**GAPSA General Assembly Meeting Agenda**  
**Room WH Multipurpose Smart Room. Law School.**  
*September 20th, 2016, 7 pm*

1. **Call to Order 7:04 PM**
2. **Roll Call**

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3. Advisor Report: Smita Ruzicka

Initially started as an interim advisor, but has since decided to stay on. Asst. Vice President for student life (covers things like fraternities and sororities and LBC). Primarily worked with undergraduates - but hopes to work more with graduate students and advocate for graduate student issues. Her door is open to meet about graduate student issues. This academic year we have a new Provost and COO, and we can work together to decide how can our senior leaders engage with our graduate students. Often, the university focus is on undergraduate students, but Smita is interested in how can we bring up graduate student issues to these senior leaders.

4. GAPSA Division Reports
   a. School of Continuing Studies
   b. Graduate Business Council
   c. Graduate Studies Student Association
   d. Medical School Student Association
   e. Public Health & Tropical Medicine Student Government
   f. Student Bar Association (Law School)
   g. School of Social Work Student Government Association - Note now that School of Social Work will be changing representatives in the middle of the year.
   h. Biomedical Sciences Student Association
   i. School of Architecture

4. Executive Council Reports
   a. President – Nick Fears - introduction as the GAPSA president, he emphasizes brevity and enthusiasm!
      - NLRB Columbia Decision, Unions, and GAPSA
      - Everyone should have received a survey about graduate student unions. GAPSA is still in discussion with faculty around campus about the implications of unionizing at a private school and the impacts unionization will have us. GAPSA seeks to form a special fact-finding committee to investigate these implications/impacts. It may not apply to everyone in GAPSA, as it will only apply to graduate students paid by Tulane under services-required stipend. Still unclear how unionization would impact graduate students not covered by these terms. The NLRB decision has changed several times over the last few years. Louisiana is a right-to-work state: we cannot assume that graduate students will join. It is an opt-in system, they would have to go forward and apply through mail-in. Teachers union at Lusher (owned by TU) was stopped, teachers voted against it. The same legal team that represented Lusher would likely represent Tulane. Forewarn everyone: there may be letters that come from administration, sending a message that unionization is bad/harmful to graduate students. Just something to be aware of.
      - Kate Elfer, GSSA: motion to refer to unionization committee as a “fact-finding committee only”: Motion passes unanimously.
ASB Constitution Restructuring Status

- Reviewed ASB restructuring at ASB meeting. ASB President is primarily a figurehead in eyes of administration. Ex: administration has held meetings when ASB President could not attend - ASB president is used to “represent student interest” when in actuality this is not the case. USG is reading the new constitution today, and then it will come back to GAPSA. ASB president will be replaced by the Joint Executive Committee, which already exists. ASB and University Senate committees will be formed to act on University Senate issues. Constitution will be sent out to GAPSA senators when ready. We will get approximately $20,000 of our fees back, and work on the exact allocation of graduate student fees to USG based on graduate student participation in events.

- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): Will we still be able to attend Crawfes (for example) without paying an additional fee?
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Yes. Most of the fees allocated to USG are for events we don’t even really use. The allocation will be determined based on graduate student attendance at all undergraduate student events. We would only send them a percent of our budget to cover attendance from the previous academic year. USG believes it is approximately 20%. This is likely not true. It is probably closer to 6-8%. Crawfes is a confusing case - USG gets money from outside sources so how much we would need to pay into Crawfes is TBD.

- Erin Kobashigawa, (Medical School): Is there any way to break out Downtown students fees from this fund? We don’t really come to events Uptown.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): A lot of graduate students are downtown. Hopefully by this allocation system, we will pay a lot less. It should be better than the 10% (flat) we have had to pay since 2004.

- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): In general, the ASB president Paige Wulff and Smita are on board with the removal of ASB President position. Our hope is that we will move it through: USG -> GAPSA -> ASB -> University Senate -> Student Referendum (10% vote of students) -> Board of Trustees

Tulane Board Meeting

- Last week was the Tulane Board meeting. These are held three times an academic year, in September, December, February/March and an additional retreat where they fly the ASB President to New York.
- At the Sept. meeting, a lot of conversation of undergraduates (best in Tulane history). Also had great LSAT scores, etc.
- $30 million more dollars this year compared to last year - research money - graduate students play a huge role in this increase!
- The University wants to renovate Reily Center and increase the student recreation fees to help get $40 million over 5 years. The Board of Trustees would raise another $55 million. The Board of Trustees were not happy with this plan - brought up delays in CAPS / Health. Carol Lavin Bernick was very unhappy in particular.
- Another issue are dormitories: rundown and no graduate student housing. International graduate student housing uptown was removed because of over-enrollment of undergraduates. They were moved to Pappi downtown. We need more structure for our incoming international graduate students, and more graduate housing Uptown.
- Our endowment took a hit due to Brexit. Did not fall as far as comparable universities, which is good.

b. Executive Vice President – Molly Payne

- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): Do I need to make a motion for amount of Fall Mixer?
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Yes, we’ll make a motion.
- Fall GAPSA Mixer will be Friday, November 4th, 2016
  - Total cost will be $33,013 with beads. Reduced by $213 if we opt to go no beads.
  - Held at Generations Hall 8pm - 1am. There will be two bands and a DJ. More food has been ordered since we ran out last year. Upped total food amount to accommodate 3,000 people (approximately the attendance from last year). For reference, last year’s budget was $35,000.
  - Motion to approve. Motion passes uniamously.
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): Does anyone have comments on beads. Was this a logistical hassle?
- Garrison Boyd (Law School): Colors were difficult to identify in the dark.
- Erin Kobashigawa, (Medical School): It was a logistical problem - there was significant slow down at the door.

- Homecoming Tailgate Saturday, October 29th, 2016

- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): Currently deciding between McClures or Canes as catering. Do you have a preference? Send Molly an e-mail if so!
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): There will possibly a keg of sour beer from new brewery in town: Wayward Owl. Specially brewed for GAPSA events. Electrical system to do brewing installed today, hopefully will be ready for the tailgate
- Erin Kobashigawa, (Medical School): Does it have to be a SOUR beer?
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): A more generic beer will be offered as well. We also haven’t set a precedent for amount to spend. Our entertainment budget is about $60,000. Spring Mixer was about $7,000 last year.
- Devon Bowser (GSSA): What was attendance last year?
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): We don’t know.
- Hannah Berryhill (Architecture): do we just randomly pick a game?
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): it would be homecoming game.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): We may be able to do it at the alumni house!
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): If we do the tailgate for approximately $10,000, is everyone comfortable with that? That would be a maximum amount.
- Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): What is the significant difference between Fall and Spring Mixer?
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): Attendance is halved at Spring Mixer compared to fall mixer. Not sure why. The venue is much more expensive in Fall (> $25,000). Spring (~$6,000). Also we have live bands and a DJ in Fall, but just a DJ in spring.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): We always spend more at Fall Mixer than Spring Mixer. But, we can make changes.
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): I’m happy to discuss changes, and we don’t have to spring mixer at Eiffel Society.
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): The only thing we have to work with is that we can’t do during undergraduate finals week.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): It is hard to schedule because of Spring Break, Easter Break, etc...
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): I’ll send an email about date scheduling to get feedback.
- Devon Bowser (GSSA): I encourage tracking event attendance at the tailgate. How many graduate students will actually go to the event?
- Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): It will be tricky too, as the Medical School has exams Monday following that weekend as well.
- Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): Going back to Board of Trustees issue. Has there been discussion about upping counselors on downtown campus?
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): We didn’t talk about that specifically, but CAPS is stretched in general.
- Erin Kobashigawa (Medical School): we do have someone “working on it”.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): We will also be assigning a student health committee from Uptown/Downtown campuses as well.
- Erin Kobashigawa (Medical School): I never got invited to any committee.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Smita will be a huge help. Our past advisor was negative to graduate students. Smita was a graduate student, she understands our situation. We have different needs, she understands that, she can help us get a counselor downtown as well as not paying for Reily Center if you are downtown, or not getting paid on time.

