

## Purdue Graduate Student Senate (PGSS)

First senate meeting

Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 6:00 PM - **End Time: 8:00 PM**

Hybrid: FRNY G124 and on Zoom

**Guest Speaker:** Purdue University Trustee Kevin D. Boes

- Been on the Board of trustees for 1 year (2 year term).
  - There are 10 members, and it's similar to a company's board of directors
  - We listen to the president and the administration on how they meet Purdue's mission.
- Student trustee – we have public meetings where we can ask questions and such and get the student experience.
  - I live in the dorms and interact with students regularly and live a student lifestyle to get their perspectives and experiences.
- Somosmita (the PGSG president) and I meet monthly to talk about issues that students are facing
  - Such as housing which is hard to come by, not affordable, and far away.
  - In the past year there have been changes with like citybus and such so we've been working on what to do there
  - Stipends are also an issue – we need to be able to pay people what they deserve.
- The Purdue President has initiatives, including at the Indianapolis campus (PIN).
  - Also about how to deal with the undergraduate housing experiences right now
- In November, the application for the Student Trustee will open
- Q & A
  - You covered housing, transportation, etc. Have you had a chance to talk about PUSH and how there aren't enough doctors for more than Fifty-Thousand students. Only 2 doctors, and the rest are nurse practitioners and such.
    - Brenda Hall is the director of PUSH and I have been talking with her.
      - She did say that Grad students are the larger percentage of students who go there.
    - President – we can always get Dr. Hall to be one of our Senate speakers.
  - Does the Trustee job have to live on campus or off campus or?
    - Not necessarily. I was living off campus, but wanted to be closer to students so I decided to move into the dorms to expose myself to more student experiences.
- Thank you guys, as a PhD student I relate – It's not always easy to be a graduate student.

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. Call to Order**

- A. Meeting called to order at 6:16 p.m.

#### **II. Roll Call\***

- A. 43 out of 48 Senators present, Quorum is met
- B. Announcement of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates
  - 1. List of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates will be appended to these minutes (Appendix A).

- C. Senator Roll Call will be appended to these minutes (Appendix B).
  - D. Executive officers
    - 1. Present
      - a) President
      - b) Treasurer
      - c) Public Relations Officer
      - d) Diversity Officer
      - e) Legislative Affairs Officer
      - f) Senate Chair
    - 2. Vacant
      - a) Chief of Staff
      - b) Parliamentarian
- III. Approval of Minutes (*General Consent*)**
- A. Motion to waive reading by the President
    - 1. Second by the Senator from ABE
    - 2. Approved by general consent.
  - B. Motion to Approve by GRAC Chair
    - 1. Second by Senator from IPPH
    - 2. Approved by General Consent
- IV. Approval of the Agenda**
- A. Motion to waive reading of the agenda by President
    - 1. Second by Senator from History
    - 2. Approved by general consent.
  - B. Point of information Senator from TLI – why is the appointment of a parliamentarian not on the agenda?
    - 1. There is not yet an appointment of the parliamentarian
    - 2. Response from the Senator from TLI – But the constitution says it needs to be appointed by the first meeting after the President is elected
      - a) Ruled out of order
  - C. Motion to approve the agenda by President
    - 1. Second by Senator from History
    - 2. Vote –
      - a) Ayes – 35
      - b) Nays – 2
    - 3. Agenda is approved
- V. Consent Agenda (*any item may be removed by a single voice*)**
- a. Committee and Team Reports
  - b. Other Reports
  - c. Reports of University Committees and Boards
  - d. Annual Report
  - e. Motion to approve consent agenda by President
    - i. Second by Senator from Philosophy
    - ii. Approved by general consent
- VI. Officer Reports (General Consent)**
- A. President Verbal Report
    - 1. We have \$40,000 approved for the Rides2U shuttle service from 6pm to 1am. We are working on the details and price and such right now. We will be releasing information soon.
    - 2. This senate passed a resolution FA23-R002 regarding unused vacation days for Grad students
      - a) The resolution tried to offer compensation for unused hours.
      - b) This was set to the SAC in the University Senate and their Chair says 1) there is no grad student representative (which we will hopefully fill today)
      - c) They go on to talk about the fact that Grad students should be encouraged to use their vacation days, but the source of funding for unused days we are unsure where they would come from.

- d) We should encourage students to use their vacation. Staff have a “use it or lose it” policy for their vacation days.
- e) For grad students, in a semester, the 20 days you accrue is lost as soon as the semester ends.
- f) We want to work with SAC to

B. GRAC Chair

- 1. Apply for the Transitional Housing Grant and other grants
- 2. If you want to help fix grants through legislation, please let me know.

C. Diversity Chair

- 1. There is an inherent power dynamic between faculty and grad students. Students face more difficulties when requesting paid vacations than faculty do.

