

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2004

***PURPOSE OF MEETING:** This is the first general meeting for the 2004-2005 academic year. The principal purpose was to provide updates from various committees and to distribute and explain funding recommendations*

DATE: Sunday, September 19, 2004

TIME: 7pm to 9pm

VENUE: Graduate Lounge, College Avenue Campus, Rutgers University

FACILITATORS: Kristen Gilmore (GSA President), Kristen Ross (GSA Vice-president), Karen Mabb (GSA Treasurer) & Grant Law (GSA Secretary)

Topic	Discussion	Action	Person Responsible
1. GSA elections and executive committee introductions	Kristen Gilmore (President), Kristen Ross (Vice-president), Karen Mabb (Treasurer) & Grant Law (Secretary)		
2. Sustainability committee created	Committed to improving university policy and practice		
3. Recognition of new graduate student organizations	Badmitten, Mediaeval Studies, Educational Media Association, Asha For Education, Christian Fellowship, Romanian Student Association		
4. Meeting with McCormick and Blimling	<p>Voter registration ideas include: Production and distribution of voting literature, Get a poll established at College Avenue Student Center, arrange a shuttle from campus locations to polling places.</p> <p>Student involvement in student fee spending decisions is currently lacking. A large part is</p>	Ask for copies of budgets, establish collaborative	

<p>spent on technology</p>	<p>partnerships with appropriate committees and participate in spending decisions.</p>	
<p>Recent retreats have recommended the creation of an ombudsman position.</p>	<p>A search committee will be formed. Undergraduate and graduate student representatives should be identified to participate in the committee.</p>	
<p>Are there any concerns you wish Blimling to be made aware of?</p>	<p>Off-campus security concerns. The Sears parking lot near Cook. Safety walks lead by Rutgers police are planned. Increased numbers of community officers. Disability/accessibility issues with regard to buildings. Bus drivers should announce the names of bus stops.</p>	<p>The schedule of safety-walks will be emailed.</p>
<p>Communication issues</p>	<p>One person in each graduate student organization (GSO) should be chosen to act as a communications liaison between the GSA and the members of their GSO.</p>	<p>In early October, we will ask for the email address of each GSO's communications liaison. All GSA communications will go to this person, who will then forward the memos to the members of the GSO they represent.</p>
<p>Bill 3412 lobbying</p>	<p>The committee lobbied well, garnering more New Jersey delegates than any other state. October 20th is a national day of student action – does anyone want to make this happen? Should we generate a petition?</p>	

5. GSA committees

(I missed the first four topics)

External Allocations Committee, represented by Karen Mabb. Read list of members, and described the oversight process. Out of \$115,000 requested, only \$49,000 can be funded. No GSO will be given the total amount requested. The committee's first round approved \$78,000 for all requests. A 10% reduction was imposed on all requests, but a significant shortfall remained.

The GSA should have more funds this Spring, so we are waiting to consider funding of Spring events until we know how much we will have.

When is the Spring deadline?

Anticipate \$17,000 in the Spring, which will be used to fund new GSO's first. Remainder will be distributed evenly between previously funded GSO's.

If you are concerned about funding decisions, please join the External Allocations Committee.

The Spring deadline is . . .

If you want to join the External Allocations Committee, please contact Karen Mabb

		(rugsa_treasurer@yahoo.com)
6. External committees	<p>Mike Crockford described the Rutgers Student Center Governing Board and our use of the graduate student lounges.</p> <p>We need a graduate student representative on the Douglass College Center Governing Board to support our use of the Graduate Student Lounge.</p> <p>The University Senate can take a long time to recognize issues. Let's decide tonight which issues we care about and start pushing them. McCormick's address also encouraged working with the University Senate. We should use the senators as a resource.</p> <p>The Executive Committee of the Graduate School</p> <p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>Parking & Transportation Student Advisory Committee</p> <p>TA/GA Steering Committee</p> <p>Sustainability Committee</p>	<p>If you are interested, please contact Mike Crockford (mcrockford@yahoo.com)</p> <p>Topics to push included: on and off-campus security, accessibility issues, health insurance benefits for graduate students on fellowships. Any further suggestions should be submitted in the next 2 weeks.</p> <p>Will be meeting next week.</p> <p>Conversation w/ Blimling</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>We need new members. Contact Kristy King (kking@rci.rutgers.edu)</p> <p>Intent is to bring the many campus subgroups together, and build</p>

		membership. To get involved, contact Kristen Ross (rugsas_vicepresident@yahoo.com)	
7. Publication Office	Nothing to report		
8. Administrative Assistants	<p>We have a new administration—please be patient with them</p> <p>Please stick to budget!!! We have no safety net. Let us know of any changes you wish to make well in advance.</p> <p>The AA's are Mike Crockford and Jean Henningsly. If you begin working through an issue with Mike or Jean, please stick with the same person on all future conversations.</p>		
9. Announcements	<p>Remember, all GSO's are expected to have a representative present for at least 4 GSA meetings.</p> <p>Come to the multi-cultural social – Blimling will be there. Bring a CD.</p> <p>The next GSA general meeting will be October 10th, in the College Avenue Student Center's multi-purpose room.</p>		

CONCLUSION: The minutes of this meeting will be reviewed by the GSA administration, then distributed to the GSO's through their communication liaisons.