

Dear Graduate Faculty Members,

This summary serves to highlight the accomplishments of the 2019-2020 Graduate Student Government (GSG). The new executive committee (president, vice president, and treasurer) and College of Arts and Sciences senator were elected in May 2019. During the summer months, the executive committee worked diligently to fill the five vacant senator positions from the colleges that contain graduate programs. With all major officer positions filled, we understood that our main objectives were to (1) improve GSG visibility among graduate students and on campus (2) promote graduate student well-being and advocate on their behalf (3) provide a solid foundation for the next GSG administration.

In August, GSG attended 13 graduate student orientations (including Graduate School Orientation and International Student Support Fair). Our goal was to educate students (and faculty) about the role of GSG and what benefits are offered (i.e. funding for student organizations, etc.) and promote GSG's first general body meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year in September. The September General Body Meeting had 17 graduate students in attendance. In October, GSG hosted an event called "Maintaining Your Mental Health in Graduate School" that focused on coping methods and highlighted on-campus resources available to students. Approximately 25 graduate students attended this event as well as the Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Dean of Students. November and December were spent planning spring events.

The first event of the 2020 Spring Semester was the January General Body Meeting that served to provide graduate students an informal Q&A session with President Miller and Interim Provost Urgo. In attendance were 30 graduate students, GSG co-advisor Dr. Levy, and Acting Dean Saunders. There were other social and educational events planned for March, April, and May. Due to the COVID-19 situation, these events were unable to be held.

Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, GSG has distributed over \$13,000 to fund blended and graduate-only Recognized Student Organizations travel and non-travel events, and Professional Enrichment Grants (PEGs). In addition to funding, GSG officers and members have continuously advocated for graduate students by serving on University Council, UC Standing Committees, Faculty Senate, and Graduate Council.

Applications for the 2020-2021 GSG officers have been open since March. Elections for the new GSG administration will take place April 27- May 1 and their term will begin at the start of summer.

I am pleased to inform you that GSG was awarded the Impact Award (LIFE Awards) for our work this past year. I speak on behalf of my fellow GSG officers in saying that it has been a pleasure to serve our fellow graduate students and work alongside faculty, staff, and the administration to ensure the Graduate Student Voice is heard and respected.

Go Zips!

Amanda Stefin, Graduate Student Government President 2019-2020