VII. Old Business

A. Election of Chief of Staff:

- 1. Run-off elections are held by a hand-raise vote with Senate Chair and Senate Clerk counting the votes. Candidates are given no more time to speak.
- 2. Period of Voting:
  - a) Ali Holmes: 21
- 3. Jude Tetteh Quarshie: 17
- 4. Abstentions : 4
- 5. Ali Holmes will be the 2024-25 PGSG Chief of Staff.

B. Confirmation of Presidential Appointments:

- 1. **Graduate Representatives on University Senate Committees and Boards**
  - a) **Campus Appeals** – Somosmita Mitra, Jia Cheoh
    - (1) President’s Report on Somosmita Mitra
      - (a) This committee never meets. The committee is for conflict resolution at the highest level when other levels are not effective.
      - (b) This body also sees appeals for student organizations that the University does not approve of.
    - (2) Debate
      - (a) Motion to suspend the rules and consider all University Senate Appointments as a consent agenda by the LAO
        - (i) Second by President
        - (ii) Ayes have it, motion passes and all appointments will be considered as a consent agenda, unless otherwise removed from the consent agenda by a member of the Senate.
  - b) **Consent Agenda 2: Graduate Representatives on University Senate Committees and Boards** *(any item may be removed by a single voice)*
    - (1) **Campus Appeals** – Somosmita Mitra, Jia Cheoh
      - (a) Somosmita Mitra and Jia Cheoh will be the Graduate Representatives for the Campus Appeals Committee on the University Senate.
    - (2) **Educational Policy Committee** - *Ali Holmes*
      - (a) Ali Holmes will be the Graduate Representative for the Educational Policy Committee on the University Senate.
    - (3) **Grade Appeals Committee** - *Sindusha Mysore Saiprasad, Desmond Mensah, Alex Seto*
      - (a) Sindusha Mysore Saiprasad, Desmond Mensah, and Alex Seto will be the Graduate Representatives for the Grade Appeals Committee on the University Senate.
    - (4) **Library Committee** - *Secret Permenter*
      - (a) Secret Permenter will be the Graduate Representative for the Library Committee on the University Senate.
    - (5) **Parking and Traffic Committee** - *Victor Gutierrez-Schultz*
      - (a) Victor Gutierrez-Schultz will be the Graduate Representative

- for the Parking and Traffic Committee on the University Senate.
- (6) **Sustainability - Shuangting Li**
    - (a) Shuangting Li will be the Graduate Representative for the Sustainability Committee on the University Senate.
  - (7) **University Resources Policy Committee - Shalom Kpetsu**
    - (a) Shalom Kpetsu will be the Graduate Representative for the University Resources Policy Committee on the University Senate.
  - (8) **Visual Arts and Design Committee - Shalom Kpetsu**
    - (a) Shalom Kpetsu will be the Graduate Representative for the Visual Arts and Design Committee on the University Senate.
  - c) Motion to approve the consent agenda by the President
    - (1) Senator from IPPH Second
    - (2) Ayes have it, Consent Agenda approved.
  - d) **Student Affairs Committee - Praga Giri**
    - (1) Removed from Consent Agenda 2 by the Senator from History
    - (2) President's Report
      - (a) The Student Affairs Committee is concerned with matters regarding to non-classroom related issues all over campus
        - (i) Such as athletics, political activities, student senate actions, scholarships, etc.
      - (b) I chose Praga, our Life Team Chair because Life Team looks into a lot of these social impacts that Grad students have
      - (c) It is one of the more frequently meeting teams
    - (3) Candidate Speech
      - (a) I was here as a Master's student and am now a PhD student
      - (b) I have time to be part of this
      - (c) I have mentored many students so far and this year one of my professors has a Fulbright so I have been handling the lab and I have been handling conflicts and such.
    - (4) Period of Questions
      - (a) Senator from History – How would you advocate for the email that we received from the SAC (not being able to use up the paid leave that we have)
        - (i) I would like to get signatures and ask for senators to get support from their students so that I can present to the board how many students are impacted by this.
        - (ii) I can push for this but would be more impactful to have students involved.
    - (5) Moved to a vote. Ayes have it. Praga will be the graduate representative on the Student Affairs Committee on the University Senate.

## VIII. New Business

### a. Introduction of Emergency Legislation

- i. Motion to introduce emergency legislation FA24-R00X - Resolution Establishing the Small Research Grant by GRAC Chair
  - a. Reading of the Legislation
  - b. Second by Senator from HTM
  - c. Procedural vote to consider the legislation
    - 1. Ayes have it, legislation will be considered under new business as FA24-R001 - Resolution Establishing the Small Research Grant.
- ii. Motion to introduce emergency legislation FA24-B00X- - Funding the Small Research Grant by GRAC Chair
  - a. Reading of the Legislation

