**GSC General Meeting Minutes**

Monday, December 6th, 2021, 12:00 – 1:00 PM,

Zoom: <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/95551955888>

1. Approval of Agenda – Pingping Chen
	1. Attendance was taken (Appendix A).
	2. Motion to approve the agenda.
		1. David Marcus moved to approve the agenda.
		2. Tyson Rodriguez seconded the approval of the agenda.
		3. Motion passed with majority.
2. Approval of GSC General Minutes from November 1st, 2021 – Pingping Chen
	1. Motion to approve the minutes from November 1st, 2021 (Appendix B).
		1. Tyson Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes.
		2. David Marcus seconded to approve of the minutes.
		3. Motion passed with majority.
3. Vote on the following two constitutional amendments passed by the Student Senate
	1. Bill 21/22/13
		1. This bill corrects two grammatical errors found in the SGA constitution.
		2. The bill passed with 15 votes to approve.
	2. Bill 21/22/29
		1. This bill moves the election period and presidential appointment to allow for more time for campaigning.
		2. The bill passed with 13 votes to approve.
4. Updates from Advisors
	1. Dean Petrescu
		1. The December commencement is upcoming. Tickets will be available for families and other attendees.
		2. Updates are being made for the vaccination requirements for university employees. This includes all GTAs/GAs. A message went out for those not in compliance. January 19th is the last day for employees to meet the requirements for vaccination. This does not include the booster shot. More information can be found on the LaFene website.
		3. Dean Petrescu will be meeting with Human Capital who is undergoing the process to raise stipends for graduate students. They are currently beginning the data analysis process.
	2. Associate Dean Reznikoff
		1. Applications for small research grants for non-STEM students are currently being reviewed. There will be another upcoming call for applications in the near future.
	3. Dr. Miller
		1. Donahue scholarships are available for domestic incoming students in the Spring semester. About 400-500 students are expected for the Spring semester. The Welcome Back program for these students will take place on Wednesday, January 12th at 1pm in the Leadership Building.
		2. On Giving Tuesday, the Graduate School raised $3200 toward scholarships for graduate students who are raising families.
5. Reports from Committees & Representatives
	1. Professional Development – Nirupama Kotian and Linah Alkotami
		1. No report.
	2. Research Forums - Adelaide Klutse & Zilfa Irakoze
		1. The committee organized the Research and the State Poster Sessions on Wednesday October 27th, 2021. The event took place in the Union Courtyard. Ten winners were selected and are set to represent K-State at CGRS in Spring 2022.
		2. The tentative dates for K-GRAD is the last week of March 2022. Abstract submission opens 17th December 2021 and ends 31st January 2022. Students can submit abstracts to share their research in either oral or poster presentation format. More information is on the GSC website. Venue and time for the events TBD. All K-STATE Graduate Students are encouraged to participate.
	3. Student Affairs –Cristiane Brazil
		1. We will be hosting the GSC Holiday Celebration on December 8th at 5:30pm. The party will take place at the Multicultural Center. We will be serving food and drinks and will have some fun activities including an ugly sweater competition, card making, and a white elephant gift exchange with a limit of $2 or from your home. We are looking for volunteers to help decorating the party and cleaning up afterwards. We would also like to display in the event a slideshow with end-of-the year celebrations around the world, so if you can help us with that task, please reach out!
	4. Awards & Recognitions – Leah Fields
		1. The Awards & Recognition Committee is looking for a co-chair as well as committee members. If you know of anyone interested in getting involved with GSC, direct them to Leah (leahmfields@ksu.edu)
	5. Fundraising Committee – Nitin Mishra & Megan Underwood
		1. No report.
	6. Public Relations – Vinusha Wickramasinghe
		1. No report.
	7. Health Insurance – OPEN
		1. No report.
	8. Government Relations – Ramona Weber
		1. No report.
	9. Recreational Services – Kiana Schulze
		1. No report.
	10. Diversity Advocate – Raymond Thomas
		1. No report.
	11. Housing Representative – Julia Hagen
		1. No report.
	12. Parent/Guardian Advocate – OPEN
		1. No report.
	13. Library Services Representative – Dylan Sears
		1. Special collections in the library is expected to fully open up upon our return in the spring 2022 semester. At the moment students can reserve an appointment with special collections, if necessary. Floors one through four are open with floor five still in the process of returning to normal. The third floor of the library contains graduate student study areas near the great room. These quiet rooms are only for graduate students and are available until the third floor closes during the week at 10pm. Additionally, the innovation lab contains higher powered computers and tools for undergraduate and graduate students alike; check it out on the first and second floor of the library.
	14. Military Affiliated Representative – Jaymi Peterson
		1. No report.
	15. Global Campus Representative – Cheryl Zelle
		1. No report
	16. LGBTQ+ —Hunter Scott
		1. There are two updates from recent ILC meetings:
			1. If graduate students feel that there are issues concerning discrimination from their faculty and/or department, they should contact K-State's student ombudsperson, Dr. Kimathi Choma at <kchoma@k-state.edu>
			2. There have been updates on the [11 Step Action Plan](https://www.k-state.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/action-plan/) presented by Dr. Be Stoney and Chief Ronnie Grice.
	17. Union Governing Board – Dominic Barnes
		1. There are a few points for graduate students from the UGB:
			1. Senior UGB leadership will conduct a review of alcohol at events.
			2. Footwear is recommended for all persons in the Union.
			3. Union furniture rental is restricted from locations outside the Union itself due to damage and staffing concerns.
			4. Esports will be housed in the union.
			5. Union will conduct cross-organization customer service training with employees to improve service and experience
6. Open Leadership Positions:
	* 1. Health Insurance Representative
		2. Housing Representative
		3. Parent/Guardian Advocate
		4. Public Relations Co-Chair
7. Open Discussion
8. Reminders & Deadlines – Pingping Chen
	1. Travel Award deadline for December travel is October 1st.
9. Other Business – Pingping Chen
10. Adjournment – Pingping Chen

