



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting Agenda
October 26th, 2023
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center, Room 305**

- 1. Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Vice President Stephanie Torres, who presided over the meeting since a new Speaker had not been elected.**
- 2. Presentation:**
 - a. [Grad & Postdoc Professional Development](#) Presentation (Molly Lotz, Director for Research Training Initiatives)
 - i. *Molly Lotz gave a presentation on opportunities for graduate students available through her office, including workshops that provide support for students as they look for work after graduating.*
 1. *One upcoming workshop is for Research Mentor Training and will be held on November 17, 2023.*
 - ii. *The Spring deadline for the PhD Works Award for Career Exploration is February 15, 2024*
 - iii. *The annual Three Minute Thesis Competition will be held in March 2024.*
 - iv. *Ms. Lotz also presented on several External Fellowship Opportunities available to graduate students.*
- 3. Announcements:**
 - a. Upcoming Reimbursement Deadline
 - i. **November 10, 2023** - For applications related to expenses made between July 1st, 2023 and October 12, 2023.
 - b. Hispanic Heritage Month 34th Annual Closing Ceremony
 1. Wednesday, November 1 at 4:30pm in SAC Ballroom A
- 4. Starting Procedures**
 - a. Determine quorum
 - i. *Secretary David O'Donoghue determined that quorum had been met. **33 voting senators were present.***
 - b. Adoption of today's agenda (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez (Primary, Ecology and Evolution) moved to adopt the agenda.*
 1. *The motion was seconded.*
 - ii. *The agenda was adopted without objection or modification.*

- c. Fix the time at which to adjourn the senate meeting to 7:30PM (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i. Actions items not reached in time will be tabled to the next meeting.
 - ii. Committee and officer reports not verbally presented may be read.

Action Items

5. Voting Items:

- a. **Vote:** Election for Speaker of the Senate.
 - i. *A Speaker had not been elected at the September meeting, and no candidates had been nominated since.*
 - ii. *Given that there were no candidates, Vice President Torres opened the floor to nominations.*
 - iii. *Senator Mosoco Nunez (Primary, Ecology and Evolution) moved to open floor for discussion*
 - 1. *The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion.*
 - a. *Senator Moscoso Nunez (Primary, Ecology and Evolution) inquired about the stipend for the position.*
 - i. *The Speaker is paid \$8000 annually.*
 - 2. *Senator Caitlin Whitham (Primary, Occupational Therapy) nominated herself. Secretary O'Donogue and GSO Administrative Manager Dylan Rehman checked to determine Senator Whitham's eligibility.*
 - 3. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez nominated himself if Senator Whitham was not eligible. He outlined several conditions for his nominations, including that if elected, he would limit his involvement on the Executive Committee and would not participate in meetings with the SBU administrators.*
 - a. *Point of clarification - GSO Administrative Manager Dylan Rehman determined that Senator Whitham was indeed eligible.*
 - b. *Senator Moscoso Nunez withdrew his nomination.*
 - 4. *Senator Tracy Radvick (Primary, Psychology) asked Senator Whitham to present her reasons for running.*
 - a. *Senator Whitham briefly outlined her qualifications and reasons for nominating herself.*
 - iv. *With no other nominations, Senator Douglas Marr (Primary, Molecular Biology) moved to vote to elect Senator Whitham as Speaker.*
 - 1. *Senator Moscoso Nunez seconded the motion.*
 - 2. *Vice President Torres held a vote to elect Senator Caitlin Whitham as Speaker.*

- a. *The Senate voted unanimously to elect Senator Whitham to the position of Speaker, with no votes cast in no confidence.*
- b. **Vote:** Funding Proposals to be Approved by the Senate
 - ☐ **Funding Proposals_10-26-2023**
 1. *The Department of Evolution and Ecology requested \$2000 from the Speaker Series line for a departmental colloquium featuring guest speaker James Rattling Leaf Sr. (University of Colorado, Boulder). Assistant Treasurer Akshay Kurup presented an overview of the proposal.*
 - a. *Senator Moscoso Nunez (Primary, Evolution and Ecology) clarified that the requested amount of \$1000 listed in the original proposal was incorrect, and that his department was in fact requesting \$2000, Also, in the time since his department presented their proposal to the Budget Committee, his department had selected Ballroom C as the venue for the colloquium and had decided to hold the colloquium on February 28, 2023, from 2:30 - 5:00 pm.*
 2. *Senator Douglas Marr (Primary, Molecular Biology) asked Senator Moscoso Nunez to give a breakdown of the budget for the event.*
 - a. *Senator Moscoso Nunez described the budget.*
 - b. *If the estimate for food costs was inadequate, Senator Moscoso Nunez indicated that his department would seek additional funding elsewhere to cover the difference.*
 3. *A motion was made to bring the funding proposals to a vote. The motion was seconded.*
 - a. *24 senators voted in favor of approval. The funding request was approved for the full amount of \$2000.*
- c. **Vote:** [Committee Assignments 2023-2024.](#)
 - i. *Secretary O'Donoghue presented a revised list of committee assignments for Senate approval.*
 - ii. *A motion was made to appoint Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez to the Graduate Council Appeals Committee.*
 1. *25 senators voted in favor of his appointment and the motion passed.*
 - iii. *Senator William Meaney moved to approve together the remainder of the committee appointments.*
 1. *Senator Douglas Marr (Primary, Molecular Biology) seconded this motion.*
 - a. *The committee assignments were approved without objection.*
- d. **Vote:** Ratify this current draft of the **GSO constitution:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pJBRFEr9KQMyIGJoeLLKPISLIPMM P4UhKfmBPixuB_U/edit?usp=sharing

