

GAPSA General Assembly Meeting Agenda
LBC 203

March 19, 2019, 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order 6:30 pm
2. Roll Call

Office	Member	Present	Proxy
President	Nithya Kasireddy	x	
Exec VP	Davette Gadison	x	
Uptown VP			
Downtown VP	Alyssa Fears	x	
Finance VP	Arianne Sacramento	x	
Communications VP	Lauren Swientoniewski	x	
Advisor	John Nonnamaker	x	
GSSA	Edward Sawyer	x	
	Zainab Lateefi	x	
	Hannah Aziz	x	
	Sabrina Kragness	x	
	Noah Beltrami	x	
Business	Liuning Yan	x	
	Caitlyn Mayhorn	x	
	Aakash Amin		
	Adam Skolnick		

PNBA non-voting	Maria Dietrich	x	
Law	Benjamin Russell		
	Andrew Thrasher	x	
	Christopher Williams - Lopez	x	
	Benjamin de Seingalt	x	
Medical	Carrie Crook		
	Peter Haskins	x	
	Adin Reisner		x
	Tomi Akingbola	x	
Public Health	Lina Abdel-Mageed	x	
	Miia Newman		x
	Annie (Rhae) Cisneros		
	William Castleberry		
Social Work	Monte Teaberry	x	
	Nina Roma Agvanian	x	
	Brianne Fruge	x	
Biomedical	Joseph Hoffmann	x	
	Antoinette (Toni) Bell	x	
Architecture	Michelle Barrett		

Prof. Advancement	Lisa Meador	x	
ISAB Liaison Non voting	Xinyue Gu	x	

3. Executive Council Reports

A. President – Nithya Kasireddy

1. Guests: Tulane Mobile App demonstration from the Technology services (Rescheduled - for April 23rd GAPSA meeting)

2. Downtown dining meeting update

- Contact Alyssa Fears if interested in being part of a focus group
Survey on future for downtown dining area soon.

3. GAPSA 2018-2019 summary:

1) One of the major GAPSA goal was recognizing graduate organizations: See attached document [GSA structure.pdf](#)

a) Interdivisional graduate diversity organizations (phase 1)

Recognized directly under GAPSA. GAPSA president organized meeting with all division presidents a few weeks ago.

b) Division specific graduate organizations (phase 2)

Currently 2 groups officially recognized by GAPSA. 1.3% of the GAPSA budget goes to funding these groups. Starting cap of funding requests are \$1000. Nithya would like to increase this cap and move \$10,000 from CEF funds to this pool for these groups. Money is there, just need to work out how to move accessible funds around with approval. Potentially propose that rollover funds be possible. Perfect time now that there are only 2 (maybe 3) groups approved; goal is potentially allowing these groups to be self-sufficient funding-wise.

2) Second major GAPSA initiative - graduate and professional students needs assessment survey (See attached document [GAPSA survey map.JPG](#))

Collaborative effort. Wants to be a priority for GAPSA next year. Public Health has already drafted a student assessment poll, could share draft with GAPSA.

3) Overall, GAPSA has continued to build and foster good relationships with various partners on campus this year.

4) Graduating senators - collect GAPSA honor cords

B. Executive Vice President – Davette Gadison

i. Sexual Assault Awareness Month - April 16 (downtown panel) A Tuesday. 2-3:30 pm suggested time. Panel: Catherine Yockey (victim services), Meredith Smith (Title IX), Margaret Reynolds (new downtown/graduate student health promotion specialist)

Food option suggestions? Vegetarian for sure; Asian vegetarian; gluten free and vegan options; nut free

ii. April 12 8pm to 12 am - Spring Mixer Over 500 people RSVP'd so far. At the Cannery. Purchase drink tickets before entering the venue. Option to purchase more if needed.

iii. Summer Merit Grant - GSSA There are concerns about amount of grants offered this year vs last year (particularly SLA). More discussion about this issue with groups needed.