**Appendix A: Meeting Attendance**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Email** |
| Leah Fields | leahmfields@ksu.edu  |
| Cheryl Zelle | czelle@ksu.edu |
| Tyson Rodriguez | Tyrod333@ksu.edu  |
| Pingping Chen | pingpingchen@ksu.edu |
| Hannah Rollison | hrollison@ksu.edu |
| Megan Miller | mmmiller@ksu.edu |
| Sarah Reznikoff | sarahrez@ksu.edu |
| David Marcus | Davidmarcus@ksu.edu  |
| Billy Croslow | bcroslow@ksu.edu  |
| Chi-Leigh Warren | clwarren@ksu.edu  |
| Isaac Barnhart | ihb@ksu.edu  |
| Dominic Barnes | dombarnes@ksu.edu  |
| Megan Underwood | meganunderwood@ksu.edu  |
| Rachel Shively | rdshively@ksu.edu  |
| Adelaide Klutse | Adklutse@ksu.edu  |
| Ademola Okerinde | okerinde@ksu.edu  |
| Garima Sharma | Garimas@ksu.edu  |
| Hunter Scott | Lacoste@ksu.edu  |
| Jackie Koski | Jackie937@ksu.edu  |
| Ludmila Monteiro | Lmonteiro@ksu.edu  |
| Cameron Osborne | Cjosborne@ksu.edu  |
| Cris Brazil | Cristianebrazil@ksu.edu  |
| Jack Sytsma | Sytsmaj134@ksu.edu  |
| Homar Marval | Hmmarval@ksu.edu  |

**Appendix B: November 1st, 2021 General Meeting Minutes**

**GSC General Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 1st, 2021, 12:00 – 1:00 PM,

Zoom: <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/95551955888>

**1.0** Approval of Agenda – Pingping Chen

**1.1** Attendance was taken (Appendix A).

**1.2** Motion to approve the agenda.

 **I.** Laura Bain moved to approve the agenda.

 **II.** David Marcus seconded the approval of the agenda.

 **III.** Motion passed with majority.

**2.0** Approval of GSC General Minutes from October 4th, 2021 – Pingping Chen

**2.1** Motion to approve the minutes from October 4th, 2021 (Appendix B).

 **I.** David Marcus moved to approve the minutes.

 **II.** Tyson Rodriguez seconded to approve of the minutes.

 **III.** Motion passed with majority.

**3.0** Provost Taber

**3.1** Provost Taber introduced himself and explained his role as it pertains to graduate students.

**3.2** Provost Taber addressed concerns about GTA/GRA/GA wages.

 **I.** He stated there are challenges with changing these wages because they are controlled by the deans of the colleges. He plans to develop a task force of graduate students to discuss the wages in comparison to the cost of living in Manhattan. This task force would begin and end next Spring. Details are still to come.

 **II.** Provost Taber also critiqued the overall structure of the GTA program. He suggested a shared model where the graduate school has more control over the money allocated to paying graduate students.

