

**GSC General Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 an 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

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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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**9.0** Other Business – Pingping Chen

**10.0** Adjournment – Pingping Chen

**Appendix A: Meeting Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Leah Fields	<a href="mailto:leahmfields@ksu.edu">leahmfields@ksu.edu</a>
Allison Blomme	<a href="mailto:ablomme@ksu.edu">ablomme@ksu.edu</a>
Cheryl Zelle	<a href="mailto:czelle@ksu.edu">czelle@ksu.edu</a>
Tyson Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:Tyrod333@ksu.edu">Tyrod333@ksu.edu</a>
Pingping Chen	<a href="mailto:pingpingchen@ksu.edu">pingpingchen@ksu.edu</a>
Hannah Rollison	<a href="mailto:hrollison@ksu.edu">hrollison@ksu.edu</a>
Megan Miller	<a href="mailto:mmmiller@ksu.edu">mmmiller@ksu.edu</a>
Sarah Reznikoff	<a href="mailto:sarahrez@ksu.edu">sarahrez@ksu.edu</a>
David Marcus	<a href="mailto:Davidmarcus@ksu.edu">Davidmarcus@ksu.edu</a>
Laura Bain	<a href="mailto:bainla@ksu.edu">bainla@ksu.edu</a>
Billy Croslow	<a href="mailto:bcroslow@ksu.edu">bcroslow@ksu.edu</a>
Chi-Leigh Warren	<a href="mailto:clwarren@ksu.edu">clwarren@ksu.edu</a>
Isaac Barnhart	<a href="mailto:ihb@ksu.edu">ihb@ksu.edu</a>
Dominic Barnes	<a href="mailto:dombarnes@ksu.edu">dombarnes@ksu.edu</a>
Spencer Young	<a href="mailto:spencery@ksu.edu">spencery@ksu.edu</a>
Bruele Vollmuth	<a href="mailto:vollmuth@ksu.edu">vollmuth@ksu.edu</a>
Kelly Shunje	<a href="mailto:knshunje@ksu.edu">knshunje@ksu.edu</a>

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Megan Underwood	<a href="mailto:meganunderwood@ksu.edu">meganunderwood@ksu.edu</a>
Rachel Shively	<a href="mailto:rdshively@ksu.edu">rdshively@ksu.edu</a>



**Appendix B: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 General Meeting Minutes**

**GSC General Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.** David Marcus moved to approve the agenda.

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

**III.** Motion passed with majority.

**2.0 Approval of GSC General Minutes from September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Pingping Chen**

**2.1** Motion to approve the minutes from September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Appendix B).

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

**II.** Pingping Chen seconded the approval of the minutes.

**III.** Motion passed with majority.

**3.0 Laura Bonella**

**3.1** Librarian representative speaker

**I.** The library provides many sources for research help. Contact information for the help desk can be found on the KSU Libraries website.

**II.** You can request a consultation with your specific librarian. Librarians are separated by subject and discipline.

**III.** At the bottom of the library website's homepage there are events. One of those is the graduate research workshop series on Mondays from 1:30-2:30.

**IV.** The library also has designated study spaces for graduate students on the third floor.

**4.0 Officer Reports**

**4.1** President – Pingping Chen

- I. Pingping encouraged all members to submit a question for the Provost who will be attending the November GSC meeting. Submit these by emailing [egsc@ksu.edu](mailto:egsc@ksu.edu).
  - II. The Honor Council has 7 openings, applications can be sent to [egsc@ksu.edu](mailto:egsc@ksu.edu). This is a low-commitment opportunity for student to gain professional development. Open until filled.
  - III. There is an opening for the Union Governing Board Representative. This student would be a voice for graduate students on Union events and programming. Submit your interest to [egsc@ksu.edu](mailto:egsc@ksu.edu).
  - IV. There has been a policy change in Teams. Chat messages will expire every 30 days. Group chats will expire every 60 days. Please put correspondence in the general feed.
  - V. Dining Dollars for sale for on-campus use. These could be used at various locations on campus.
- 4.2 President Elect – David Marcus**
- I. Research Forum has finished collecting applications for the Research and the State event.
  - II. David is working with the student affairs faculty committee to promote multicultural event on campus.
- 4.3 Secretary – Hannah Rollison**
- I. Hannah is working on ways to improve the format of the GSC weekly email.
- 4.4 Treasurer – Tyson Rodriguez**
- I. Travel Awards
    - i. October Travel Award Total: \$14,426
- 4.5 GSC-SGA Liaison – Laura Bain**
- I. Graduate student representative positions are in the process of being filled by the SGA.
  - II. Vaccination rates had been growing but have been lowered with the freshman class. Lafene is offering free vaccinations for all students.
  - III. SGA executive members will be meeting with the Kansas and DC legislatures. Laura is asking for any graduate student concerns we would like to advocate to be discussed at these ventures. Email Laura with your ideas.
    - i. David voiced his concerns about a graduate student not attending these summits. There has been a historical lack of interest from graduate students to get involved with this. David has offered to look into attending.
  - IV. SGA is working on making ID cards more useful for access to buildings.
  - V. SGA does approve travel allocations that student groups can apply for travel up to \$1000.

