



Final Report of Graduate Student Government 2020/21

Activities in 2020/21

- Surveyed 100+ graduate students to evaluate the effect of COVID-19 on May 2020 and contributed to different planning committees on the campus for the safety and mental health issues of students because of COVID19.
- Shared GSG's concern on racial injustice and expressed solidarity with the Black Lives Matter issue.
- Communicated effectively with the graduate students regarding the AAUP issue with the university administration.
- Selected new vice-president of GSG as former VP left the university. Furthermore, senators for four colleges and 16 graduate students as the representatives of Council Committees were selected in August 2020.
- Assisted Graduate School to organize Job Fair for the graduate students for the very first time in Fall 2020.
- Launched GSG Instagram, and Twitter account. Updates of GSG were also regularly posted on Facebook.
- Organized tuition fees evaluation on 11 public universities in Ohio and spotted 9.5% higher fees here for Ohio residents.
- Transferred the Professional Enrichment Grant (PEG) from attending a conference (travel cost) to the registration fee for graduate students as no traveling was allowed for Covid19.
- Initiated mental health survey for graduate students. Based on the survey results from around 300 students, four workshops were organized in March 2021 to discuss the stress, anxiety, and depression of graduate life.
- Updated GSG by-laws and constitution after almost 10 years and included important information about the responsibilities and payment issues for GSG officers.
- Initiated Emergency Fund for the graduate students for unprecedented circumstances and edited GSG constitution and by-laws according to the changes.
- Judged and sponsored three Life Awards 2021 in April 2021.
- Provided "Certificate of Appreciation" to all the GSG Senators for their valuable contribution to GSG.
- Accepted or denied the requests for financial support to conduct travel and non-travel activities by various student organizations.
- Updated the activities of GSG to University Council Central Committee, University Council Executive Committee, SOuRCe, Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, Student Trustees, and GSG Advisors regularly.
- Organized the GSG Election for the new executive and central committee for the academic year 2021/22.

Issues for Future

- *Payment Issues*
 - Some master's graduate students reported to GSG that they are not satisfied with the different payment structures for masters and PhD students, especially as teaching assistants. Even though they are performing almost similar responsibilities, PhD students receive a higher biweekly stipend than the masters' students. GSG thinks that payment/stipend for all the graduate students who are working here as Teaching Assistants should be equal.
 - In some departments, PhD students get an increment in their stipend once they pass the qualifying exam. But a student reported to us that he did not receive any increment in his salary despite passing the qualifying exam. He was afraid of his advisor that if he reports officially he would face trouble in the future.
- *Facility for Anonymous Comment/Feedbacks from Graduate Students*
 - From the experience of last year, GSG has felt that many graduate students are not satisfied with many facilities or regulations from the advisor/lab/department/school. They, especially international students, feel shy or afraid of reporting anything to GSG or graduate school. They fear the consequences of reporting anything against their advisors/department. So, GSG would suggest "Initiate an Anonymous Feedback Facility" where graduate students can share their problems without revealing their identity at all.