- b. Second by Senator from ME
- c. Procedural Vote to consider the legislation
  - 1. Ayes have it, legislation will be considered under new business as FA24-B001 - Funding the Small Research Grant
- iii. Motion to Introduce emergency legislation FA24-B00X - Amendments to the Financial Code of Operations by GRAC Chair
  - a. Reading of the Legislation
  - b. Second by Senator from IPPH
  - c. Procedural Vote to consider the legislation
    - 1. Ayes have it, legislation will be considered under new business as FA24-B002 - Amendments to the Financial Code of Operations
- b. Election of Senate Clerk**
  - i. Call for candidates for the Senate Clerk position
    - a. No candidates at this time
- e. Consideration of New Legislation**
  - i. No new legislation at this time
- f. Consideration of Emergency Legislation**
  - i. FA24-R001 - Resolution Establishing the Small Research Grant
    - i. Authors
      - 1. Small research grant was started off because ECE is known to have plenty of funding, but other departments do not have funding for student research.
      - 2. Certain grants do not cover thesis work, or even non-thesis work.
      - 3. In 2014, there was a grant similar to this, however they have been lost and we do not know where this grant came from.
      - 4. It is not a lot of money, but based on tier systems Tier 1 - \$750 Tier 2- \$500 Tier 3 \$250.
        - a. This grant follows Purdue's rules for what your research needs are
        - b. This document includes information
      - 5. GRAC chair – I am part of this grant because I am from one of the departments that have to apply for grants to pay for any of my research, either on campus grants or off campus grants.
        - a. Last spring I had to self-fund my research trip, and a smaller grant like this would have been helpful.
    - ii. President
      - 1. Yield – already spoke
    - iii. LRC/Parliamentarian
      - 1. Senate Chair/interim Parliamentarian– I believe that this is constitutional
    - iv. Questions
      - 1. Senator from Mechanical Engineering – How did you decide on the monetary amounts?
        - a. President – We already had the Professional Development and Travel grants that have those tiers, so we were just trying to make everything coherent
          - i. We could offer something more, but then there'd be less people who could receive the grant
      - 2. Senator from ABE – How many times can a student claim per

- semester, and what can we use these grants for? Does it fall under similar per diems or?
- a. President – once per year, which is July to June each year
    - i. A more detailed description is in Appendix A., but it's not necessarily per diem, rather it could fund specific items
    - ii. Think about the PD grant, which is non-research, but this is more like research work. You can ask for specific things like pencils and pens too.
3. Diversity Chair – Is this grant for self-funded students, or can anyone apply?
- a. President – You have to provide a letter from your advisor that your research isn't being funded by other sources. (so independent of other grant-funded research you have.
  - b. Follow up – If a TA, can you get it still?
    - i. Yes. This just helps offset expenses for unfunded research.
4. Senator – For grants and such, will you have to give a report of what you spent?
- a. President – you will make a budget that tells us what you are spending money on. Then the application will be anonymized and will go out to reviewers.
  - b. Once you are given a score, the Vice Chair will compile all scores and make funding plans based on what the budget is that the GRAC team will vote on.
    - i. And then whoever's budget wins will determine who will receive the grant
  - c. GRAC chair – you will have to submit receipts and such to show us what you spent the money on.
5. Senator – Thesis project specifications?
- a. President – when I talk about a thesis topic, I mean things outside of what your advisor funds you for. It doesn't have to be thesis related, but can be side research projects.
6. Senator – what about non-thesis students doing independent studies?
- a. I was trying to draw a distinction between this grant and the Professional Development Grant.
  - b. Anyone without funding for their research will be eligible for this.
7. Senator from Botany and Plant Pathology – How does this differ from all the other grants?
- a. GRAC Chair – the current individual grants we have are the Professional Development Grant and the Travel Grant
    - i. The Travel grant is meant to cover your expenses when you go to present your research at conferences and symposiums and the like.
    - ii. The Professional Development grant is to help offset the costs of non-research related professional development you want to do to further your career prospects.

- iii. Neither of these grants cover your active research and the things you need to pay for to continue active research projects.
  - 8. Senator – How many people are reviewing and how many people are funded?
    - a. President – encourage all people to join GRAC
      - i. 5 minimum reviews per grant, typically more.
      - ii. Join the team to be able to have a say in this.
      - iii. Whenever this grant is started, the first bit would be to be more economic on the money and then go from there
      - iv. Depending on what kind of funding plans the VC decides upon will determine how many.
    - b. GRAC Chair
    - c. In terms of how many will be funded, – we won't know until we start.
  - 9. Community Chair – will it cover any emergency needs?
    - a. President – you propose what you want to spend it on, and once things are approved and then you will only request up to \$750. You have to present what you anticipate what you're spending.
      - i. The timeline is the same as Professional and Travel Grants
  - 10. Speaking order exhausted, moving to Discussion for debate.
- v. Debate
  - 1. Senator from Botany and Plant Pathology – This bill is a wonderful bill that I like, but I have a problem with the definition of the bill in terms of calling it research (including if the PI is not in support of the research) I think this is going to be controversial. There are other grants that receive applications that do not get funded ....
    - a. President – which grants do not receive applications?
      - i. I said they receive applications that do not get funded.
    - b. Adjournment time has been reached.
    - c. Tabled until the next meeting with the following speaking order:
      - i. In the negative, the Senator from BPP
      - ii. In the Affirmative: Senators from History, PULSe, MSE, AAE, and Food Science
  - ii. FA24-B001 - Funding the Small Research Grant
    - 1. Tabled until the next meeting
  - iii. FA24-B002 - Amendments to the Financial Code of Operations
    - 1. Tabled until the next meeting
- g. Announcements**
- h. Adjournment**
  - i. Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM



