

GSAC General Body Meeting

Friday, October 2nd, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

- I. Executive reports
 - a. President - Zachary Sandoval
 - i. Open discussion
 1. Asks how many graduate school departments have groups within their departments
 - a. Seems like less than half
 2. Asks if there are group chats with cohorts or any sort of communication
 - a. Some do but many do not
 - b. The reason the executive board this is because GSAC members are like ambassadors for the graduate school and GSAC exists to bring all of us together to discuss what is happening in our departments
 3. Members speaking about their experiences with departmental groups
 - a. Jen - biology
 - i. The graduate student club is called BSGSA. The purpose of it is to bring together students from across the department to attend seminars and have discussions. Anyone can join but there is usually a \$10 membership fee. That fee was waved due to COVID. All of the members help sell lab manuals for the department. This serves as a fundraiser for the department. This provides opportunities for networking and there are seminars with meet-and-greets. The seminars are chosen by the executive board and are typically monthly. While COVID has caused these seminars to be delayed, the executive board is working to come up with new ideas. They also give out three awards at the end of each year (BSGSA award, teaching award, and research award). Usually other gatherings when there is not COVID. These are optional events that add to participation for club scholarship award. There is not an official chat but a lot of social groups form
 - ii. The biology ambassadors program is an opportunity for current students and alumni to get involved.

They go to local high schools and talk to the students about why they should choose the EIU biology program.

- b. Andrisell
 - i. Their department has a group chat
 - ii. Their goal in CSI is to help transition people into the program and help transition them into the program and the department. They meet monthly; right now, the meetings are via zoom. They have activities about the program and about fellowship; they have trips to pumpkin patches, do a mug exchange, etc. They have a mentoring program within CSI that allows first-year students to meet with a mentor
 - c. Anchal - chemistry
 - i. ACS and ACMB
 - ii. They meet every Wednesday at 5PM. They put on seminars and do research activities. The ACS fee is \$15; the ACMB fee is \$10. They are going to have seminars about COVID-19
 - d. Nate – communications department
 - i. Nate says that their department is not quite big enough for a formal organization but their department is tight-knit and there are solid social groups within it
 - e. Shaibu – sustainable energy
 - i. Shaibu says that their department has a mentoring program and they plan to discuss creating an organization within their department
4. Zach asks how many members would be interested in learning more about how to start a group within their department. Zach thinks it would be nice to bring in someone to give in new details to give us a general idea and then we can all start giving updates on where we are at in the process
5. Brock thinks that these organizations should begin including online students in these organizations since the meetings are already online; Lori agrees and thinks this will help them feel more involved and set a solid foundation for more online student participation
- a. Leah – special education
 - i. Their department is already all online so finding a way to create an organization that holds online

meetings would work well for the department and the people within the department would enjoy it

6. These groups do not to be official; these can be unofficial groups with a few members
7. Zach asks if there are any concerns or questions about the purpose of GSAC
 - a. Leah – wondering if we can put out more information about how to get information about graduate programs to undergraduate programs
 - i. Lori – GN4U program reaches out to sophomores and tries to get them to come to an event or goes to present to groups. This is an online incentive program that encourages students to go to graduate school. There is also a graduate student mentoring program.
 - b. Brock – does not think that all of our members understand the purpose of the organization or feel involved in it. He hopes everyone will take the survey being sent out and share their concerns and feedback
 - ii. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 1. Carson gave members her email and encouraged them to send her any information that they want included in the minutes if they do not put it in the chat
 - iii. VP of programming – Lacey Jenkins
 1. Upcoming events
 - a. 10/10 – hiking and picnic trip
 - i. 12pm at Lake Charleston
 - ii. Food will be provided
 - b. 10/23 – Trick or Treat booths
 - c. 11/1 – Turkey Tom competition
 - d. 12/4 – Christmas card making
 - e. 12/13 – finals week starts
 2. More information will be distributed before events. Lacey encouraged members to email her if they have any questions
 - iv. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 1. Going to be featuring GSAC members on socials and will be emailing a list of information she needs to all the members
 - a. Information needed: name, program, how long they have been at EIU, what they are involved in at EIU, what they enjoy most about being a graduate student, what they want to do in the future, any fun facts, and a picture of themselves
 2. Follow GSAC social Instagram, twitter, and Facebook pages

v. Student Dean – Brock Hammond

1. Brock is surveying all international students; responses began coming in Thursday. He asked them about themselves, why they chose EIU, and how their academic experience has been impacted by the pandemic and how GSAC can better serve them. He has gotten 5 or 6 responses already. He thinks that surveying all graduate students will allow us to see common trends and study the issues better

vi. Graduate school liaison – Austin Eichhorn

1. Looking into buying headspace subscriptions, about 500. The executive board, Austin, and Lori are doing a 30-day trial. She is wanting three more volunteers for this. Emily, Nate, and Kareen volunteered
2. The GSAC member survey was dropped in meeting chat and will be emailed. She wants to know how connected we feel to our departments and to provide an opportunity to give feedback to the organization.
3. Every other meeting will be a professional development or guest speaker meeting. If you have any ideas on who we should bring in let her know
4. We are still hoping to recruit more people to be mentors. This is a great way to implement a connection between undergraduate and graduate students.
5. The GSAC website has updated contact information for the executive board in the officer section. The meeting minutes are also on the website. If you have any questions about accessing it feel free to reach out to Austin or the executive board.

vii. Advisor – Lori

1. Williams travel grants can be applied for now. These can cover registration fees. Research and creativity grant applications are also coming up. She believes these are due November 6th. Check the graduate school page for more information.

II. Departmental updates

- a. Aging studies – there is a SACIS virtual 40-hour training for potential volunteers to learn how to more effectively support survivors of sexual violence
- b. Biology – no updates
- c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
- d. Chemistry – there is a new analytical chemistry professor and there have been changes to labs to make sure they are safe with COVID
- e. Communication – no updates
- f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
- g. Counseling (clinical) – both the school and clinical tracks have taken their comprehensive examinations and almost everyone did well. The NCE has been

determined so now they will be studying and then taking the exam within the next couple of weeks. The recruitment committee has started to reach out to individuals to recruit undergraduate members to the program. They are going to begin calling into clubs and classes to talk about the program

- h. Clinical psychology – comps are scheduled for December
- i. College student affairs – no updates
- j. English – working on getting their student organization back up and running but that is still in the beginning stages. They are starting their monthly meetings with faculty next Friday
- k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates
- l. History – no updates
- m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
- n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates
- o. MBA - they are going to speak with their coordinator to find out if there is some sort of group or if one can be created
- p. Music – no updates
- q. Political Science – the Illinois Innovation Network Research Conference on Sustainability on October 29th from 9AM-4PM. Zoom presentation on October 13th at 6:00 about Justice Ginsburg, “How RBG became notorious: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project”
- r. Special Education – no updates
- s. School Psychology – no updates
- t. Sustainability – Some of their students will be presenting at the Illinois Innovation Network Conference on Sustainability that Brock mentioned during the political science departmental update
- u. Technology – no updates