



GSO EC and Admin Meeting Minutes 2023-2024
May 22, 2023
Meeting @ 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Was present:

- President: Adithya Muralli
- Vice President: Stephanie Betances Torres
- Treasurer: Disha Goshal
- Secretary: David O'Donoghue
- Speaker of the Senate: Robert Wadolowski
- Vice President for Student Affairs: Richard Gatteau, PhD
- Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education: Celia Marshik, PhD
- Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Initiatives: Kathleen Ehm, PhD
- USG/GSO Controller: Connie Thomas

Points to be discussed

- Introductions!
 - *The administrators and new Executive Committees introduced themselves.*
- Minutes for approval:
 - [EC_Admin_Meeting Minutes 05/08/2023](#)
 - *Minutes approved without objection.*
- Fee Vote
 - Results:
 - 139 (72%) IN FAVOR of FEE
 - 55 (28%) AGAINST FEE
 - *Secretary O'Donoghue agreed to work to communicate results to graduate students.*
- Board of Appeals Reform
 - *VP for Student Affairs Rick Gatteau asks the EC to describe what works well and what does not regarding the current appeals process.*
 - *Speaker Robert Wadolowski outlines the process and explains how the Board of Appeals (BOA) operates.*

- *Speaker Wadolowski pointed out a flaw in BOA procedure: the BOA must investigate and bring before the senate all claims, no matter how small. They do not have discretionary power. Speaker Wadolowski argued that the BOA should have the means to handle or dismiss small claims without a formal appeals process.*
 - *Speaker Wadolowski identified another potential issue: that senators who volunteer to serve on the BOA may not have the motivation to complete committee work. The voluntary nature of BOA service may hinder BOA workflow.*
 - *Assistant Dean Kathleen Ehm asked what levels of concern are appropriate to bring before the board.*
 - *Speaker Wadolowski clarified that GSO bylaws imply that worthy claims involve issues that are serious enough to warrant removal from office, but this is not explicit. Any small claim could be brought to BOA.*
 - *Stephanie Betances Torres asked who makes up board of appeals*
 - *Speaker Wadolowski clarified for Vice President Betances Torres that the BOA is a judicial mechanism. It is a committee composed of senators who serve voluntarily.*
 - *Speaker Wadolowski clarified for VP for Student Affairs Gatteau that he desires for the BOA to have some ability to dismiss cases, perhaps on the basis of a threshold of evidence.*
 - *Dean Celia Marshik inquired as to how much latitude does the EC and senate have to change the BOA?*
 - *Vice President Betances Torres suggested that a GSO professional staff member could serve as an unbiased, non-senate affiliate to handle matters currently reviewed by the BOA.*
 - *VP for Student Affairs Gatteau endorsed this idea and suggested that the incoming administrative manager could serve in this capacity.*
 - *VP for Student Affairs Gatteau expressed that he was pleased at the opportunity for a new start.*
 - *The EC and administrators agree that a good first step would be to look to other constitutions as models, or to visit the university ombudsman.*
- *Meeting Intervals*
 - *The EC and administrators decide to meet one hour, once a month during the summer.*

Updates:

President:

- No updates.

Vice President:

- No updates.

Treasurer:

- No updates.

Secretary:

- Fee Vote

Speaker:

- May Legal Clinic