**APPENDIX A**

**NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS AND ALTERNATES**

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]



<b>Department</b>	<b>Senator Name</b>
Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP)	Pascal Okoye
Chemistry	Samson Marvellous Oladeji
Health Sciences	Marwan Alajlouni
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA)	Khadija Mbacke
Mathematics	Geoffrey Baring
Philosophy	James Harry Day
Political Sciences	Sarandan Green
PULSE	Emmanuel Oluwarotimi
Civil Engineering	Deepak Benny
Languages and Cultures	Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore
Nutrition Sciences	Rojina Thapa
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology	Jude Tetteh Quarshie
Anthropology	Taylor Borgelt



**APPENDIX B**  
**SENATOR ROLL CALL**

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]



Present (43):

Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAE) - Arjun Rajashekar Adiga  
Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) - Harsh Pathak  
Agricultural Economics - Emily Forsythe  
Animal Sciences - Iqra Nazir  
Anthropology - Taylor Borgelt  
Biochemistry - Gaoya (Grace) Meng  
Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai  
Biomedical Engineering - Mikayla Roach  
Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP) - Pascal Okoye  
Chemical Engineering - Katherine L. Young  
Chemistry - Samson Marvellous Oladeji  
Civil Engineering - Deepak Benny  
Computer and Information Technology (CIT) - Jahid Hasan (Acting)  
Computer Graphics Technology - Sanjeevani Patankar  
Computer Science (CS) - Syed Hasan Amin Mahmood  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Jacob Mishne  
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) - Vincent Sassard  
Economics - Navid Safahieh  
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) - Nimit Agarwal  
English - Dylan Henderson  
Food Science - Daniel Alfonso Fajardo Reyes  
Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) - Scott Gula (Acting)  
Health Sciences - Marwan Alajlouni  
History - Srishti Dutta Chowdhury  
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) - Khadija Mbacke  
Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) - Reed Davisson  
Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) - Can Carkoglu  
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy (IPPH) - Rachana Sapkota  
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Tuba Marjan  
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore  
Management (MGMT) - Rajeev Karunanayake  
Materials Engineering - Ankit Kumar  
Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring  
Mechanical Engineering (ME) - Aishwary Shrivastava  
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology - Jude Tetteh Quarshie  
Nuclear Engineering (NE) - Stepan Ozerov  
Nutrition Science - Rojina Thapa  
Philosophy - James Harry Day  
Physics and Astronomy - Jonathan Wood  
Political Science - Sarandan Green  
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Emmanuel Oluwarotimi  
Sociology - Juwen Wang  
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation (TLI) - Elnara Mammadova

Not Present (5):

Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication (AgSEC) - Aimable Mugabo  
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC) - Nguyen Le  
Aviation and Transportation Technology (ATT) - Gustavo Sanchez Cortes  
Communication - Clara Elisa Hortua Alvarado  
Engineering Education - Anyerson Cuervo

**APPENDIX C**  
**OFFICER REPORTS**

[SEE ATTACHED TWELVE (12) PAGES]

**President - Somosmita Mitra([pgsg.president@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.president@gmail.com))**

To my fellow graduate students and senators of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate,

Congratulations on your new/continuing positions! If you are continuing in your roles, I am happy to welcome you back to another term, and if it is your first term here, Welcome and I hope graduate student governance does not take up too much of your time. In your role as senator, you get to interact with your constituents and bring back their concerns to us, finally after deliberation, it is my role to bring forth graduate student concerns to the Purdue Administrative Body.

To effectively fulfill my role as President, I rely on the support of the PGSG Executive Board members who are entrusted with specific responsibilities. At this time, PGSG urgently needs a Parliamentarian and a Chief of Staff. During our August EBoard meeting, the PGSG Executive Board expressed unanimous confidence in working with Ali Holmes as Chief of Staff. As graduate students with demanding academic commitments, including our own dissertations, we currently do not have the capacity to train multiple individuals for the same role while also providing assistance to others.

The Executive Board (E-Board) of the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) recognizes the importance of effective communication and transparency. This year, as always, officer reports will be our primary means of sharing our actions, decisions, and responsibilities throughout the term. Our commitment is to ensure that every step we take reflects your best interests as graduate students.

