



Student Government Association

Student Government Council – Modesto A. Maidique Campus

GPSC Committee

Meeting Date: September 28th, 2020

Start Time: 2:45 pm

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Roll Call

Chair: Shahnawaz Rafi

Shahnawaz Rafi	present
Christian Perez	present
Sandro Alvarez	present
Kamila Fernandez	present
Nitya Ramalingam	present

3. Open Forum
 - No Comments

4. Old Business

Graduate Survey

- **GPSC met the past week regarding the administration of a graduate survey.**

Senator Rafi presents a draft survey compiled from Qualtrics and based on the comments/suggestions of the committee:

- A. Senator Rafi presents the headline and introduction of the new survey to committee members.**
- B. The purpose of the survey is to provide a baseline assessment of graduate students and their experience while at FIU.**
- C. Students must fill out the type of school and department they are associated with at FIU.**
- D. Questions regarding challenges, bullying, time management, and mental health issues are provided in the survey.**
- E. Put an “other” option in the 4th question of the graduate survey.**
- F. Question 5 should be stated as followed “Have you experienced any sort of bullying or discrimination at FIU? If so, please explain in the open box”.**
- G. For Question 6, instead of once place an “if” in the question**
- H. For question 7, state “If you stated that you experienced you have a mental health issue. Have you heard of FIU Counseling & Psychology Services?”**
- I. Question 8 will be changed for better flow in the survey.**
- J. For question 9, Christian suggests to add an option based on financial support.**
- K. Teresa states that Question 7 should be more general, stating the problems above and if you emphasize just CAPS it could limit the response options to the question.**
- L. Having the other option allows the students to state issues that we didn’t consider beforehand.**
- M. For question 10, place an option for I don’t conduct research at FIU.**
- N. For question 11, guidelines from your advisor to achieve goals in your program.**
- O. Add a question similar to question 11, or add a parentheses in question 11 where it’s specific to PhD students.**
- P. Possibly would be wise to add another question related to completing courses and achieving academic guidelines.**
- Q. Consider questions by the department for Master’s students and academic progress.**
- R. Add EDD program to question 12 of the survey.**
- S. Question 13 could include the use of different college/programs at FIU**
- T. Spell out the acronyms for Question 17, UGS (University Graduate School) and GPSC (Graduate Professional Student Committee)**

GPSC Newsletter

- 1. Senator Rafi shares a screen based on the newsletter examples he would like to use for the GPSC newsletter.**
- 2. A quarter of a page dedicated to a student spotlight in the graduate community.**
- 3. Senator Kamila discusses that we had agreed for the newsletter to be conducted on a semester basis.**
- 4. Senator Rafi explains that there are two possibilities to complete the newsletter: semester basis or monthly basis**
- 5. Senator Rafi explains that the newsletter should be used for contacting students regarding GPSC events, abstract submissions, etc.**
- 6. Senator Kamila states that the monthly newsletter may be a bit much regarding the schedule we have.**
- 7. Senator Nitya states that a newsletter will be good for branching out to students but not on a monthly basis.**
- 8. Graduate student vote on postponement to next semester of the newsletter: 3 Yays, and 1 Nay.**

Budget Update

- 1. Teresa spoke with Sylvana last Friday and explains that the original budget is still in place at this point.**
- 2. Possible limitation on what will be disbursed this fall semester.**
- 3. Many applications have not occurred due to the issue with budget uncertainty.**
- 4. The problem of student travel is discouraging potential applications as most conferences are virtual.**
- 5. Budgeting will have to be focused on gradskellars, most likely for a semester.**
- 6. Current limbo in terms of the specifics of the budget at the moment.**
- 7. Budget is still at 310, just like the original assignment of the budget.**
- 8. Most of the money will most likely be reserved for the Spring due to personal travel restrictions.**
- 9. Sandro finance liaison states that no progress was made with the finance committee regarding the budget.**
- 10. The budget committee decides how the budget will be disbursed and allocated.**
- 11. GPSC falls within the student governments line item and cannot spend more than the 310 originally assigned for this year's budget.**
- 12. Students may apply for GPSC with a limit of \$400 based on an accepted application.**
- 13. For the Fall Semester, only eight applications have been made for GPSC funding.**

14. Medical campus travel liaison is well informed regarding the GPSC funds, Kamila will see who is the appropriate contact and email Teresa to spread the word on GPSC applications.
15. Rafi explains that it may be a lack of information for graduate students to know they can apply for funding for virtual conferences.
16. We need to prioritize a way to reach out to graduate students regarding available funding from GPSC.
17. Information through UGS social media platforms regarding funding opportunities from GPSC could help with applications.

5. New Business

- **GPSC Alumni Series Talk**
 1. Chairman Rafi was wondering if we can invite alumni from the graduate school to help speak in potential workshops.
 2. Combine alumni series talk with the gradskellar so in that way you complete both.
 3. Breakout sessions can be a part of the Gradskellar along with a panel where students can discuss with alumni their work.
 4. Date will be determined for the gradskellar and GPSC will contact JP at publishing.

- **Dean Meeting Agenda**
 1. Not covered in today's meeting.

6) Announcements

- None

Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 3:47 PM