 **III.** David Marcus expressed the concerns about the fact that student fees are rising as the pay for GTAs are decreasing. Cost of health insurance is also increasing, making graduate school more expensive for students. Provost mentioned there has been a more simplified fee structure that should help students understand the fees they are being asked to pay. He also suggested graduate students to advocate for more grad student representation on committees that determine the use of student fees.

**3.3** Student question: Scholarships do not cover student fees; is this being address?

 **I.** Provost Taber explained the student service fee needs to be separate to the tuition in which the scholarships cover.

**3.4** Student question: Graduate students, for whatever reason, taking one class per semester are ineligible for financial aid. Is there a solution to assist them with financial costs?

 **I.** Provost Taber stated this is traditional with most universities and the provost does not currently have a solution to this.

**3.5** Student question: What are we doing to protect the university against state funding cuts?

 **I.** Provost Taber responding by saying there has been a lot of discussion with the president and legislatures etc. They are also advocating the benefits of public universities on the workforce and adding economic value. It has been a nationwide issue that we are doing our best to battle these losses. About 70% of funding comes from tuition and 30% comes from the state.

**3.6** Student question: How can we get involved and voice our opinions as graduate students?

 **I.** One option Provost Taber suggested was the Board of Regents meetings that are open to the public. It would be valuable to have a graduate student present. The Legislative Advocates program just closed, but there are at least two maybe three grads on it.

**3.7** Provost Taber also addressed COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Roughly 2 weeks ago the Board of Regents gave the guidance…there is a timeline for how the vaccine will be mandated. University employees must be vaccinated by December 5th. They are currently prohibited from requiring vaccines for undergraduate students. It is expected that these vaccines will affect enrollment. Other research universities have also been adopting vaccine mandates. DoE may issue a ruling a vaccine mandate in the near future.

**3.8** Student question: Will GTAs have the option to teach online if vaccines are not mandated?

 **I.** Provost Taber explained that the university decided to return to face-to-face for courses and this will remain in the future because the covid rates have shown in-person classes are not spreading the virus.

**3.9** Student question: A big concern and question that several of us here in the agronomy department are concerned that this mandate will see several statewide agricultural research locations shut down because the employees will quit. Is there anything that the university can do to help this?

 **I.** This is a problem the provost is aware of and something they are anticipating. There is no current data predicting the scope of the problem. They are encouraging departments to plan for this. They may ask instructors from other state universities to fill in if these positions cannot be filled.

**4.0** Updates from Advisors

**4.1** Dean Petrescu

**4.2** Associate Dean Reznikoff

**4.3** Dr. Miller

 **I.** Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Grant - The Graduate School is now accepting applications for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Small Grant program which provides funding for direct research expenses for students in these disciplines. The application deadline is November 17.

 **II.** Graduate Student Leadership Development Program - The Graduate School is continuing its partnership with the Staley School of Leadership Studies to offer the Graduate Student Leadership Development Program in Spring 2022. This is a cohort-model program with limited space. Students must apply to be considered for the program. The application is now open and will close on November 30. Students who are interested but unable to commit to the full program or are not selected for cohort will have the opportunity to participate in some of the workshops offered through the program.

 **III.** Plan for graduation - Masters and doctoral students must complete all degree requirements by November 12 to officially graduate in fall 2021. It is important to note that there are other requirements and deadlines associated with participating in commencement. All deadlines and information about the requirements can be found on the Graduate School’s graduation and commencement checklists. Students who miss the November 12 deadline but complete all requirements by December 3, 2021 will be spring 2022 graduates but will not be required to enroll in the spring 2022 semester.

**5.0** Reports from Committees & Representatives

**5.1** Professional Development – Nirupama Kotian and Linah Alkotami

 **I.** **Stories in Action: Developing a change narrative to navigate your uncertain and complex world**
**November 5, 2:00 - 3:30pm, Zoom** In this session, participants will engage in a narrative process to identify opportunity and possibility in the midst of complexity.

 **II.** Event for early career graduate students- hear from recently graduated alumni for tips on academic success and job applications in different fields. Details coming soon on the PD webpage!

 **III.** Important note for those graduating in Fall- if you think you are eligible for a PD certificate email us at gscpd2021@KSUemailProd.onmicrosoft.com.

**5.2** Research Forums - Adelaide Klutse & Zilfa Irakoze

 **I.** The committee organized the Research and the State Poster Sessions on Wednesday October 27th 2021. The event took place in the Union Courtyard . Ten winners were selected and are set to represent K-State at CGRS in Spring 2021. They are grateful to all who participated and encourage students to plan to participate in KGRAD in the Spring.