C. Downtown Vice President - Alyssa Fears

i. (5 min) Meeting with Downtown Police: Communications to Students Issues with notification process/timeliness about the recent shooting that occurred downtown was brought up. For future: better notification/email program that is now running; send Alyssa thoughts on what should happen in the next 6 months that would demonstrate that the downtown police is committed to perception of student safety. 6001 SOM March 21 12-2 pm meeting to discuss this incident and what can happen in future/solutions to these problems.

ii. (1 min) Graduation Regalia- Subsidization, Generic Black Robes (cheaper option - purchase only, but this option is not/cannot be advertised), OISS Emergency Fund Propose that other divisions could possibly help fund their graduating students?

iii. (3 min) IGDOs

a. IGDO Bylaws: Vote Tabled until some edits are made from suggestions/issues raised by assembly.

b. New Organizations/Events

- New IGDO - TU Alianza Graduate Association

- WISE+ Event funding \$1515 for food and appreciation certificates for mentors/mentees at their Appreciation Picnic.

- ISGSA Event funding For their New Year's bash that includes cultural performances from graduate students. \$2000 requested. \$1400 confirmed, \$600 conditional based on if other funding is received.

Motion to vote for both amounts (\$1515 for WISE; up to \$2000 for ISGSA) which was seconded. Funding requests unanimously approved.

Issue with bylaws brought up by assembly: 1) Solid \$ amount limit should not be listed in bylaws because of inflation - rather, maybe say that the Finance committee or IGDO committee will set this limit at the beginning of each fiscal year/open based on the total available funds to change by the committee. A graduate student from the current IGDO ISGSATU suggested that the funding needs should also be considered based on the size of the IGDO group membership and their event attendance.

2) Minutes not available to be public or committee members - Will be added to bylaws that they will be on the GAPSA website 3) Potentially add a non-voting member (or maybe more) to committees/GAPSA assembly to represent these groups (a liaison - Could potentially partner with ISAB); critical that there are multiple because of the diversity of the diversity groups.

iv. OGPS: March 27 Donut Days Uptown

- D. Finance Vice President – Arianne Sacramento
 - Members of Finance Committee were given details for upcoming budget proposals. More information to be sent out to them. Budget needs to be in by April 16th. Needs members from divisions (fiance chairs) to attend for approval of the budget.
 - 2019-2020 Fiscal year begins July 1.
- 4. GAPSA Division Reports
 - a. School of Professional Advancement
 - b. Graduate Business Council
 - c. Graduate Studies Student Association
 - d. Medical Student Government
 - e. Public Health & Tropical Medicine Student Government
 - f. Student Bar Association (Law School)
 - g. School of Social Work Student Government Association
 - h. Biomedical Sciences Student Association
 - i. School of Architecture
- 5. Old Business
- 6. New Business
 - a. 2019-2020 executive board elections: (See descriptions attached to end of minutes)
 - 1. President
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Arianne Sacramento

How much time will you be able to commit to GAPSA? - Arianne is leaving those positions that are listed in her biography. Has reached out to her coordinators for her rotations (medical school) so that she will be able to attend meetings.

Based uptown or downtown? - Both. MD and MBA

19 voted yes. Arianne is new President.

- 2. Executive Vice President
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Benjamin de Seingalt

What would you do different with events next year? There are concerns that events are centered around alcohol. - Ben will do his best to follow in Davette's footsteps. Wants everyone to feel welcome, and it's his first time to hear that critique so he wants other events besides mixers to come about and divisions to voice their concerns more in assembly meetings.

Position on making the survey move forward? - First issue was the funding, and that took awhile to hash out in the fall. Need to find partners in the school and as of now, all but 1 division is represented. Wants something broadly applicable but also able to reach to the unique situations in each school. Wants a survey that allows for a non-response so if a question does not apply to you, you can skip it. Envisions 2-prong survey to develop in the fall. Only in the last month have all but 1 division agreed. Slow movement at first because of lack of representation with divisions and improved communication.

Staying on with other positions? - GAPSA will be his only exec position.

17 voted yes.

3. Vice President, Finance
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Peter Haskins

Quorum not met because some of the voting members left the meeting. 13 voting senators in the room voted in favor (needed at least 14 for quorum). Since Peter is the only nominee, Nithya will email the GAPSA senators about the situation. **If the senators propose to have elections in the next meeting**, the election for this position will be tabled to April 23rd meeting. If no objections are received, it will be considered as "in favor" for Peter Haskins to become the next GAPSA Finance VP.

Updated on March 21st 10:50am: Nithya emailed everyone on March 19th 10:16pm to senators and respond back by **12 noon on March 20th** as mentioned in the assembly. No objections received, Peter is the new Finance VP.

4. Vice President, Uptown
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Andrea Ewalefo (not present tonight)

Issue with have not been to any of the IGDO meetings?

