



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK
Graduate Student Association

Plenary Council Meeting

Graduate Student Association
February 6th, 2023



Special Guest:

Rutgers Innovation Ventures
[Commercialize Your Innovation](#)



Appointment of VPMOC - Christine Wang



Vice-President of Marketing, Orientations, and Communications



Recognizing new GSOs: Biotechnology Club



Presidential Update





GSA Elections 2023-24

GSA Officer and Senator Positions



Nominations will be open for the GSA Officer and Senator positions for the 2023-24 AY. Open positions are:

- **Executive Board Positions:** President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
- **VP Positions:** VP of External Affairs, VP of Events and Programming, and VP of Marketing Orientations and Communications
- **Directors:** Professional Development, and Academic Development
 - NOTE: GSA Director positions are appointed by EC and confirmed by council after elections
- 4 School of Graduate Studies (SGS) University **Senators**

Expected Timeline

Nominations Open: March 20th

Nomination Close: March 24th at Midnight

Election Period: March 27th - March 29th

Are you eligible?



Who can run for an officer position

- Any graduate student enrolled in the following schools:

**Edward J. Bloustein
School of Planning and
Public Policy**

**Graduate School of
Applied and
Professional
Psychology**

**Graduate School of
Education**

**Mason Gross School
of the Arts**

**Rutgers Business
School- NB**

**School of Arts and
Sciences**

**School of
Communication and
Information**

School of Engineering

**School of
Environmental and
Biological Sciences**

**School of Graduate
Studies**

**School of Management
and Labor Relations**

School of Social Work

- Non-SGS, RBHS constituency is sometimes unclear. Get in touch if you have questions.

Procedure



How to run for Office:

- Email the GSA Elections Commissioner at elections@gsa.rutgers.edu nominating yourself for the position you are interested in, with the email of another graduate student who can second your nomination (cc'd)
- Email a brief statement of purpose
- A nomination form will be available on the GSA website

How elections work

- All graduate students in the GSA's constituency will have the opportunity to vote for the 72 hours elections are open (All students in SGS will be able to vote for Senators)
- Students will have access to candidate's statement of purpose when voting to help make their decision.

***KEY* Extra Information...**



- The GSA will run at least one information session between now and the next council meeting (April) to provide in depth info about what being a GSA board member involves and approximate levels of time commitment.
 - 1st session: **TBD - Early March**
 - 2nd session: **TBD - Early March**
 - **Check getINVOLVED for link!**
- **We are looking for an election commissioner! please email: president@gsa.rutgers.edu**
 - Duties:
 - Supervise GSA elections to ensure fairness and efficiency
 - Organize and publicize elections to maximize voter turnout
 - Compile nominations and votes
 - Great way to interface with the GSA!

Reasons to join the GSA



- Community: Meet graduate students across campus and gain a broad perspective of the graduate student experience and how the university works
- Advocacy: Gain access to Rutgers administrators across many offices and advocate for graduate student interests
- Don't just ask, create! Create new programs and resources for graduate students when just asking the university for new resources isn't enough
- Professional development and resume building: Gain experience running a complex organization with an over \$250,000 budget
- GSO Support: Work to improve and maintain the quality of the funding and reimbursement system for GSOs across Rutgers

Reasons to join the Senate



- Serve as a representative of School of Grad Studies graduate students to a university wide body of faculty, staff, and students
- Select your committee from 7 options including Student Affairs, Instruction, Curricula, and Advising, University Structure and Governance, and Budget and Finance
- Gain the opportunity to run for a position representing graduate students to the Rutgers Board of Trustees (which oversees and advises the president)
- Gain a deeper understanding of how the university works and how the university's many constituencies (faculty, admins, alumni) interact
- The Senate meets just one Friday a month from 1:10 to around 3:00pm, with committee meetings in the morning
- Learn more about the Senate at senate.rutgers.edu

GSA Climate Survey Feedback



- More events on other campuses (besides Busch/CA)?
- Events at times other than the evening
- Encourage more collaboration between GSOs
- Clickable links to items within GSA emails, rather than PDF
- More virtual events
- Networking and job-related events
- Events are undergrad targeted?
- Concerned about all GSOs needing to allow membership to everyone
- Increase funding limits to account for inflation
- Note to make: Discord is completely optional. All key information will continue to be shared via Email. Discord just presents another channel to access information and GSA officers, as well as allowing for inter-GSO collaboration and socialization between grads
- More movies and game nights?
- More Cultural events
- Financial advising workshop (student loans, etc).
- Ways to increase graduate engagement in Discord?