- Spring Mixer locations
  - Certain schools aren’t allowed at certain venues. Please let Molly know ASAP. Ask of older colleagues to help us rule things out.

c. Downtown Vice President – David Silver

  Waiting to hear back about Downtown Safety committee. Asked too many questions, stopped being in the loop? We have security guards walking along “safe walking routes”. These are routes that were determined to be safest between buildings. These security guards have to scan in at certain places - can’t just sit around - there is accountability.

  Planning to sit in on all student gov’t meetings downtown to be in loop

  Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): Can we share your email with social work safety representative?

  David Silver (GAPSA Downtown VP): Yes

  Kate Elfer (GSSA): Half of Biomedical Engineering is downtown. We don’t receive downtown crime alerts.

  David Silver (GAPSA Downtown VP): if you aren’t getting them, send their e-mail to me, and we’ll get them on the listserv.

  Nick Fears (GAPSA President): We just had turnover at TUPD, there are a lot of new people in positions.

  Grace Gartel (Public Health): Last year, we were told about more lighting downtown - is that happening?

  David Silver (GAPSA Downtown VP): they should be done / installed. If you think there are still places that are unsafe, let me know. In particular, between Murphy and Tidewater, Tulane doesn’t own that property which makes thing difficult.

  Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): Hospital parking lot on Saratoga, and behind hospital is dark at night - safety concern for Social Work, as there are no lights.

d. Administrative Vice President – David Gibbons

  - No report.

e. Treasurer – Nathan Gu
- First finance committee meeting. Not able to get in touch with someone from School of Continuing Studies. Let Jordan or Nathan know if there is someone to contact.

f. Secretary – Jordan Adams
- Updates to GAPSA Listserv and roll call
- If you are new to GAPSA this year and aren’t on the roll call or listserv, please contact me to update. If your program changes mid-year, keep me in the loop to make the necessary updates.
- Nick Fears (GAPSA President): I’ve also implemented a listserv cleaning system. This will ask everyone to renew to GAPSA senator listserv October 1st each year. Everyone will have two weeks to renew if needed. There are currently 180+ people on listserv, 39 senators now, which led to this need to update! For example, there are student affairs employees still on the listserv.

g. Advisor report held earlier in the meeting.

h. Associated Student Body President – Paige Wulff - Not present, at USG meeting to handle ASB Constitution restructuring discussion.

Giovanni Kelly (GSSA) - ASB Chief of Staff for Graduate Students: Goal is to share our needs with the ASB.

Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Paige (ASB President) is much more receptive to our needs than in the past, we have our liaison to work with her.

5. Old Business
a. Environmental Law Summit Reserve Request
   i. Nathan Gu (GAPSA Treasurer): This event happened last year. The amount of $8,500 was approved last year, but the IT did not happen until after the fiscal year reset and the amount was rolled into reserve account, so we need to approve any use of the reserve account so they can get access to the money we awarded them.
   ii. Sam Lantz (GSSA): motion to move. Kate Elfer (GSSA): second. Motion passes unanimously.

b. 2016-17 Budget Approval for SPHTM, School of Social work, and School of Continuing Studies
   i. SCS no budget presented. Tabled.
   ii. Nathan Gu (GAPSA Treasurer): School of Social Work applied for their maximum amount. Line items largely unchanged. Moved some to domestic travel for student travel funds.
   iii. Nathan Gu (GAPSA Treasurer): School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine applied for their maximum amount. Line items largely unchanged.
   iv. Both were approved by GAPSA Finance Committee unanimously.
   v. Kate Elfer (GSSA): Do both School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine / School of Social Work include travel in their line items?
   vi. Nathan Gu (GAPSA Treasurer): $13000 each approximately.
vii. Kate Elfer (GSSA): GSSA often fields requests from these schools so it's good to know!

viii. Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): Additional students have been added to our program as graduate students.

ix. Nathan Gu (GAPSA Treasurer): Contact the dean to itemize the number of students paying in, a line item for their particular needs can be added after that is confirmed.

x. Motion to vote as a slate, Motion passes unanimously.