We encourage an open environment where everyone can ask questions, seek clarification, and contribute to fostering collaboration and unity. An environment that is free of personal vendetta and focussed on the broader graduate student welfare. Together, we aim to build on the successes of the past year and create an even stronger, more vibrant graduate student community at Purdue University.

Thank you for accepting the responsibility to serve, and I look forward to working closely with each of you as we continue this exciting journey together.

Here is my report from 2023-24, which will be published as a part of the PGSG Annual Report from 2023-24:

As President of the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) for the 2023-2024 academic year, I am proud to present the accomplishments and initiatives that our team successfully executed during this period. This year has been marked by significant movement in securing funding, enhancing student support services, and fostering a more inclusive and engaged graduate student community at Purdue University.

**Securing and Allocating Grants for Graduate Student Support**

One of the primary focuses of my presidency was to ensure that PGSG could effectively support graduate students through targeted financial assistance. Early in the year, I prioritized securing funding for critical programs, leading to the successful acquisition of \$25,000 for summer childcare grants. This funding, approved by former Dean Dr. Linda Mason, provided essential support for graduate students with families, enabling them to focus on their academic responsibilities without the burden of childcare expenses.

In addition to the childcare grants, I was instrumental in the establishment of two new grants: the Transitional Housing Grant and the Accessibility Grant. The Transitional Housing Grant, which received funding after extensive discussions with the Student Activities and Organizations (SAO) and Business Office for Student Organizations (BOSO), was designed to assist graduate students facing temporary housing challenges. This grant filled a significant gap in the existing support structure, ensuring that students experiencing transitions had the financial resources needed to secure stable housing.

The Accessibility Grant was another critical initiative introduced during my tenure. This grant aimed to support graduate students requiring accommodations to enhance their academic and campus experience. Although navigating the legal and administrative hurdles with SAO and BOSO required patience and persistence, the successful implementation of this grant underscored our commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity for all graduate students. We are currently looking for a Vice Chair and are in the process of developing the forms.

### **Enhancing Campus Safety and Mobility**

Another achievement of my presidency was the enhancement of campus safety and mobility through the After Hours Shuttle Service. Recognizing the need for safe transportation options for graduate students, particularly those working late or residing off-campus, I secured \$40,000 in funding from the Associate Provost of Graduate Programs to maintain and expand this service. The shuttle program provided reliable transportation during late hours, significantly improving the safety and convenience for graduate students across the campus.

Furthermore, I initiated discussions with Procurement Services to explore partnerships with CityBus and other shuttle service providers. Our goal was to create a sustainable and efficient transportation network that would continue to serve graduate students' needs beyond the immediate academic year. Although some logistical challenges remain, the groundwork laid during this year positions PGSG to continue advocating for and improving graduate student mobility.

### **Addressing Budgetary Challenges and Financial Management**

The financial health of PGSG was a significant concern as we entered the 2023-24 academic year, with the organization facing a substantial deficit. Our bank account was at an all-time low, with a negative balance of \$38,000. To address this, I worked closely with our Treasurer to reallocate funds and identify additional resources. We successfully transferred \$28,300 from the PGSG Surplus account to cover immediate operational needs and ensure the continuity of essential services and programs.

Despite these challenges, I was able to secure additional funding to support our initiatives. For example, additional funding to the effect of \$60k was brought into the PGSG to support our activities in 2023-24. I was able to allocate about \$10k in funding to MHAW in addition to their \$7k budget to make the events more successful.

### **Fostering Collaboration and Community Engagement**

Collaboration was a key theme throughout my presidency, as I worked to strengthen relationships with various university stakeholders. I regularly met with the Acting Vice Provost of Graduate Programs, the Vice Provost for Student Life, Dean of Students, our Advisor (Associate Dean of Students), Board of

Trustees representative, PSG President and CAPS to align our initiatives with broader university goals and to ensure that the voices of graduate students were heard at the highest levels.

### **Governance and Legislative Advocacy**

As President, I took an active role in the legislative processes within PGSG. I worked closely with the Senate Chair to ensure that PGSG legislation was effectively communicated to the University Senate Steering Committee. This included advocating for the recognition of Juneteenth as an official university holiday, a significant step toward acknowledging and celebrating diversity on campus. Additionally, I supported the creation and implementation of new grants, including the Transitional Housing and Accessibility grants, which provided critical resources for students in need.

### **Conclusion and Looking Forward**

The 2023-2024 academic year was one of significant achievement and growth for PGSG. Despite financial challenges, we were able to secure critical funding, implement new support programs, and strengthen our advocacy efforts on behalf of the graduate student community. As I conclude my first term as President, I am confident that the initiatives and foundations we have established will continue to benefit Purdue graduate students for years to come. It has been an honor to serve as your President, and I look forward to seeing how PGSG will continue to evolve and advocate for the needs of our vibrant and diverse graduate student body.

