



# GSA General Body Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** 11/08/2023

**Time Open:** 5:05 pm

**Time Adjourn:** 6:08 pm

## **1. Approval of October Minutes**

### **a. Minutes Approved**

## **2. Invited Speakers**

Dr. Sabine Stanley serves as the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, overseeing all aspects of graduate education at the university. Her responsibilities include managing standing committees, initiatives, and assisting with special situations. This involves leading the Doctor of Philosophy Board, comprised of faculty and PhD students, which conducts comprehensive reviews of PhD programs. She also oversees the CISAC (Cross Institutional Student Advisory Committee), ensuring representation from all student governance groups across the university. Additionally, Dr. Stanley is involved in the PhD advisory committee, a group of PhD students from various programs, providing advice on policies and initiatives before finalization. She plays a key role in the University bargaining team, collaborating with the student union to develop bargaining agreements.

Dr. Stanley leads various initiatives for multiple schools, such as Pathways to PhD, Vivian Thomas, Doctoral Relocation Grants Program, and the Graduate Honors Program. She conducts surveys, including the enrolled graduate student survey every two years and the PhD Exit Survey. Dr. Stanley is also involved in the mentorship agreement policy and oversees an Ombuds resource, allowing students to seek confidential advice for conflicts, with the option to escalate issues to her if needed.

Rachelle Hernandez, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, oversees all aspects of student policy and procedures for the university. She serves as a go-to person for issue resolution, coordinating with student affairs members in schools and academic affairs to ensure students' needs are met. Hernandez works on cross-university initiatives and is responsible for adding a new support system to provide necessary information. She is currently involved in initiatives such as Enabled Mobile Credentials, allowing all schools to access resources like the new Bloomberg Center in Washington, DC. Hernandez is also working on the development of a Hopkins Student Center, a university-wide center on the Homewood campus, set to open in the summer of 2025. This center, similar to a union center, will be available for all students and alumni.

Hernandez oversees a food pantry on the Homewood campus and is working to expand it to East Baltimore. She is actively engaged in the Cross Institutional Student Advisory Committee, launched last spring, which serves as a platform for students to discuss common concerns. Hernandez is part of Kevin Shollenberger's team, the Provost of Health and Wellbeing, working to ensure student access to clinics on various Hopkins campuses. This team is also developing new university-wide policies, including those related to leave of absence, to meet the consistent needs of students across all campuses. Additionally, they address reports on issues related to student conduct.

## **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. The Cooley Center (and adjacent buildings such as Hampton House) will 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 Marriot/Atwaters Space)
    - c. O'Connor is an option, but some amenities will not be available (i.e. does not offer free classes)
    - d. In conversations with Merrit Health Clubs about access to Courts/Pools 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. OGBE Room Reservation System updates will be used through Outlook, more information TBA
- iii. [Convocation Speaker Survey](#) was sent out and is due Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
- iv. JH Public Safety requests feedback on JHPD Policies Due **Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - 1. [Link to submit feedback](#)
- v. Flu Vaccines Open **Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** No appointments necessary!
  - 1. [Clinic info for East Baltimore Campus](#)
- b. Director of Administration (Nirvani Jairam)
  - i. November Student Spotlight Winners
    - 1. Congradulations to Kexin Wang and Brady Goulden on winning this month's Student Spotlight!
- c. Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach (Ashley Chen)
  - i. Thanksgiving Messages
    - 1. Show gratitude for colleague and can be anonymous or can have name onit.
    - 2. Messages will be sent out on November 20<sup>th</sup>
    - 3. [Link to send Thanksgiving messages](#)
  - ii. Project Feast
    - 1. 34<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Meals hosted by University of Maryland Baltimore's Project Feast for the Baltimore community
    - 2. At the event, will provide free food and clothing as well as health screenings and community resources
    - 3. November 23, 2023, 11-3 PM at Booker T Washington Middle School (1301, McCulloh Street, Baltimore, MD, 21217)
    - 4. UMB- have tradition to offer free body check and have food and clothes for those who need these
    - 5. Food and clothes are accepted as donations for the event
  - iii. Interschool Diwali Event
    - 1. Planning to hold interschool Diwali event and date is being finalized

- 2. Will have food (mainly vegetarian finger food), have candle making and dancing
- d. Director of Finance (Estefan Santi)
  - i. Travel awards are wrapped up for the October season and the next season starts on January 15 to April 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - 1. Submission is open around December 15<sup>th</sup>
- e. Director of Social and Community Affairs (Mark Jacob)
  - i. Event this Saturday- Powerplant Live Bar Crawl
  - ii. Get 2 free drink tickets and an interschool event and organized by GRO
  - iii. 10pm to 2 am at PowerPoint live
  - iv. Discounted drinks exclusively for Hopkins Graduate Students throughout the night
  - v. Must bring a physical government-issued ID!
- f. Director of Media and Public Relations (Juliane Liberto)
  - i. B'more Fall Photo Contest – Ends Nov 10<sup>th</sup> [Submission Form and Rules](#)
    - 1. Submit to win a \$20 Prize
- g. Director of Student Involvement and Student Groups (Edna Ferreira)
- h. Director of Policy and Strategic Initiative (Nick Zhu)
- 4. Program Representative Announcements**
- 5. Student Group Announcements**
- 6. University Committee Announcements**
  - a. East Baltimore Health and Well-Being Committee
    - i. Had first meeting October 25h
    - ii. Purpose of committee will allow multidirectional communication
    - iii. Host weekly wellbeing events and do monthly well-being break
    - iv. Representatives from SON, BSPH, SOM-Med and Grads, Post Docs
    - v. Tax literacy= possible connections to host a tax session with students

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!