6. New Business
   a. Election Day Holiday Resolution
      i. David Gibbons (GAPSA Administrative VP): American Constitution Society approached DG to pass resolution to encourage Tulane administration to not hold classes on all election days. This is a trend at universities to encourage students to participate in their civic duty. We will send this resolution out to you. This would have professors reschedule classes. We will discuss this at the next meeting.
      ii. John Broussard (Business School): Can’t go you vote in advance and/or early?
      iii. David Gibbons (GAPSA Administrative VP) / Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Not clear, some districts offer early voting. Will look into further.
      iv. Molly Payne (GAPSA Executive VP): motion to table resolution. 3 abstentions, 36 in favor.
   b. Special Committee for studying implications of GAPSA unionizing
      i. Discussed earlier.
   c. Downtown representative for Graduate Council (OGPS-represented)
      i. Nick Fears (GAPSA President): someone covered under OGPS, PhD students in Social Work, Public Health, Biomedical Sciences.
      ii. Kate Elfer (GSSA): Graduate Council is under OGPS, collection of representatives from the faculty of the Schools of Social Work, Science and Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Public Health and Architecture. (Any school with PhD). Students are non-voters. 1 SSE and 1 SLA representative each, and one downtown. This council meets uptown, Wednesdays once a month at 8:30 - 10 am, October 19th probably, will be confirmed by Kate Elfer (GSSA). This council discusses items like how Tulane evaluates our graduate programs, maternity/paternity leave, what counts as work, what counts as training, etc...
      iii. Nick Fears (GAPSA President): Do we have anyone from PhD program from Schools of Social Work, Public Health, Biomedical Sciences to either sit on the council or nominate?
      iv. Kate Elfer (GSSA): If no one here can or does have someone in mind, please have someone from their department contact Jennifer O'Brien at OGPS. E-mail will be sent by Kate to GAPSA listserv.
   d. Committee Membership
ASB Committees

ASB Election Committee (3 Students) - This committee will hopefully never meet as there will hopefully no more ASB elections after restructuring

   1. Kate Elfer (GSSA) - kelfer@tulane.edu
   2. Erin Kobashigawa (Medical School) - ekobashi@tulane.edu
   3. Allison Buscan (Biomedical Sciences)

ASB Election Appeals Committee (2 non-executive board members) - same as above

   1. Julia Accetta (Medical School) - jaccetta@tulane.edu
   2. Robyn Brooks (GSSA) - rbrooks3@tulane.edu

ASB Constitutional Interpretation Appeals Court (1 executive member and 1 non-executive board member) - Hasn’t met in Nick Fears’ (GAPSA President) recent memory

   1. David Silver (Medical School) dsilver3@tulane.edu
   2. Devon Bowser (GSSA) - dbowser@tulane.edu

ASB Restructuring Committee (4 students) will meet to prepare the document for Board of Trustees

   1. Nick Fears (GAPSA) - nfears@tulane.edu
   2. Grace Gartel (SPHTM) - ggartel@tulane.edu
   3. Jon Suquet (Business School) - jsuquet2@tulane.edu
   4. John Broussard (Business) - jbrouss6@tulane.edu

Motion to vote as a slate: one abstention, 38 in favor
Motion to approve as a slate: passes unanimously

University Senate Committees - our representation to faculty at university level. Mostly meet via e-mail if meet at all.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility of Students Committee (1 Student)

   1. Ted Sawyer (GSSA) - esawyer1@tulane.edu

Athletics Committee (1 student) look over athletics budget.

   1. Ikenna (Ike) Onyenekwu (Business School) - ionyenek@tulane.edu
   2. Jon Suquet (Business School)

Assessment Committee (1 student) -Assesses the assessments the university uses. Not sure what this means.

