



GSA General Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 10/11/2023

Time Open: 5:00 pm

Time Adjourn: 6:02 pm

1. Approval of September Minutes

- a. Minutes Approved

2. Invited Speakers - Office of the Graduate Biomedical Education (OGBE)

- a. Their offices can be found in the **1830 Monument Building in Suite 613**
- b. **Dr. Peter Espenchade** discussed his role in OGBE. The office is designed to help support Graduate Students during their time of learning at JHU. Similar to many JHU faculty, Dr. Espenshade serves in both an academic role, as a researcher studying Pancreatic Cancer metabolism, and as an administrator as the Associate Dean of Graduate Biomedical Education. In this role, he works with individual programs to ensure that JHU is offering the best education to its students. He reports to the Vice Dean for Education, Roy Zeiglestein, who oversees SOM students. As such, his office hosts monthly committee meetings (MA/PHD Committee) where he discusses with program directors areas of improvement, institution of pilot programs, and votes to make changes to programs policies, but he does not provide funding for programs. Lastly, he is also involved in developing retreats for programs to discuss innovated topics, and he currently liaises with the Union TRU-UE*. *Please note he is not able to openly discuss communication about Union meetings with general student body.
- c. **Dr. Andrea Young** is the Assistant Dean for Graduate Biomedical Education and Graduate Student Diversity. She serves as faculty in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science and her research focuses on understanding how disparities to psychiatric access affect outcomes. In her role in OGBE, she does a lot of work in the area of graduate student recruitment, attends graduate conferences (i.e. SACNES and ABRCMS), and graduate school fairs. In addition, she facilitates the Graduate Student Emergency Relief Fund (GSEF) that was implemented last year to help students with one-time payment for financial emergencies. In addition she is spearheading a new workshop series for students "The Wellness Seminar Series" which will cover topics that graduate students struggle with such as imposter syndrome, mindfulness and meditation, time management, healthy relationships, nutrition, etc. She is open for additional topics. Check your emails for more information! Lastly, she serves as the liaison for affinity group on campus and works with the DEI office.
- d. **Kristina Nance** is the Assistant Director for Graduate Student Experience & Diversity. She has worked in Student Affairs for 20 years. Her role simplified....helping students exist in graduate school! Similar to Dr. Young, Mrs. Nance helps with student recruitment by attending graduate career fairs and conferences. In addition she helps work on the Pathway and Prep Summer Internship Programs of which she is recruiting mentor volunteers, so if you are interested in this please send her an email. Lastly, she helps manage the OGBE Laptop Loaner Program, if a student's laptop is broken, or the student is awaiting a new one, they can apply for a 2 month loaner laptop (5PC and 2 Mac available).
- e. **Dr. Katie Labor** is our Graduate Student Life/Experience Coordinator. She is involved in a lot of little things that help support student life here at Hopkins. If you think it she is involved. This includes things like managing GSA's subsidized parking, helping with the summer internship programs, and she is the one who manages student group reimbursement as well. She helped GSA with identifying a private space on campus, and so many other tasks. Katie would like to remind and encourage all students to please come to their open house Friday Oct 20th from 2-4pm in the 6th floor of the 1830 Building! There will be wine, cheese, beer, and snacks! [Register at the following link!](#) Last but not least, OGBE is creating a HopkinsGroups Account launch day TBD.

A question was asked about volunteering at Grad Student Career Fairs and Program Recruitment:

- f. Students are instructed to 1st reach out to Specific Programs Admissions Director for being involved in recruitment, additionally they can reach out to Dr. Young for opportunities.
- g. No current Grad Fairs happening now, since applications are closing soon.