Here is my report from August 24:

### **Report from August Action Council**

PSG President and Hailey Oliver were absent. The Provost highlighted several key points: student trustees rotate every two years, and there's a need for collaboration with the Action Council on housing and wellness. Two new dorms have been approved, with \$600K invested in CAPS, including telemedicine. Graduate stipends and minimum wages for hourly student workers will increase, impacting dining and athletics. Housing priorities include managing applications (starting in October) and addressing the artificial demand for private apartments due to Purdue's freeze on tuition and room and board charges. Mental health, pedestrian safety, and feedback from Chris (Coach) are also important. Beth McCusky noted that 1900 new beds will open in the next two falls, with two new private apartment complexes added. The campus will not expand further, and the focus is on improving the experience for returning students and addressing off-campus housing issues, including parking and transportation. Provost Wolfe expressed interest in supporting the vacation pay for grad students and asked to schedule a meeting over coffee.

### **Report on After Hours Shuttle Service**

Successfully procured about \$40k for the year for the shuttle service that we pay Rides2U to run. Jia will be taking over as the coordinator of the service. This will begin on September 5, everyday between 6 pm - 1 am.

### **PGSC Updates**

Tents, Kayaks, Virtual Reality Headsets, Karaoke Machine, Noise canceling headphones available at the PGSC now.

**Chief of Staff - Holmes Alexandria([pgsg.cos@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.cos@gmail.com))**

- New Student Orientation: I successfully organized our new student orientation. This task involved coordinating the slide deck and ensuring that all presented materials were relevant and useful for our graduate students. I made it a point to include every e-board member in the orientation, allowing them to contribute to our 8-minute presentation to ensure fair and equitable representation. This was particularly given e-board members became ill. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend NSO due to being ill myself.
- PGSG Call-Out Planning: I have planned the PGSG call-out event, Wednesday August 28th, 6:30pm at PGSC,, an important initiative for engaging new members and increasing awareness of our organization. This event will serve as a platform to introduce PGSG's mission and activities to the wider graduate student body and encourage their involvement.
- Team Preference Survey: I created and distributed a team preference survey, which has been filled out by members. I am committed to honoring the preferences expressed by the team members to ensure a collaborative and satisfying experience for all involved.
- Room Reservations and Scheduling: Despite challenges with room reservations due to prior bookings and my predecessor not planning for the year,, my established relationships with the university administration enabled me to secure the necessary spaces for PGSG programming. I have successfully scheduled and reserved rooms for our monthly team nights and the upcoming new member recruitment event on the 28th. When a scheduling conflict arose regarding team night, I promptly resolved it to provide crucial support for the team chairs.
- Cost Management: In coordination with the administrative assistant, I have worked to cut down on meeting food costs without compromising quality. This effort reflects my commitment to efficient use of resources while ensuring a positive experience for our members.
- Support for Team Chairs: I have proactively reached out to all team chairs to determine how I can best support them. I have requested one-on-one meetings to discuss their vision and goals for the year, demonstrating my commitment to understanding and aiding each chair in achieving their objectives.
- Promotional Items: I have taken the initiative to purchase promotional items for PGSG. These items will be used to enhance our visibility and engagement with the graduate student community, contributing to our outreach and recruitment efforts.
- Summer Role as Treasurer: Over the summer, I also served as the Treasurer for PGSG. During this time, I developed a new Graduate Resource Allocation Committee (GRAC) reimbursement sheet to streamline and improve the reimbursement process. This new sheet is designed to enhance transparency and efficiency in handling financial matters within the organization.

**Treasurer - Shuangting Li([pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com))**

**Helping Students to reimburse their Travel and Professional Grant**

One of the responsibilities of the treasurer is to work with graduate students to reimburse their travel to conferences or workshops. At this period, we work to reimburse the travel and workshops during the summer. I meet the students and submit their requests to the business office. Despite some challenges



during the reimbursement process, in the upcoming year, I will work with the GRAC chair and business office to streamline the process and make the reimbursement more efficient.

### **Meeting with Team Chair and discussing the Budget for the upcoming year**

One of the responsibilities of the treasurer is to support the team chair, helping team chairs to know the budget this year and plan the activities for the whole academic year. I also explained some questions they may have for the budget of their team.

### **Update the regular expenses related to PGSG activities**

One of the responsibilities of the treasurer is to update the expenses related to PGSG, including meeting expenses, expenses relevant to team activities and other relevant expenses.

### **Meeting with business office**

As treasurer, it is important to communicate with the business office improving the process of improvement and discussing the issues relevant to the financial aspect. I heard some suggestions from the business office and plan to improve the reimbursement process.

### **Helping with Transitional Housing Grant**

This summer, PGSG started the transitional housing grant. As treasurer, the team worked together to support students who need this grant. Part of my responsibility is to work with the GRAC chair to make sure the reimbursement for grants went smoothly, including reviewing, designing reimbursement sheets and future submit the documents.

