's just to try and show people that if you'd like to vote, we would like you to be involved. Half an hour is a pretty minimal amount of time. Q: When they define those activities, will they tell people what the services is? A: Yes, we will discuss that at meetings and let people know how they can involve themselves. Q: How much of these things that you are saying are already documented in your constitution? Is it going to be a fair procedure? If it's just coming later, I'm worried it's not going to be**

designed well. A: Do you mean like to decide right away what counts as service? Q: That one, the review process, if someone thinks they're being treated unfairly who should they talk to? These kind of things, because I don't think anyone has this kind of exclusion. A: It's not supposed to be exclusive, it's supposed to be inclusive and about bringing more people together instead of just having one person who's the president responsible for everything. That being said, I don't know how much more I can tell you because that's all I know. Q: In your org, are there other things that come up for a vote that they would be able to vote for? Right now the only thing that they could not vote on if they miss meetings is the exec board. A: The only other thing is changes to the constitution. Q: I'm worried someone might get on the exec board, change the rules, and take it hostage until they are gone. That is a worry. A: The exec board is not just one person, so that would not be the case. We're not a big program - we have maybe 9-10 people at our meetings and maybe half of them are exec board. It would be pretty crazy for someone to take over like that. Q: Right now, there's nothing in there that says it needs the majority rule. Additionally, couldn't some of these service things be done by people in your department (i.e. updating website). An executive mandate seems pretty harsh. Is this a cultural issue within the department, a problem this is trying to solve specifically? Q: This is not my idea, I am trying to represent as best as I can. I just agreed that we should try to be more involved. If you disagree, you can vote against it - no problem. Any further questions? No -- Motion to vote on the Constitution. Two in favor. Eight abstentions. Eleven opposed. Motion does not pass. Bring it back up at a later meeting after bringing it back to the department.

VI. New Business

- a. Elections - Four positions to fill. These go by nominations - you have to be present to accept the nominations. I would like to nominate Kate E. for President and Sam Lanz for VP. Any other nominations for president and VP? No - if there are no oppositions we can vote before moving on. Motion to vote as a slate. Motion to vote as a slate approves. Motion passes

**unopposed, slate of President and VP is approved. Q: How to make treasurer more appealing to people?**

- i. President - Kate Elfer**
- ii. Vice President - Sam Lantz**
- iii. Treasurer - Fariha Haque - do you accept this nomination? Yes! Vote approved unanimously.**
- iv. Secretary - Lydia Crawford - do you accept this nomination? Yes. Motion to vote. Vote approved unanimously.**

- b. Speaker Funding - Slightly smaller budget than last year. Wanted to make two propositions to consider going forward. About 2 years ago we voted to have 2 speakers/department. Some think we should lower this to 1, others think we should remove the cap. I wanted to bring this up for discussion in case of any budget shortfalls next year. Just wanted to bring that up as a preemptive possibility. This year 2 departments requested 2 speakers, last year 3 departments did. There are not a lot of departments requesting multiple speakers. Wanted to open it up for discussion Q: Is this for every year? A: Yes, two speakers a year. Usually averages about \$870 when a department brings in a speaker. Q: Are these requests coming from department reps or faculty? A: Reps from certain departments. When it was originally brought up it was only 1 - there was some strong opposition that got it raised to 2. Q: Was it 1 once upon a time? A: No, it was many. There was no cap. Speaker funding got out of control. We had to vote to have funds from events moved to cover speakers. About \$6-10,000/year came out and went to speakers. The last couple years we've had to request to take money from the reserve to fund events. We have not had that issue this year but our budget was about \$7,000 more than last. So if the budget gets smaller, this could be an issue. Q: Do you have other ideas for how to reduce spending overall? A: Yes, there have been some other ideas. Q: Do departments have money set aside for speakers? A: Mike Cunningham, our advisor, has said he dislikes the fact that GSSA has money set aside from these while our departments and schools have access to bring in speakers. The ability to bring in speakers should not be left to the graduate students. OGPS should be the one who is organizing these speakers. As an advisor, he thought we shouldn't be paying that. When we told him why we put a cap on**

it because people were requesting whole speaker series, he was pretty upset about it. Grad student funding came from the need to be able to bring in speakers that staff/faculty/departments might not ordinarily be OK with bringing in. So we don't want to eliminate it. Q: Will the department listen in practice to what the grad students want? A: Yes, I agree with what you're saying and that's why we have this fund. There are a lot of departments that don't utilize speakers. If we cap at 1, perhaps this could foster cooperation within departments if students go back and communicate their desires to bring in X speaker to their department. Q: I am from a department that has speakers on a weekly basis all year. We are very interdisciplinary and would love to collaborate with people. I like the idea of collaboration. Q: Is this something that we can vote on?

Move to change the cap to 1 speaker per year. 20 in favor. 4 opposed.

Motion passes - speakers capped at 1 per department per year.

- c. Combined/large event requests - Some departments have huge events or combined event that go through the usual system. GAPSAs has a system for large events/combined event funds. I will draft a form if y'all think it's a good idea to have a form where departments can fill out a form together, have reps from both departments signing it saying they are requesting it together. Having a form would make it easier to do a combined event between departments. That will have to be discussed more to nail down specifics, I just wanted to make that a potential idea moving forward. I know it's been brought up over the years as a good idea. Q: This would be a form that is very similar to what you're filling out now for your department, just with a few more lines to fill out? A: Yes, it would be a form that is submitted to the treasurer saying that they would like to request funds for a combined event. Reps would sign on to say they are agreeing to do this and know about details. Something along those lines. It's something at the GAPSAs level that we're actively trying to improve. Currently the fund for cross-school collaboration is about \$16,000 and only about \$8,000 gets used every year. I think that's because the current GAPSAs website is awful and the ability to use the request is only an option for those who are very involved with GAPSAs. We're going to try to open that up to more people. I



2016:	0
	\$20.5
Total funds amongst 54 students:	6