   1. Molly Payne (GSSA, GAPSA Executive VP) mpayne1@tulane.edu

Budget Committee (1 student) - Meets a lot, contentious and good if you're on University Senate
1. Nick Fears (GSSA, GAPSA President) \texttt{nfears@tulane.edu}

Educational Policy Committee (2 students: 1 graduate 1 professional) \textbf{Approve academic calendar}

1. Dave Shiwdin (Law School) - \texttt{dshiwdin@tulane.edu}
2. Ripul Dutt (GSSA) - \texttt{rdutt@tulane.edu}

Equal Opportunity and Institutional Equity Committee (2 students)

1. Davette Gadison (GSSA) - \texttt{dgadison@tulane.edu}
2. Dave Shiwdin (Law School) - \texttt{dshiwdin@tulane.edu}

Information Technology Committee (1 student)

1. \textbf{Angela Crist (GSSA)} - \texttt{acrist@tulane.edu}

Libraries Committee (1 student)

1. \textbf{Anna-Morgan Leonards (GSSA)} - \texttt{aleonar2@tulane.edu}

Physical Facilities Committee (2 students: 1 uptown and 1 downtown)

1. Hannah Berryhill (Architecture) - \texttt{hberryhi@tulane.edu}
2. Carolyn Ferlic (Medical School) - \texttt{cferlic@tulane.edu}

Social Issues Committee (2 students: 1 graduate and 1 professional) \textbf{meets monthly, next Tuesday, uptown, 12-1 pm}

1. Kate Elfer (GSSA) - \texttt{kelfer@tulane.edu}
2. Professional: Public Health will investigate.

\textbf{Motion to vote all committees except for Athletics and Social Issues Committee.}

\textbf{Motion to vote as a slate on everything but Athletics and Social Issues Committee.}

\textbf{Motion to approve the slate on everything but Athletics and Social Issues Committee.} Passes unanimously.

\textbf{Athletics Committee Discussion}

Jon Suquet (Business School): at the time, no one else offered. Smaller time commitment, sounds interesting.

Ikenna (Ike) Onyenekwu (Business School): I have a background in healthcare and fitness, am interested in that.

Jon Suquet (Business School) withdraws.

\textbf{Motion passes unanimously.}

\textbf{Motion to vote Kate Elfer as GSSA rep for Social Issues. Passes unanimously.}

\textbf{Motion to table Professional seat on Social Issues. Passes unanimously.}
Discussion about School of Social Work and their mid-year Senator transition, how does this play into them seating someone on committees. Bring up next time. School of Social Work will also look into it. We can replace if people need to step down mid-year

Non-Senate Committees

Campus Health Student Advisory Board (3 uptown, 3 downtown)

1. UPTOWN Chase Anderson (GSSA) - wanders2@tulane.edu
2. UPTOWN Jessica Motherwell (GSSA) - jmotherw@tulane.edu
3. UPTOWN Leila Pashazanusi (GSSA) - lpashaza@tulane.edu
4. DOWNTOWN Diana Singh (SPHTM) - dsingh3@tulane.edu
5. DOWNTOWN SPHTM seat to be determined
6. DOWNTOWN Bailin Alexander (Medical School) - balexan7@tulane.edu

SPHTM has had a seat for this in the past...

Moving on for now... one uptown seat and one downtown seat unclaimed.

Libraries Advisory Board (3 uptown, 3 downtown)

1. UPTOWN David Gibbons (Business/Law School) - dgibbons@tulane.edu
2. UPTOWN Steven Formel (GSSA) - sformel@tulane.edu
3. UPTOWN Robyn Brooks (GSSA) - rbrooks3@tulane.edu
4. DOWNTOWN Grace Gartel (SPHTM) - ggartel@tulane.edu
5. DOWNTOWN Katarzyna (Kasia) Wegrzyn (Medical School) - kwegrzyn@tulane.edu
6. DOWNTOWN Shan Guha (Biomedical Sciences) - sguha@tulane.edu

Motion to vote, passes unanimously.

Jessica Bagneris (Social Work): General question: do all graduate programs participate in Fall Break?

David Silver (Downtown VP): Medical School does not
Allison Buscan (Biomedical Sciences): BMS does not.
Kate Elfer (GSSA): GSSA does but most student ignore it.
Jon Suquet (Business School): Second year Business School does not, as they have trip abroad.

7. Adjournment 8:38 PM