Overall folks believe the GSA is doing “good” or “very good.” They are satisfied with the variety and types of events, though timing/location should be more varied.



EVP Update





Proposed Amendment

Article 3 Officers Section B Elected Officers

3. Each elected Officer shall serve without salary or other financial remuneration.

Amendment Proposed –

Article 3 Officers Section B Elected Officers

3. Officers of the elected Executive Council (President, Executive Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) will receive compensation in the following manner – President and Treasurer will receive an academic yearly compensation of \$1000, Executive Vice President will receive an academic yearly compensation of \$800 and Secretary will receive an academic yearly compensation of \$600. Compensation will be made in two installments – once for each semester served. If someone does not serve the entirety of the academic calendar, then the compensation will be pro-rated by month. If the officer is removed or suspended according (Article III, Section H, Part 1 and 2) then the office will not be compensated.

Voting - March Council Meeting



Upcoming Events

**KNIGHT
AT THE
MUSEUM**

Friday, February 17, 2023 • 4:00 - 7:00pm
Free Food & Prizes

**Connect with graduate students,
experience the museum, and enjoy free food!**

RUTGERS
Student Affairs

graduatestudentlife.rutgers.edu

Offices of the Dean of Students
Graduate Student Life

Office Hours reopening for Spring Semester -

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-10am

Knight at the Museum

Friday, February 17, 2023 - 4pm-7pm

Info on our GetInvolved

Event sponsored along with Office of Graduate Student Life



VCSAC Updates

Discovery Advantage:

Dean Kathleen Scotto stopped by the meeting

discoverynb.rutgers.edu



Treasurer Update





Spending Report for Fall 2022

**IF YOUR GSO DID NOT SUBMIT AN EXCEL SHEET
DETAILING YOUR EVENT SPENDING FROM FALL 2023,
YOU MUST SUBMIT IT ASAP VIA GETINVOLVED.**

**YOU MUST STILL SUBMIT IT EVEN IF YOU DID NOT
HOLD ANY EVENTS AND EVEN IF YOU DID NOT SPEND
ANY MONEY.**

**REMEMBER: To remain in good standing with the GSA, GSOs must
hold at least 1 event per semester that is open to all graduate
students.**



Secretary Update





Business Manager Update





New Honorarium Process

Instructions:

Step 1: Complete Honorarium Request Form. Hosting organization submits form via [getINVOLVED](#) with all information completed. The GSA will verify that your speaker is eligible to continue with an honorarium request.

Step 2: Complete the Honorarium Speaker Agreement, Business Justification Form, and EACS registration. Submit forms as a single PDF via the same [getINVOLVED](#) portal as above with all information completed.

Step 3: Speaker completes Payment Works registration. Upon completion of steps 1 and 2, the GSA will initiate adding a speaker to the Rutgers vendor management system. Speaker will receive personal link and must complete registration. Note: ***speaker must have a valid SSN or ITIN.***

Step 4: Speaker completes ICED form. Emailed directly by and returned to the GSA Business Manager (help@gsa.rutgers.edu).

Step 5: GSA notified of event completion. Hosting organization submits a complete PER with the necessary forms, including those from steps 1 and 2 above and emails GSA Business Manager (help@gsa.rutgers.edu)

Step 6: GSA submits check request. Speaker is mailed a check for the agreed honorarium amount directly.

Note 1: The GSA may only prepare honorarium checks ***after*** the conclusion of the event in question and only after being provided all the above documentation. Request should be made ***at least 4 weeks*** in advance of the event.

Note 2: The recipient of the honorarium must ***not*** be affiliated with Rutgers University. The GSA does not pay for honoraria given to administration, faculty, staff, or students of Rutgers University.