## **5.0 Advisor Reports**

### **5.1 Graduate School, Dean Petrescu**

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I. No report.

**5.2** Graduate School, Associate Dean Reznikoff

I. Dean Reznikoff recommends joining the Honor Council as a service opportunity.

II. William Velez will speak about diversity within STEM fields on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30.

**5.3** Graduate School, Dr. Megan Miller

I. Oct 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a session on identifying fellowship opportunities and funding for research for a variety of disciplines.

II. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for December graduates who want their name printed in the graduation booklet.

**6.0** Reports from Committees & Representatives

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

I. The professional development committee has two upcoming events: Strategies and Tools for Graduate Academic Success (Time Management) on Oct. 5 and Writing an Effective CV and Resume on Oct. 15th. See more information [here](#).

II. All graduate students can earn a PD certificate by attending 5 PD events.

**6.2** Awards & Recognitions – Leah Fields

I. Call for Committee Members/Volunteers: We are currently looking for both a co-chair and committee members. This committee is fun and a pretty low commitment, so it's a great way to get more involved with the GSC and more connected to the graduate community as a whole. Our committee helps coordinate the Awards and Recognition event which occurs in the springtime. This event aims to recognize all the things graduate students have accomplished during the school year. Hopefully we will be able to have this event in person this year so I would love to have other people to help serve on this committee!

II. Another student is needed to review the Graduate Student Teaching Award.

**6.3** Fundraising Committee

I. Thank you to those who have helped with the fundraising events.

**6.4** Student Affairs –Cristiane Brazil

I. The committee is planning a Halloween Zoom Party to play Mingle Bingle and chat with other graduate students. They are aiming for November 1<sup>st</sup>, right after Halloween. Advertising should start in a couple of weeks.

II. They also have plans for a Holiday themed party, which will happen December 8<sup>th</sup> at McCain after the show "A Canadian Brass Christmas". They will have music and take pictures. They are planning on making a photo booth as well. More details upcoming soon.

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**6.5** Research Forums – Adelaide Klutse

- I.** Research and the State will be organized on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the Union Courtyard from 1pm-3pm. The awards ceremony will follow soon after from 4pm-5pm in the Big 12 room. A total of 32 abstracts were received for this event.

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

- I.** Public Relations reminded all graduate students to follow GSC on social medias. Email PR team early for any graphics needed for events or the weekly email.

**6.7** Health Insurance – Piper Brandt

- I.** No report.

**6.8** Government Relations – Ramona Weber

- I.** No report.

**6.9** Recreational Services – Kiana Schulze

- I.** No report.

**6.10** Diversity Advocate – Raymond Thomas

- I.** No report.

**6.11** Housing Representative – Julia Hagen

- I.** No report.

**6.12** Parent/Guardian Advocate – Brooke Lynn Thingvold

- I.** No report.

**6.13** Library Services Representative – Dylan Sears

- I.** No report.

**6.14** Veteran Affairs – Jaymi Peterson

- I.** No report.

**6.15** Global Campus Representative – Cheryl Zelle

- I.** No report.

**6.16** LGBTQ+ —Hunter Scott

- I.** The Kansas LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference will take place on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Morris Family Multicultural Student Center. This day-long event will feature two key-note speakers and multiple breakout sessions addressing a range of queer issues in order to cultivate queer communities and activate social transformation.

**7.0** Open Leadership Positions:

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**I.** Union Governing Board

**II.** Honor Council

**8.0** Reminders & Deadlines – Tyson Rodriguez

**8.1** Travel Award deadline for December travel is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**9.0** Other Business – Pingping Chen

**10.0** Adjournment – Pingping Chen