

# Graduate Student Council

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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](mailto: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](mailto:rkaur1@ufl.edu)

- Questions for TAR/SAR

# Reports: Secretary

Connor Behrmann, 2nd Year Masters Student

Opera Performance

[ufgscsecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sharsid94@ufl.edu)



# Reports: Social Committee Chair

Mustafa Ozdemir, PhD Student

Exercise Physiology

[ozdemirm@ufl.edu](mailto:ozdemirm@ufl.edu)

# **Reports: International Affairs Chair**

Lakshmi Manasa S Chekka, 4th Year PhD Student

Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research

[mchekka@ufl.edu](mailto:mchekka@ufl.edu)

# **Reports: Graduate Affairs Committee**

Ranjeet Singh Randhawa, PhD Student

Horticultural Sciences Department

[r.randhawa@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto:heckdahl@ufl.edu)

# Reports: Grants Committee Chair

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

- <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.

Application Period	Domestic	International
October 1st - 30th	December 15 - January 14	January 1st - February 29th

# Reports: Graduate Council Representatives

Representative:

Seth Assan

*Higher Ed. Admin. & Policy PhD Student*

[seth.assan@ufl.edu](mailto:seth.assan@ufl.edu)

Alternate:

Glen Billesbach

*Political Science PhD Student*

[gbillesbach@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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

Distribution	Number of Grants	Acceptance Rate
All 350\$	350	32%
All 500\$	245 (-30%)	22%
25% 500\$, 75% 350\$	324 (-8%) (61x500\$ + 263x350\$)	29%

- 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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November 6th, 2018

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