### **Keeping Track on the Expenses within the Budget**

As treasurer, Another responsibility is to keep track of the expenses from the Teams within the budget approved by the Business office and Senate. I keep track on the expenses of the teams and work closely with whole eboards to support activities from PGSG and create better experiences for graduate students from a financial perspective.

### **Senate Chair - Victor Gutierrez-Shultz([pgsg.senatechair@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.senatechair@gmail.com))**

1. Booked guest speaker Kevin Boes for our guest speaker at September 5th meeting.
2. Established LRC, which currently has two members:
  - ❖ Elnara Mammadova (TLI Senator)
  - ❖ Ethan Nicholas Johnson (1st year graduate student in Atmosphere Sciences program)
3. Updated our Qualtrics survey for the submission of legislation. I reviewed the “Bill of Conflict” on September 3rd at 4:30 PM in PGSG 105A. Attendance of meeting:
  - ❖ Paschal Chukwuebuk Amusuo (Author)
  - ❖ Elnara Mammadova (Sponsor)
  - ❖ Ethan Nicholas Johnson LRC member
  - ❖ Victor Gutierrez-Schultz (Acting chair of LRC)
4. Have five applicants for the Parliamentarian position.
  - ❖ Ethan Nicholas Johnson

- ❖ Ayush Agarwal
  - ❖ Felicitas Tuku Ewunsoh
  - ❖ Jason J. Carrier
  - ❖ Shubh Parag
5. Since August 7th executive meeting we have gone from 33 to 46 senators.
- ❖ Pascal Okoye-Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP)
  - ❖ Samson Marvellous Oladeji-Chemistry
  - ❖ Marwan Alajlouni-Health Sciences
  - ❖ Khadija Mbacke-Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA)
  - ❖ Geoffrey Baring-Mathematics
  - ❖ James Harry Day-Philosophy
  - ❖ Sarandan Green-Political Sciences
  - ❖ Emmanuel Oluwarotimi-PULSE
  - ❖ **Deepak Benny- Civil Engineering**
  - ❖ **Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore- Languages and Cultures**
  - ❖ **Rojina Thapa- Nutrition Sciences**
  - ❖ **Nguyen Le-Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC)**
6. I have notified the exponent campus newspaper about scheduled meetings, they will be attending the Sept 5th meeting.
7. Jia and I met the Vice president (VP) of the student government to discuss amendments to the Indiana lifeline law. Currently, the student government is working with legislators on expanding the bill to protect both the person calling for help and the person needing help. The student government has educational information regarding Indiana's lifeline law. Graduate students must be aware of this law, and because of this I mentioned that it would be wise for our PRO to include this information in our new article. Currently, I am awaiting this information from the VP and will distribute it to our PRO. Provided the VP with our legislation affairs officer's contact information.
8. Made edits (hopefully final edits) to the FCO and am awaiting input from BOSO and SAO.

### **Public Relations - Shalom Kpetsu ([pgsg.pro@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.pro@gmail.com))**

As the Public Relations Officer for the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG), my primary focus has been on enhancing communication and ensuring that information is accurately and promptly disseminated across all platforms. Over the past period, significant efforts have been made to update and maintain the PGSG website, engage with the graduate student community through social media, and support the promotion of key PGSG events. Below is a summary of the tasks completed and ongoing projects:

## Tasks Completed and Ongoing:

### 1. Website Updates:

- I created a new Webmaster position to ensure that our website is consistently updated and maintained.
- I updated the pictures of our senators on the website, which had not been refreshed since Fall 2021.
- I made sure the website now reflects our current Executive Board members.
- I uploaded the latest governing documents and the current budget, making sure they're easily accessible to everyone.
- I revised the Senate meeting schedule and the PGSG events calendar on the website to keep everyone informed about upcoming activities.

### 2. Promotional Materials and Social Media:

- I designed and distributed flyers for key initiatives, including the Transitional Housing Grant, GRAC deadline, Grad Student Social, and Fall 2024 Callout.
- I've been actively managing our social media accounts on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and Facebook, regularly updating them with information about PGSG events and initiatives.
- I promoted major PGSG events like the New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO), Grad Student Social, and Fall Callout, ensuring that we reached as many students as possible.

### 3. Event Support:

- I helped organize and run the tabling event during NGSO, which was a great opportunity to connect with new graduate students and introduce them to what PGSG has to offer.

### 4. Newsletter Management:

- I've been putting together and sending out the PGSG newsletter every week, making sure that our community receives timely and accurate information.

### 5. Website Restoration:

- I worked with BOSO to restore our website, ensuring that all the information is up-to-date and accessible to the graduate student community.

## Ongoing Goals:

- I'm committed to continuing to provide timely and accurate information to graduate students through all our communication channels.
- I'll be working closely with our new Webmaster to keep the website user-friendly and up-to-date.
- I'll ensure that all promotional and informational materials align with PGSG's goals and initiatives.