[Honorarium request form](#)



Vice President of External Affairs Updates





- Collaborating with the Office of Federal Relations in order to send a delegation of graduate students to DC for advocacy.
 - Expected to be on either April 25th or April 26th
- A application to join the trip is being prepared and will be made available soon



Professional and Academic Director Development Updates





Committee Updates





Recreation Committee - Future events

- Skiing trip
 - Date TBD end of February
 - Limited spots
 - Stay tuned!
- Ice skating
 - Looking for co-sponsors
 - Wed, Thr, or Fri 8:30 - 10:30 pm
 - 20 min drive from campus
 - Email recreation@gsa.rutgers.edu





Mental Health Committee

Breath Based Wellness Session

- The GSA organization is presenting a Breath Based Wellness Session Via Zoom with special guest, Pooja Bhaloode. Pooja is a 1000+ hours trained Breathwork and Meditation Instructor. This event will happen February 13th, 7:00-8:00pm.

- Link to register via Zoom:
http://tiny.cc/meditation_mondays





DEI Committee

Movie Night

- Date: February 16th
- Location: Graduate Student Lounge
- Co-Sponsored with GRADient
- Tentative Title to be shown is Saving Face



(Graphic by Elijah Janka)



DEI Committee

SEBS DEI IDEA Grant

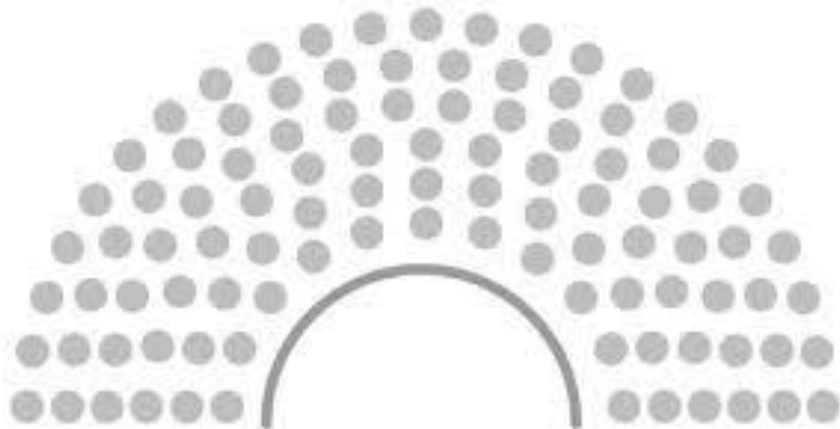


Aimed at linking current undergrads with grad students via a panel discussion and social hour where undergrads can learn about different paths to graduate school.

- Date: March 22nd
- Location: Livingston Student Center
- Co-Sponsored with SEBS DEI Orgs and SACNAS
- We're looking for some grad students of different backgrounds who may want to share their experiences:
 - International
 - Non-Traditional (older/prior work experience/not straight from undergrad)
 - 1st Gen
 - Postbac
 - DACA status
- Email: diversity@gsa.rutgers.edu



Senate Updates





DISCORD



**↑ SCAN
HERE**

**To join the Rutgers Graduate
Student Association Discord
Server!**

Questions? Email discordmod@gsa.rutgers.edu

Open to all
New Brunswick RU
Graduate Students!

Please share with your
GSO members and at
your GSO events!

[Rutgers GSA Discord Server Link!](https://discord.gg/QGKjYJ62vX) (or) **<https://discord.gg/QGKjYJ62vX>**



Questions? Comments? Announcements from
GSOs



Non-GSA Club Announcement



BIOTECHNOLOGY CLUB
RUTGERS BIOMEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES

Meet the Eboard and learn more about
our plans for the semester

Our first meeting:
February 8
12-12:45 PM
Newark Campus, GSA Lounge

Follow Us!

Instagram: @biotech_rutgersgsbs

Twitter: @RU_gsbs_biotech

Pizza will be served! Please fill
out this Google Form via the
QR code so we know how much
to order.

A Zoom link will be sent to
anyone from the New
Brunswick Campus



SCAN ME