

GSAC Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Jenifer McDonald. All members on the Zoom introduced themselves to the group. We had 15 in attendance.

II. Overview of GSAC – B. B. Stotts welcomed the group to the first meeting of the semester and gave an overview of GSAC. GSAC strives to have student representation from each program area. Our mission consists of three parts; 1) to facilitate communication among graduate students, faculty and administrators; 2) to promote professional development and interaction among the graduate population; 3) to act as a source of information and guidance.

PSU strives to have a shared governance organization so that all groups have a voice on campus – GSAC is that organization for graduate students. We have graduate student representation on many university committees and work groups. Membership in the GSAC is open to all graduate students enrolled at Pitt State. We have monthly meetings and any graduate student is welcome to attend. GSAC also provides funding for graduate students doing research and/or attending/presenting at a conference. GSAC also helps to coordinate and support several campus events -- professional development or social events.

III. University Committee Representation – Jenifer described each committee and asked for volunteers to serve if interested. All positions were filled. Thank you!!

- Library Services Committee – Alexis Melson
- Academic Honesty Committee – Emely Monsour
- Student Learning Committee – Megan Munger
- Information Technology Council (ITC) – Saivardhan Banoor

B. B. Stotts will send the contact information for each graduate student volunteer to the committee chair. Look for an e-mail to come to you later regarding the committee and any upcoming meetings.

IV. Officer Elections will happen at our second meeting of the semester, scheduled for October 8 at 1:00 p.m. Jenifer McDonald described the duties of each officer position and asked anyone interested in a leadership position to please e-mail B. B. Stotts (bstotts@pittstate.edu) or Jenifer McDonald (jenifer.mcdonald@ascension.org) by October 4, 2021. All three positions are open.

- President
- Vice President

- Secretary/Treasurer

V. Old Business

- Blue Parking Permits for G.A.'s – available starting 2021 -2022 academic year (<https://www.pittstate.edu/graduate/files/documents/graduate-assistantships/blue-permit-for-gas-2.pdf>). So far, there have been about 20 G.A.'s who have purchased a blue parking permit for this academic year. The University Police and Parking Services office has said that G.A.'s can purchase a blue parking permit at any time during the semester. The first step is to go to the Cashier's Office to purchase the permit, then come to the UPPS office to pick up the permit. If a student has a brown parking permit, they will need to turn in the brown permit and show their receipt for the new blue permit.

- Coffee & Conversation event from April 23, 2021 – follow-up. This event was held after our last GSAC meeting last semester. The students who participated in this online event through Facebook enjoyed it very much. It was a small group but really fun. Most stayed on the call/online for over an hour. It was a great opportunity to relax and connect with other graduate students.

It was the consensus of the current GSAC group that another Coffee & Conversation event be planned for Fall 2021. This event will be planned as an in-person event. Look for more information to come soon!

GSAC has a Facebook page which Jenifer has administrative rights to. She encouraged all members to "like" the page. The page is called PSU Graduate Student Advisory Council.

Professional Development topics came up in our conversation and Emely Monsour (new member) spoke about Diversity topics she presents on campus. Perhaps she can help lead a PD session for all graduate students this academic year sponsored by GSAC.

VI. New Business

- Gorilla Engage – Jenifer gave an overview of this resource available to all PSU student organizations. Gorilla Engage has great tools for organizations to use to advertise events and communicate with its members. The GSAC membership will be added to the online roster in Gorilla Engage which will send an e-mail inviting the membership to accept. Look for this e-mail to come. If you put in your cell phone number it will allow text messages to be sent regarding meetings and events.

At this orientation, the Student Activities Center also wanted to share that PSU has a -
1) Food Pantry on campus for all students and staff call Gorilla Pantry located in the Student Center.

2) They host a leadership banquet in the spring and have many PSU Leadership opportunities available for all students. Leadership scholarships are also available but

very few for graduate students.

3) PSU Homecoming is coming October 16. Look for lots of Homecoming events that whole week. They are encouraging all student organizations to get involved. Learn more here: <https://www.pittstate.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.html>

Some events will be broadcast live through Instagram this year.

- GSAC Committees – Communication & Outreach; Events; Ad Hoc

Jenifer asked for volunteers to help lead these committees for GSAC. Michelle Cronk volunteered to help lead the Communication & Outreach Committee. Jenifer will share the administrative right to our Facebook page with Michelle. Mary Marine and Jaquelyn Bouchie agreed to serve on the Events Committee. Thank YOU!!

- When is the best day/time to have GSAC meetings? Only Zoom meetings or prefer FTF and Zoom? The group had a discussion on the best day/time and format of meetings. It was decided that GSAC meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The group would like the October meeting to be a hybrid meeting where an in-person option with Zoom capabilities was available. B. B. Stotts will look for a room on campus to hold the meeting. The next GSAC meeting will be held on October 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Look for a Zoom invitation and/or room location to come soon.

VII. For the Good of the Order – no discussion

VIII. Adjournment – Jenifer thanked everyone for attending the meeting and we adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 8, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., location TBD.