- ii. Jennifer Siew

1st year student in the law school. Wants to be more involved in student organizations. Law cleric for Tulane Assistance program. Wants to expand past the law school 'bubble'. Wants to create cross-degree events.

- lii. Noah Beltrami Nominated from the floor by Edward Sawyer.

"Noah Beltrami is a second-year PhD student in the department of chemistry, currently serving in his first-year as GSSA representative and speaker of his department, as well as serving on the GSSA legislative committee. As a representative and member of the SSE graduate school, Noah will only increase his involvement on behalf of graduate students by serving on the GAPSA Executive Board. During time spent brainstorming with the legislative committee, he has realized that being involved with

a higher role, such as Uptown Vice-President, as well as co-chair of IGDOs, would be fulfilling and effective. Noah has realized the importance of interest groups, such as IGDOs, and their indispensable role in forging a strong, healthy Tulane graduate student population.”

Time willing to commit to IGDOs? - 10-15 hours a week. Fellow GSSA members vouched that

Noah was very dedicated to attendance and voicing needs/opinions of the group.

Jennifer 7 votes; Andrea 1 vote; Noah 10 votes

Noah is new VP Uptown.

5. Vice President, Downtown
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Alyssa Fears

No questions were issued.

17 votes. Alyssa is new VP Downtown.

6. Vice President, Communications
 - a. Nominees
 - i. Jennifer Siew Nominated from the floor by Edward Sawyer.
 - ii. Hannah Aziz Nominated from the floor by Lauren Swientoniewski.

2 votes Hannah. 12 votes Jennifer.

Jennifer is new VP Communications

7. Adjournment 8:44 pm

President Nominees

Dear GAPSA Assembly:

I have been a part of GAPSA for the past two years. As a GAPSA Senator for MSG, I took part in that year's Assembly meetings, actively worked to keep MSG and its constituents informed, and was encouraged to become more active within GAPSA. As Finance VP, my goal was to take a personal interest (finance) and apply it to a role I felt was important. I not only chaired the Finance Committee and advised the handling of a large budget, but I also gained a valuable experience working with a diverse Executive Board made up of members from different graduate and professional divisions. Both roles have kept me from staying within the bubble that is Medical School – something I am proud to say has positively added to my time at Tulane.

I hope to continue being a part of GAPSA as President. I believe that with my experience and my ever-growing understanding of what it means to work as part of a team and as an advocate for others, I can confidently represent the graduate and professional student body.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Best,
Arianne**

Previous Experience:

GAPSA Finance Vice President (2018 – 2019)
Medical Student Government Technology Officer (2018 – 2019)
Student Clinic Council Finance Chair (2018 – 2019)
GAPSA Senator, Medical Student Government (2017 – 2019)
Research Associate; Team Lead (2012 – 2017)
Laboratory Technician; Lab Manager (2009 – 2012)



Arianne D. Sacramento (*she/her/hers*)
MD/MBA Candidate, Class of 2021
Tulane University School of Medicine
A.B. Freeman School of Business
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**Executive Vice
President Nominees**

Benjamin de Seingalt

My name is Benjamin de Seingalt; I am a third year JD/MBA student, the Executive President of the Student Bar Association, and candidate for Executive Vice President of GAPSA. With my term as division president now drawing to a close, I am proud of the efforts I have made to bring student perspectives to bear on faculty and administration decisions, and my success in creating efficiencies and accountability beyond the Executive Board. If elected as GAPSA's Executive Vice President, I would adopt many of the same goals - to ensure that the University administration acts in the best interests of graduate and professional students and considers our needs and concerns as they make decisions, to eliminate inefficiencies in the GAPSA bureaucracy, and to continue my current task of quantifying our expectations and pain points through a survey to all GAPSA constituents.

Yichen Zhang

Yichen Zhang is a second year PhD student in School of Public Health at Tulane University where she studies in health policy and management. She is interested in running for the Executive Vice President for GAPSA 2019-2020.

She has been working for International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) as a committee chair in 2017-2018 and the current President in 2018-2019. Throughout these two years, she has gained experience in events such as OISS new student orientation, as well as ISAB forums with staff members from both uptown and downtown campus. Before entering to the doctoral program, she has had three years professional working experience in the industry as a research coordinator, during which she successfully built strong relationships between the study sites and study participants and coordinating with multiple study sites to move the study forward.