3. Executive Officer Announcements:

- a. President (Rodney Eric Williams) & President-Elect (Scarlett Ge)
 - i. Cooley Center Updates
 - 1. A working group has been formed spearheaded by Dr. Landon King, the Executive Vice Dean for the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Within this working group are representatives from SOM Graduate Students (GSA), BSPH Graduate Students (BSPHSA), SOM Medical Student (MSS), SON Students (NSS), Post Docs (PDA), Medical Fellows, Johns Hopkins Staff, etc.
 - 2. In their initial email, we were informed that the Cooley Center (and adjacent buildings such as Hampton House) would be torn down to make room for the New Life Science Building. Hopkins did not wish to build on new purchased land, as Hopkins wishes not to take more land from Baltimore Residents.
 - 3. Totally, Cooley operates with 3800 active members, 2900 of which are trainees
 - 4. Please be aware that all working solutions presented below are not final
 - a. Small gym in BSPH will remain open and will open longer to cover some hours, in addition, it will make space for additional machines
 - b. Looking for space in nearby locations (i.e. Marriott/Atwaters Space)
 - c. O'Connor is an option, but some amenities will not be available (i.e. does not offer free classes)
 - d. Working with other local fitness centers for community based options in neighborhoods where students live
 - e. Any solution on campus will not have any courts or pool option as those are the hardest to replace.
 - 5. The working group hopes to identify a solution by the end of the semester, will most likely not be a single solution, but multiple options available to students
 - 6. Ideally they wish to have the solution up and running mid spring 2024
 - ii. Graduate Coating Ceremony Information – **Nov 1st**
 - 1. The JHU SOM Alumni Association pays for this event to take place and the GSA is responsible for every part of planning and execution of this event, therefore we ask that you please be respectful to GSA as we work hard to put this event on for you.
 - 2. Right now, there is no limit on guests but please be reasonable about how many you invite as space inside the auditorium is limited. We can't have everyone inviting 20+ people.
 - 3. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please reach out to Rodney (rwill209@jhmi.edu)
 - iii. OGBE Room Reservation System updates will be used through Outlook, more information TBA
 - iv. [Convocation Speaker Survey](#) was sent out and is due Nov 1st
 - v. JH Public Safety requests feedback on JHPD Policies Due **Nov 20th**
 - 1. [Link to submit feedback](#)
 - vi. Flu Vaccines Open **Oct 9th - Nov 15th** No appointments necessary!
 - 1. [Clinic info for East Baltimore Campus](#)
 - vii. JHU Admin requests feedback on JHU Policies regarding Climate Action and Sustainability Plan Due **Oct 20th**
 - 1. [Link to submit feedback](#)
- b. Director of Administration (Nirvani Jairam) - Ashley will be presenting
 - i. October Student Spotlight Winners
 - 1. Congratulations to Nicole Pannullo and Eleana Parajón both from CMM! Way to go!
 - ii. GSA Website 101 - <https://jhu.campusgroups.com/gsa/home/>
 - 1. See [slide deck](#) for how to access information on the website
- c. Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach (Ashley Chen)
 - i. Disability Awareness event with Student Disability Insurance
 - 1. Plan to have a series of events in the last week of October, currently finalizing space
 - 2. Email will be sent next week regarding this upcoming event
 - ii. Information session on Health Insurance
 - 1. Email was sent of the recording and summary of the Q/A
 - 2. Details from this event have been uploaded to the [Website's Health and Wellness](#) Page
 - iii. Updates on Future Information Sessions.
 - 1. Nick sent out survey – 30 responses from students

2. Gym/Fitness Center was #1 item (touched upon now by Dr. King's working group)
 3. #2 and #3 slots were for Tax and Internships. Planning on hosting a tax address in Feb or March next year for how to file taxes in April.
 4. Another survey will be sent next semester
 - iv. Free Menstrual Products are now placed in the following buildings/restrooms
 1. CRB I- (North and South restroom on 1st floor)
 2. CRB II- (North and South restroom on 1st floor)
 3. AMEB- All restrooms
 4. Turner (Concourse level)
 5. MRB- 3rd floor restroom
 6. PCTB- (1st floor and 3rd floor)
 7. WBSB- (3rd floor restroom)
 8. Ross- (3rd floor restroom)
 9. Welch- (1st floor restroom)
 10. Rangos - (4th floor restroom)
 11. 2024- (1st floor restroom)
 12. 2041- (Ground floor locker room)
 - d. Director of Finance (Estefan Santi)
 - i. Travel Awards **due Oct 15th** [Apply Now](#)
 1. Winners will be notified about a week or two after the application close
 2. Questions can be sent to Estefan esanti1@jhmi.edu
 - e. Director of Social and Community Affairs (Mark Jacob)
 - i. Salsa Nights with Encanto Salsa DC
 1. Register Now! [Oct 10th](#), [Oct 24th](#), & [Nov 7th](#)
 - ii. BOO BASH Interschool Halloween Event
 1. **Oct 27th** Grossi Plaza, 5 – 8 pm [Register](#)
 2. Halloween Party, bring your Boo!
 3. Food Drinks
 - iii. Young Frankenstein Film Showing – **Oct 31st** [Register](#)
 - f. Director of Media and Public Relations (Juliane Liberto)
 - i. Allgrad listserv updates
 1. Requesting all 1st year emails for adding to allgrad/Hopkins Groups
 2. Request to be responsible with the number of emails sent through this resource
 - ii. B'more Fall Photo Contest – **Ends Oct 20th** [Submission Form and Rules](#)
 - g. Director of Student Involvement and Student Groups (Edna Ferreira)
 - i. Eboard + Council vote on funding request over \$500
 1. Project Bridge – BrainFest
 - a. Voting on \$650 to fund community event designed to educate community of Baltimore on the topic of Neuroscience. Motion passed no opposition
 - h. Director of Policy and Strategic Initiative (Nick Zhu)
 - i. Updates to the GSAs Travel Award Application and Policy
 1. Separated Policy and Application
 2. New Application form will soon be uploaded to the website!
 3. Will need to vote to accept changes
- 4. University Committee Announcements**
- a. WLAC Updates from Estefan
 - i. Estefan has sent out a survey to students regarding the Welch Library resources.
 - ii. Survey responses have been compiled and were shared with WLAC
 - iii. Responses and FAQs for students will be sent in the near future.
- 5. Misc. Announcements**
- a. Union - next wednesday major event on campus at the Dome (meeting at PCTB and do a lunch walkout 12-1pm head to dome for a rally to illustrate you deserve protections)

Please Join our newly launched [Hopkins Groups Page!!!](#)

Follow the GSA on social media platforms for up-to-date information about events and other important announcements!

