Graduate Student Council

General Body Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
5:00 PM Reitz Union 2335
AGENDA

- Welcome
- Officer Reports
- State of the GSC and Vote
- Invited speakers: GAU
- Open Discussion
Reports: President

Christine Swanson, PhD Student

Forest Resources and Conservation
Reports: Vice President

Jonathan Orsini, 3rd Year PhD Student

Agricultural Education and Communication

jorsini@ufl.edu
Graduate Student Mentoring Project

- Goal - To identify mentoring behaviors of UF faculty that promote high-quality relationships with graduate student mentees.
  - Identify positive and negative behaviors.
  - THIS REALLY CAN HELP - e.g. CALS mentoring academy
- Interview option (limited availability)
- Short 5-7 minute survey (as many as want to participate)

http://gsc.sg.ufl.edu/documents/surveys/
Reports: Treasurer

Raminder Kaur, PhD Student

Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department

rkaur1@ufl.edu

- Questions for TAR/SAR
Reports: Secretary

Connor Behrmann, 2nd Year Masters Student

Opera Performance

.ufgscsecretary@gmail.com

- Attendance is taken via the tablets on your way in.
- One absence is allowed before loss of department eligibility.
- Confirm Department Representatives before leaving.
- Email me regarding any questions about your position.
Reports: Webmaster

Shar Siddiqui, 2nd Year PhD Student
Environmental Engineering

sharsid94@ufl.edu
Reports: Social Committee Chair

Mustafa Ozdemir, PhD Student

Exercise Physiology

ozdemirm@ufl.edu
Reports: International Affairs Chair

Lakshmi Manasa S Chekka, 4th Year PhD Student

Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research

mchekka@ufl.edu
Reports: Graduate Affairs Committee

Ranjeet Singh Randhawa, PhD Student
Horticultural Sciences Department

r.randhawa@ufl.edu
Reports: New Graduate Student Orientation Chair

Hannah Eckdahl, PhD Student - Audiology Program

Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

heckdahl@ufl.edu
Reports: Grants Committee Chair

Alwin Hopf, 2nd Year Masters Student - Agricultural and Biological Engineering

- [http://ufgsc.org/](http://ufgsc.org/)
- No late applications will be accepted.
- Check website for department eligibility.
- Reviews are done the first or second Monday following the end of each cycle.
- Email [gscgrants@gmail.com](mailto:gscgrants@gmail.com) for questions about grants, to rsvp for grant review, and to regain eligibility.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Application Period</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>International</th>
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<td>October 1st - 30th</td>
<td>December 15 - January 14</td>
<td>January 1st - February 29th</td>
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Reports: Graduate Council Representatives

Representative:

Seth Assan
Higher Ed. Admin. & Policy PhD Student
seth.assan@ufl.edu

Alternate:

Glen Billesbach
Political Science PhD Student
gbillesbach@ufl.edu
Reports: Faculty Senate Committees

Faculty Senate: (3 Representatives)

1. Raminder Kaur
2. Mustafa Ozdemir
3. Elizabeth Schieber

University Libraries Committee: (2 Representatives)

1. Valentina Contesse
2. Raminder Kaur

Research and Scholarship Council: (1 Representative)

1. Mustafa Ozdemir
Reports: Faculty Senate Committees

CLAS Faculty Council: (1 Representative)

1. Michaela Abelgas

Graduate Council: (1 Representative)

1. Karen Ronke Coker
Reports: Student Government

- Graduate & Family Housing Resolution
  - Asked to amend G&F Housing leasing contract terms and conditions to prevent multiple inopportune relocations a semester that are not due to safety and security reasons.
  - Led to placement of Mayors’ Council President Tiffany Batten, a sponsor, in a committee to amend leasing contracts.
  - Contact Mayors’ Council President with your leasing contract concerns: tbatten@ufl.edu

- 24/7 Library (USE THIS RESOURCE!!!)
  - 3 more years of funding and Provost study