As a graduate student, she deeply understands the stress graduate students are facing day by day and she is willing to make efforts to improve the graduate students' life experience as well as academic experience at Tulane University as well as in the Greater New Orleans Area. She will be planning for the Spring Mixer and Fall Mixer starting from the beginning of each semester. She is also aware of the importance of the Annual Homecoming for all the students and alumnus to build the connection. Furthermore, she plans to create more events for downtown campus to improve the involvement for downtown students.

At the meantime, as the increasing number of international graduate students joining Tulane University, to better serve this specific group of students, she will be able to be the voice for the international graduate students who represent almost one third of the entire graduate student body in the executive board.

Uptown Vice President Nominees

GAPSA Executive Board Nomination for **Andrea Ewalefo**, JD/MBA Candidate

Through her many leadership roles, Andrea has shown a passion for creating a better experience for her fellow students. In fact, this year, she's worked with GAPSA's standing committees (Finance and IGDO) in hopes to learn more about developing and promoting organizations that foster collaboration and diversity. She hopes to become a member of GAPSA's Executive Council to continue with this endeavor as an advocate for Uptown students and co-chair of the Interdivisional Graduate diversity organizations (IGDO) committee.

Andrea desires to use her role as Uptown VP to promote more collaboration among the uptown graduate programs. Additionally, she desires to be a voice for dual degree students and looks forward to working with the downtown VP and other officers to continue to improve the graduate student experience at Tulane.

Previous Experiences

- Student Bar Association, 1L Class President
- Tulane Black MBA Association, Vice President and founding member
- Tulane University Legal Assistance Program (TULAP), Law Clerk
- Freeman School of Business, Student Consultant
- Black Law Student Association, Moot Court Competition
- Career Development Office, Student Liaison
- Federal Bar Association, Student Member
- Tulane Women in Business, Member
- Mom

Jennifer Siew - Vice President, Uptown

My name is Jennifer Siew and I am currently a 1L student at Tulane Law School. I graduated from Drexel University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Area Studies: Justice and Human Rights in 2015 and in that interim period I worked with the Mayor's Office of Philadelphia on financial literacy initiatives for immigrants and refugees, as well as a case manager with a refugee resettlement agency. I spent just over of two and half years in my undergraduate career studying and working abroad in Jordan, Egypt, the West Bank, Brazil, and Morocco. I spent much of my time in the US and abroad networking with local organizations and professionals, as well as finding funding and program opportunities not only for myself but for friends, colleagues, and individuals from the community. I believe that I have great networking capabilities and I have had extensive experience in putting together events, workshops, and trainings, beginning from student government responsibilities in high school all the way to my time working at Philadelphia nonprofit and government offices. I would like to fulfill the duties of this position and further proper representation of Graduate/Professional students across Tulane University, particularly in serving as co-chair of the diversity organizations committee and finding better ways to give voice to the many students and organizations that may feel underrepresented due to racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or other identities.

JENNIFER SIEW

Tulane University Law School | J.D. Candidate, 2021

Clerk: Tulane University Legal Assistance Program (TULAP)

jsiew@tulane.edu | 510-393-6974

Downtown Vice President Nominees

Alyssa Fears

"I've been at Tulane University for 5 years, first completing a Master's of Public Health in Tropical Medicine (MPH&TM) at the School of Public Health, and currently a doctorate in Biomedical Sciences within the School of Medicine. I am interested in a second term as Downtown Vice President because I have enjoyed making a difference in the lives of our downtown graduate students. I was elected to fill the vacancy after our first DVP resigned, and I couldn't have been more excited to advocate for the downtown community I so know and love. Within the past 6 months as DVP, I have helped to establish a quarterly travel stipend for students completing research at the Primate Center, led the initiative to replace the broken and worn water fountains in the School of Medicine, directed efforts to emulate consistent Uptown events on the Downtown campus such as Downtown Coffee/Pizza with a Cop featuring TUPD officers and Downtown Donut Days with OGPS, and spearheaded the new Interdivisional Graduate Diversity Organization (IGDO) initiative. If re-elected, I plan to continue all of the above efforts, strive to establish a weekly Downtown Newsletter, foster a true sense of community among graduate students downtown through unifying events, and continue to advocate for all graduate students campus-wide."

Elected in September after the former DVP resigned, this list represents the work I've done over my 6 months as DVP.