- i. *Comments addressing the changes and rationale for the changes are contained within.*
 - 1. *Senator Moscoso Nunez moved to ratify the revised draft of the constitution in its current form.*
 - a. *The motion was seconded.*
 - 2. *Vice President Torres held a vote to ratify the revised constitution.*
 - a. *24 senators voted in favor of ratifying the revised constitution.*
 - b. *With a majority in favor, the revised constitution was ratified.*
- e. **Vote:** Adopt this current draft of the **GSO Judiciary Committee Bylaws:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nnC4Oszq3jrQXQSlP2jtqC5uDiuz5ChhIwtIk0zNKA/edit?usp=sharing>
 - i. *Comments addressing the changes and rationale for the changes are contained within.*
 - 1. *Senator Douglas Marr (Primary, Molecular Biology) moved to adopt the revised bylaws without further modification.*
 - a. *The motion was seconded.*
 - 2. *The revised Judiciary Committee Bylaws were adopted.*
- f. **Vote:** Adopt this current draft of the **GSO Elections Committee Bylaws:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cm4bDVLBJYL0FT91RZ40cHUsTanjeHDrVih5QTtIRE/edit?usp=sharing>
 - i. *Comments addressing the changes and rationale for the changes are contained within.*
 - 1. *Vice President Torres gave former Speaker Robert Wadolowski an opportunity to explain the changes that were made to the bylaws.*
 - 2. *Senator Douglas Marr (Primary, Molecular Biology) moved to adopt the revised Elections Committee Bylaws.*
 - a. *Vice President Torres called a vote to adopt the revised bylaws.*
 - b. *29 senators voted in favor of adopting the revised bylaws. The bylaws were adopted.*
- g. **Vote:** [Productions Initiative Fund](#)
 - i. *Vice President Torres proposed a proposal to create the Productions Initiative Fund, which would create a fund within the Productions Budget for clubs to access for additional event funding.*
 - 1. *Vice President Torres opened the floor to discussion.*
Questions
 - 2. *A motion was made to divide the house and bring the proposal to a vote.*
 - a. *The motion was seconded.*
 - i. *17 voted in favor of bringing the proposal to a vote.*
 - ii. *10 voted against.*
 - iii. *The proposal would be voted upon.*

3. *Vice President Torres called a vote on the proposal.*
 - i. *21 senators voted in favor of the proposal. The proposal was adopted.*

6. **Actions items from the floor (if any)**

7. **Discussion Items (Non-binding Resolutions):**

- a. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez asked about the best way for senators to bring constituent concerns to EC.*

Committee and Officer Reports

8. **President's Report:**

- a. Meetings - EC, EC-Admins, FSA Board
- b. Office Manager terminated. Will be replaced by two Graduate Student Assistants

9. **Vice President's Report:**

- a. Event Engagement
 - i. 150 tickets were sold for the **Homecoming game** (135 students attended)
 - ii. 300 tickets provided for the **Wolfieland** (300 students attended)
 - iii. 40 tickets provided for **Harry Potter & the cursed child** (pending, all tickets accounted for)
 - iv. 50 tickets provided for **Kayaking** (50 students attended)
- b. USG Collaboration in the works with VP **Isaiah Daniel**
- c. Upcoming events: **Friendsgiving**
- d. New Media page

10. **Treasurer's Report:**

11. **Secretary's Report:**

- a.

12. **Speaker's Report:**

13. **Officer Reports**

a. **Admin Manager's Report:**

- i. I have onboarded every student who submitted the Google Form for NXT access, if any students are asking questions about it please direct them to adminmanager@sbqso.org and I can resend specific invitations
- ii. Website updates are coming along, multiple FAQs have been updated with live GIFs

- iii. Email blast going out to all graduate students soon to collect CSV information to provide digital reimbursements as well as a feedback form
- iv. Does anyone have any questions for me?

b. **Graduate Student Advocate's Report:**

i.

c. **International Student Advocate's Report:**

d. **Media & Communication Specialist's Report:**

i.

14. **Committee Reports**

- a. No committee reports.

15. **New Business**

- a. No new business.

16. **Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.