**5.3** Student Affairs –Cristiane Brazil

 **I.** The SA Committee is planning a financial event in partnership with PowerCat Financial and would like the input of graduate students to tailor the content of the workshop. We will be sending a Qualtrics Survey in the next GSC email to get a better glimpse of which topics graduate students would like to learn more about. The survey will also ask about topics of interest related to mental health. If you have any project ideas to engage multicultural groups on campus, let the committee know.

**5.4** Awards & Recognitions – Leah Fields

 **I.** The committee is still looking for both a co-chair and committee members.

**5.5** Fundraising Committee – Nitin Mishra & Megan Underwood

 **I.** The Fundraising Committee participated in football recycling on October 2, 2021, at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. 4 Graduate students attended and raised $60. The fundraising committee is looking at potentially doing this again if there is enough volunteer interest from the members. Additionally, we will be hosting a trivia night this semester with more details to come. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Nitin or Megan (meganunderwood@ksu.edu).

**5.6** Public Relations – Luana M. Simao and Vinusha

 **I.** No report.

**5.7** Health Insurance – OPEN

 **I.** No report.

**5.8** Government Relations – Ramona Weber

 **I.** No report.

**5.9** Recreational Services – Kiana Schulze

 **I.** No report.

**5.10** Diversity Advocate – Raymond Thomas

 **I.** No report.

**5.11** Housing Representative – Julia Hagen

 **I.** No report.

**5.12** Parent/Guardian Advocate – OPEN

 **I.** The current project underway is with the Safe Sleep Program, led by Adelaide Klutse, who is a Safe Sleep certified instructor. The goal of this project is to provide information on Safe Sleep Practices through clinics for graduate student families who are expecting a child (biological or through adoption) aged 0-12 months old. These practices decrease the infant’s risk of Sudden Infant Deaths (SIDs). This program will also provide families with skills and resources, such as sleep sacks and pacifiers. A survey to gather information on who needs the service and who to reach out to will be created and sent out to current students. This will also be an opportunity to tell parents about available community resources. Assistance from the PR for marketing and the Fundraising team current/future fundraising goals is needed.

**5.13** Library Services Representative – Dylan Sears

 **I.** The innovation lab is now open and accessible to all students as highlighted in the last meeting by Dr. Laura Bonella. The innovation lab is open Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm; workshops take place every Friday at 1:00pm and 2:30pm and are open to all students. Space is limited in these workshops so sign up early if you have an interest in any of them, more information can be found on the K-State libraries website. Outside of the innovation lab, there are three GSC co-sponsored events taking place in the month of November: Advanced Synthesis on November 1st, Managing Citations and References on November 8th, and After Graduation: Accessing Research on the Job on November 5th; these events are scheduled for 1:30pm. More information on these events can be found on the K-State libraries website.

**5.14** Military Affiliated Representative – Jaymi Peterson

 **I.** If you are military affiliated in any way (active duty, reserves, spouse, dependent, etc.) It is vital that you self-report within KSIS so K-state can keep and accurate track of student demographics. As graduate students, we are already a minority group on campus, add to that the Military affiliation status and the group is quite small, so every person counts.

 **II.** Kevin Nalette is the new non-traditional and military affiliated resource center coordinator for K-State and oversees issues pertaining to BOTH Military affiliated AND Non-traditional students. A link is provided defining both Non-traditional, and military affiliated students: <https://www.k-state.edu/nontrad/>. It would be ideal for him to speak to the GSC about resources offered through the office of NTVSS and the Military Affiliated Recourse Center in the union.

**5.15** Global Campus Representative – Cheryl Zelle

 **I.** Please submit any ideas for engaging global campus students as part of the broader K-State community, especially now that many activities and events are being opened back up to in-person format. Encourage groups and event organizers to consider keeping virtual participation available whenever possible so that distance students still have an option to be involved.

**5.16** LGBTQ+ —Hunter Scott

 **I.** No report.

**5.17** Union Governing Board – Dominic Barnes

 **I.** No report.

**6.0** Open Leadership Positions:

 **I.** Health Insurance Representative

 **II.** Housing Representative

 **III.** Parent/Guardian Advocate

**7.0** Open Discussion

**7.1** Jami wishes to change her title to Military Affiliated Representative.

 **I.** Dominic motioned

 **II.** David Marcus seconded.

 **III.** Motion was passed with a majority voted.

**8.0** Reminders & Deadlines – Tyson Rodriguez

**8.1** Travel Award deadline for December travel is October 1st.

**9.0** Other Business – Pingping Chen

**10.0** Adjournment – Pingping Chen