- 1) Downtown News
 - ⇒ Created an email group with the program managers of (hopefully) every program with students downtown to be able to distribute downtown-pertinent information in a timely manner
 - ⇒ Continue to work on a true Downtown Newsletter with Technology Services
- 2) TNPRC Shuttle
 - ⇒ Solicited letters of support for a shuttle service from the New Orleans campuses to the Primate Center from the Director of the Primate Center, Dr. Jay Rappaport, and Director of Education and Training, Dr. Monica Embers.
 - ⇒ Succeeded in helping to establish a quarterly stipend for travel to students worth approximately \$4,000 yearly
- 3) Physical Facilities Committee member
 - ⇒ Initiated the process to replace the water fountains in the School of Medicine (work to do so is underway)
- 4) Downtown Holiday Craft Day
 - ⇒ Joint effort with Nithya (President): held a crafting event during the month of December as a Study Break during finals
- 5) Graduate Council member
 - ⇒ Scheduled and orchestrated a Downtown Donut Days in conjunction with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies to increase their visibility on the downtown campus
 - ⇒ Downtown Donut Days was held on January 23rd, and they have reached out to plan another in the 2019-2020 academic year

- 6) Student Health Advisory Committee member
 - ⇒ Proposed that information disclosed in the meeting be published on the student health center website and on signs within the facilities, as some of that information was not readily accessible to students
- 7) Safety Committee member
 - ⇒ Led efforts to establish Downtown Coffee/Pizza with a Cop, now an ongoing effort
 - ⇒ Dates held: November 1st, December 11th, 2018; February 14, 2019
- 8) TUPD Safety Concerns
 - ⇒ Met with TUPD to voice concerns about how the shooting downtown on February 17th, 2019 was handled. Outcomes include: increasing support for a downtown newsletter and communication system, Downtown Town Hall March 21st, 2019 from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- 9) IGDO Committee
 - ⇒ Development of Bylaws from meetings with Student Affairs
 - ⇒ Formation of the IGDO Committee consisting of the Vice President (or their proxy) from each GAPSA Division
 - ⇒ Founding of two Interdivisional Graduate Diversity Organizations (WiSE, ISGSATU)
 - ⇒ Creation of recognition and event funding forms through OrgSync
 - ⇒ Construction of training materials and the individual training of each new organization on policies and procedures

If re-elected, I would strive to continue many of these new initiatives, as well as accomplish the following:

- ⇒ Create a true Downtown Newsletter, sent out on a weekly basis, with pertinent information for students on the Downtown campus
- ⇒ Hold another small GAPSA event downtown each semester, with snacks and inter-departmental networking
- ⇒ Work with “The O” to host a diversity event on the downtown campus
- ⇒ Improve printing within the Matas library

Vice President of Finance Nominees



Peter Haskins

Tulane University School of Medicine

phaskins@tulane.edu | (206) 293-2866

Application for GAPSA Finance VP

My name is Peter Haskins, and I am a two-time graduate of Tulane University (BS 2015, MS 2016) and currently a first-year student at the School of Medicine (MD 2022) as well as a School of Medicine GAPSA representative. I have been involved in various leadership positions inside of and outside of student government at Tulane during my prior five years of attendance. As a result, I am very familiar with the structure of the university and will work hard to represent GAPSA as Finance VP through the proper channels within the university. Some of my Tulane specific qualifications and experiences are listed below:

- Twice elected Tulane Undergraduate Student Government Senator (the undergraduate equivalent of GAPSA representative)
- Helped create legislation for the Tulane University Tobacco Free Campus policy
- Former Executive Board Communications Director for Tulane Undergraduate Student Government
- Former member of Undergraduate Student Government Finance Committee and participated in several budget seasons
- Former Director of Tulane Emergency Medical Services where I was responsible for overseeing the medical care and administrative aspects of Tulane's campus ambulance service
- Former Tulane Track and Field athlete and member of Student Athlete Advisory Council

I believe I am well qualified for the position of Finance VP, in particular, because of my experience working as a member of the USG Finance Committee which functions very similarly to the graduate counterpart. I am familiar with the process of budget requests and approvals and have worked with our Office of Admissions Finance Advisor, Jane Rushing, frequently in the past. I believe as Finance VP I will be able to hit the ground running due to my familiarity with the structure of student government finance at Tulane which will allow me to focus my energies on working on ways to streamline the budget process and carry out the duties required of the position more efficiently. I also look forward to, if elected, working with the GAPSA Executive Board to not only carry out my role as Finance VP, but also offering my prior years of institutional knowledge to help guide our decisions as a group.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

