

Graduate Student Senate  
Friday, September 25, 2020  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom

Agenda

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1. Welcome

2. Introductions of Executive Board, Office of Graduate Student Life and Senators

Icebreaker; Name, Degree Program, Superpower and Kryptonite.

In attendance:

GSA Executive Board: Dewin Hernandez (Director), Sonia Kwak (Finance), and Marquise Griffin (Programming)

Graduate Education Association (GEA)--Pooja Aradhya

Law Student Association (LSA, non-voting)--Morgan Lam

Graduate Pride Association (GPA)--Jason Madden

Graduate Management Association (GMA)--Frank McCarthy

Graduate International Student Association (GISA)--Ilse Bellido-Richards

School of Theology and Ministry (STM)--Kelly Sankowski

Social Work Collective (SWC)--Eva Batten

Graduate Student of Color Association (GSCA)--Charles Kodner

3. Updates from GSA and OGSL

a. Carole's introduction: appreciation for willingness to be a part of this

b. Director of GSA

i. Invitation to consider how to collaborate with one another and address campus issues.

ii. Who do we want to hear from during the senate meetings?

iii. Meet with provost and advisory council

1. How is the university responding to public health crisis

2. Civil unrest and injustices that we are facing

3. What is the university's response?

iv. BC will have a reform to challenge the status quo and hope to shift the culture of BC → in the works

1. More information and communication will be shared soon

- v. Spoke with Katie who runs the Student Affairs Civic Engagement Committee
  - 1. Looking for graduate representative to join in and vote
- vi. Want to become a learning community
  - 1. How do we facilitate and encourage our students through this time?
  - 2. Great opportunity to be a peer-learning community and foster an inclusive and empowering community
- vii. Want to open this up for discussion later

c. Director of Finance

- i. Challenges this year led to new guidelines that need to make place
- ii. Treasurers and student groups received several emails with the policies and reminders

d. Director of Programming

- i. Invitation to partner on holistic programming (i.e. programming that meets students' mental, physical, and spiritual needs)
- ii. Goal to engage in programming that shows graduate students that they are being cared for by the university and connect them to BC
- iii. Find a way to programming to address the needs and concerns of groups (academic needs or professional development)
- iv. Grad Fall Welcome - Friday 6-7:30
  - 1. Event to welcome graduate students and start communicating with each other
  - 2. Be more aware of what we have available for graduate student and make them more aware of graduate student association
  - 3. Introduce the senate
  - 4. Invited the affinity groups as well to make space for students to connect
- v. Upcoming collaboration with Career Center
  - 1. Programming on a professional level and help promote so that more graduate students can get involved
  - 2. Grad Chat Friday - creating space for BC alum to talk about how they have been using graduate degree professionally
- vi. GSA Upcoming Event: Friday Fireside Chats
  - 1. Faculty and staff to talk about their experiences to graduate students and noting that this is happening during the pandemic
  - 2. Create a little bit of encouragement to mitigate through the general anxiety on campus
  - 3. Talking with faculty members; if you have suggestions, please let Marquise know.
  - 4. Plan for fireside chats each month (three this semester)
  - 5. Will release the topics later on
- vii. Collaborating with the Women's Center to see how graduate students can get involved