- Partnership with GAU and SG
  - Permanent graduate seats in local fee committee
  - Joint GSC, GAU, and SG event
# Reports: Student Government

- Raising Travel Grant cap to 500$
- Currently Travel Grants Budget: +/- 122,500 $ budget per year, 1100 Applications

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<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Number of Grants</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>All 350$</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>All 500$</td>
<td>245 (-30%)</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>25% 500$, 75% 350$</td>
<td>324 (-8%)</td>
<td>29%</td>
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- Proposal: 25% 500$ Grants (highest scoring), 75% 350$ grants
State of the GSC

GSC and its Role in Graduate Education at UF

Announcement from administration: Addition of mental health professionals for UF employees including GAs and RAs. Can be accessed through Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

2019-2020 Specific Goals

1. Develop and publish new grants website
2. Work to better define GSC representative process
3. Improving mentorship at UF
State of the GSC

New cap for travel funding of $500 per individual per year. Proposal to increase funding to top 30% of students awarded grants, awarding those who write exceptional grants while minimizing the total cost (total funding for grants has not increased).
Invited Speaker -
GAU

Know Your Rights as a Graduate Assistant
Healthcare & Raises

- Healthcare for Grad Students is a KEY bargaining item
- Minimum Stipends increased to 16,000 on 9 month .5 FTE
- $100 Flat dollar raise for returning GAs to come in Spring 2019
Fee Relief

• 31% of non-tuition student fees beginning Spring 2020
• The average GA taking **18 credit** hours will keep $455 more of their paycheck **each year**.
  ○ Those enrolled in **24 credit** hours will keep $606 more of their paycheck **each year**.
  ○ GAs can expect to save approximately $910 to $1,212 over the course of a two-year degree, and $2,275 to $3,030 over the course of a five-year degree
• This agreement does not affect the availability of any services
Leaves of Absence

- Every GA entitled to a five-day paid leave of absence
- Entitled to up to six week of unpaid leave for: the birth or adoption of a child, to care for immediate family or domestic partner living in the household, or a serious illness
- NEW: All GAs entitled to an unpaid leave of absence for up to a year to pursue dissertation or thesis research
  - All benefits, except tuition waiver, in effect for duration of unpaid leaves of absence.
New: Summer RAship

- Summer RAship available for GAs to pursue dissertation or thesis research over the summer
- No lab or TA work required during this period
- GA receives all pay and benefits (except tuition waiver) during this time
- No credit-hours necessary and no student fees required for duration of Summer RAship
- Will be handled on a department-by-department basis and subject to funds availability
Due Process

- Employee evaluation file must be kept for all GAs
- No anonymous material may be entered into evaluation file other than student evaluations of TAs or instructors
- GA must have opportunity to meet and discuss any lab or classroom evaluation by a superior within two weeks of visit
- NEW: No GA may be terminated or otherwise punished unless the alleged infraction is documented and GA has opportunity to respond in writing
Additional Protections

- **NEW**: Gender identity now a protected category alongside: race, color, sex, religious creed, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or marital status.
- **NEW**: GAs now have the right to: discuss all matters relevant to the curriculum in the classroom; pursue any and all avenues of research; creative expression; speak freely on university policy and governance.
- **NEW**: Copyright protections that are currently afforded to other UF staff are now extended to GAs and codified.
Workload

- GAs cannot be required to work more hours than FTE allows for any week (20 hours for .50; 10 hours for .25; 13.3 hours for .33)
- No banked time
What to do if your rights have been violated?

- **File a Grievance**
  - ufgau.org/grievance
  - Under our contract tab, contract enforcement
- **Time frames for submitting grievances**
  - 25 days following “Notice of Discipline”
  - 30 days following dispute of contractual violation
- **GAU can ONLY represent its members through the grievance process but can provide guidance to non-members on possible violations of the contract.**
- **Agreement to attempt to resolve disputes prior to grievance**
Open Issues & Announcements

Next meeting:
November 6th, 2018
Reitz 2335, 5:00pm
See You Next Month

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