1. Mostly undergraduate participate as of now but they want more graduate student to use this resource
  2. If you want to provide any suggestions or concerns, please reach out to Marquise.
4. Updates from Graduate Student Leaders; Challenges and Opportunities
- a. GEA: Pooja Aradhya - moving forward VP of communications will be joining the Senate
    - i. Positions are all filled for the GEA board
    - ii. Have events lined up - yoga, online trivia, and research forums for professors to share (incentivize through gift cards)
  - b. SWC: Eva Butten
    - i. Challenges: community-building and recognizing zoom fatigue
    - ii. Especially for students of color, want to connect with them and build a community for BIPOC students and overall student-body
    - iii. What the procedure is for reporting discrimination or hate-crimes at respective school and if there is a protocol if it is being used
    - iv. At the SSW, there is a number for students to call but not sure what the actual process is and what they school does once students share that experience
    - v. Coming up with a process for students to report but also be anonymous and figure out a way to hold accountability to what they are reporting (could include witnessing or direct experience)
    - vi. Carole shared student affairs reporting protocols
    - vii. Morgan Lam - LSA is trying to recreate an informal grievance process and is working with the DEI Director who is going to be hired
      1. Director will be making a more formal grievance process
    - viii. Eva - there needs to be more formal grievance process so the SSW is trying to create one
    - ix. Links from meeting: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/offices/human-resources/sites/oid/Policies-and-Compliance/Hate-Crimes-and-Bias-Related-Incidents-Protocol.html>
    - x. <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/offices/student-affairs/sites/student-conduct/policies-expectations.html>
  - c. GISA: Ilse Bellido-Richards
    - i. International students were not able to come on campus
    - ii. Trying to accommodate for students who are also abroad
    - iii. Hosting welcome back meeting tonight so will give update later
    - iv. Planned programs for this year: Grab-and-go event, cultural night (students share personal insight), yoga night, movie night
  - d. STM: Kelly Sankowski
    - i. It has been difficult to students and they are confused about processes and procedures

- ii. Programming: coffee dates with people and point of connection - meeting socially distanced or virtual; did a virtual tour to see the people and resources; anti-racism efforts and creating a processing space for student discussion over zoom
  - iii. Ministry and Color
  - iv. Hoping for more anti-racism training this year
  - v. Want to help faculty and students adjust to this new normal
- e. GMA: Frank McCarthy
  - i. Working on events for graduate student body and DEI work
  - ii. Trying to navigate social distancing
  - iii. Programming: virtual coffee dates, midterm/final pick-me-up, zoom presentations, looking into using on-campus space for events
  - iv. In the process of creating a new team called FLAAG - for success and organization culture, for inclusion, diversity, and equity
    - 1. Lead by VP of DEI - community engagement team and community team to communicate with administrators and talk about policy-change
    - 2. Just picked the VP for the position this morning
  - v. DEI events: having speakers, also be equity lens to the GMA
  - vi. BC: Be Courageous - bringing people together into a safe space where people can have challenging conversations
- f. GPA: Jason Madden
  - i. Struggling to have a good turnout even virtually
  - ii. Need to select a treasurer
  - iii. Trying to increase virtual platform and social media
  - iv. Do some more advocacy work this year opposed to social
  - v. Want to push for LGBTQ+ Resource Center
- g. GSCA: Charles Codner
  - i. Want to do distancing activities
  - ii. There should be a stronger presence and more action taking place

## 5. Discuss Advocacy Efforts Polling Results

- a. Most up vote: Creating a platform where students can have an opportunity to address difficult topics
  - i. How can we accomplish this in the graduate student level?
  - ii. Frank - everyone has their own programs going on but we can elevate to the platform to GSA level and follow the same model
  - iii. Then, unify the efforts and give it more weight and backing
  - iv. Campaign could be a good idea
- b. Carole: schools and colleges work separately on the same things which results in less resources; encourages having a collective effort

## 6. Identify Agenda items for Next Senate Meeting: Friday, 10/16/20 at 1:00PM

- a. Senate meeting: an hour works for everyone
- b. Will send out agenda and quick survey to get feedback after this meeting

- c. If you have any agenda items, please send it to Dewin.
- d. Groupme for Senate would be good
- e. Opening this space and forum for graduate student body (meeting notes is public but with technology, it is more accessible to students)
  - i. Put out the calendar for the student body so that they can attend and also float any grievances and concerns that requires the senate's attention
  - ii. Making it more accessible by recording the meetings
  - iii. Publicizing the calendar and providing a disclaimer of what we are trying to do and what to do moving forward
- f. Agenda items for next month:
  - i. Update on student-led grievance protocols
  - ii. Brainstorming campaign and strategies to increase attendance
    - 1. Finding ways to pool resources together
  - iii. Holding space for folks in regards to the election
    - 1. Carole: We were not ready and made assumptions about the election four years ago; we have the opportunity to think ahead now
    - 2. Possibly partner with student affairs civic engagement team and figure out ways to facilitate this
  - iv. Facilitating techniques and strategies - how can we bring this into group dynamics and how can we increase these skills?
- g. Agenda items - upvote and downvote on PollEverywhere is good