**Parliamentarian - TBD ([pgsg.parliamentarian@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.parliamentarian@gmail.com))**

**Diversity Officer - Jia Cheoh ([pgsg.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.diversity@gmail.com))**

## Cultural Centers Graduate Senate Representation

As the diversity officer, my primary goal is to ensure that all graduate students feel included, cared for and respected during their time at the university. To put what I do into context, I'm a harassment survivor due

to an unexpected power dynamic situation with an ex-academic advisor. Coming into Purdue, I didn't have the education and knowledge to realize that something was not right in my graduate school experiences. However, I am grateful to be supported by the deans of my college and the dean of the graduate school. Looking back, it was an unfortunate incident, yet, I felt fortunate at the same time to have received much support from this team at PGSG and my team of faculty advisors to be in such a position.

### **Election of Vice Chair**

I received 4 nominations for the diversity vice chair and only one of those nominations submitted a statement, who is Laura. I eventually elected Laura to be the diversity vice chair and she received a 100% confidence vote from the team. Laura is excited to learn how PGSG works and will be there at the LGBTQ event and the RedZone Tailgate event. Laura has also been actively involved during the Express Fest, helping us with the networking with various entities at Purdue and during our new graduate student orientation.

### **CARE Graduate Student Orientation and Senators Orientation**

On June 16, I met with the director of CARE, Tiffany to discuss the effort of Center for Advocacy, Response and Education (CARE) in what they can do for our graduate students. Tiffany expressed enthusiasm about collaborating with PGSG. She and her team have noted that with the power differential in graduate school, graduate students are often confused about what to expect and what are considered appropriate behaviors in graduate schools, especially when graduate students possess an inherent disadvantage under such power dynamics.

Somosmita, Victor and I chatted on the Teams meeting with Allison from the graduate school on the idea of CARE speaking during the graduate student orientation. Allison expressed excitement about the idea, and Tiffany from CARE has committed to speak this year and ten years forward during the graduate student orientation in view of how important having such knowledge is in graduate school.

Together with Victor, our senate chair, I worked with Tiffany to review her slides and provide her with suggestions on what to present to our new graduate students and senators.

### **Senator Orientation and Express Fest with Cultural Centers is**

Before the senator orientation, I engaged the advisors of various cultural centers via email to get graduate students who are interested in representing the cultural centers. I contacted Asian American, Latino, Native American, Black and LGBTQ centers to get them to join us. The graduate assistant of Asian American joined us on August 7, 2024, and we warmly welcomed him. LGBTQ appointed their graduate assistant, Theo Sorg, as our advisor for any diversity initiatives but did not have the capacity to represent the center at the moment. This is a similar situation with Black, Latino and Native American cultural centers. I do not view the lack of representation from these entities as concerning. Rather, relationship building is an ongoing and proactive process. We spread the word about such vacancies to these cultural centers and they will contact us if there is any graduate student who has the capacity to serve. The strategy Laura and I took during the Express Fest was to go to each table of the cultural centers with our PGSG swags to introduce ourselves and talk about involvement with PGSG. We networked and chit-chatted with CAPS, Purdue Disability Resource Center, Purdue Writing Lab, LGBTQ, and with cultural center directors like Black, Latino, Native American, Asian American, etc. Purdue Writing Lab expressed enthusiasm about engaging with PGSG if we have any idea on events that can engage them.

### **Rainbow Callout by LGBTQ**

Laura and I will be at this callout. Sindu, Ali, Secret, and Victor will potentially join us at this event as we need more hands.

### **RedZone Tailgate**

Coming up on September 14, 2024 in collaboration with CAPS, CARE, PSC and Corec. The goal is to promote alcohol education and sexual consent among Purdue students. We have four volunteers so far, including Ali and Sindu.

### **University Administration**

In collaboration with the community team and team chair, Sindu, I reached out to Dr. David Rollock and Jeff Stefancic on the possibility of speaking on the morning of November 4, 2024 during our mental health week opening ceremony. Exact date of MHAW to be confirmed with community team chair, Sindu. On September 5, 2024, I spoke to a long-time academic at Purdue, and now the associate dean of the Polytechnic, on his view on improving equity at Purdue since he is passionate about DEI. The inputs I got was that we need strategies to also make Purdue Online students feel belonged at Purdue, even an online session where they could introduce to others could help. We discussed the fact that online students did not pay the students' activity fee of \$20, but we should still engage them to be inclusive and not exclude them since they can feel isolated. I guess we need legislation here to the university senate, so if anyone is up to joining me on this, you are welcome to. He stated that we also need more aggressive strategies to engage folks from Purdue Indianapolis as they are essentially part of us, perhaps setting up online groups to make them feel included. Other DEI strategies are also to engage more matured students and students with families to make them feel belonged to the graduate community as they often feel isolated. He suggested we get a list of Purdue Indianapolis students, and engage more students in it. We also spoke about broadening the effort by CARE to get graduate students informed by initiatives from CARE, and he suggested initiatives like getting specific organizations, and specific dean involved as well to broaden impact. Also, disability needs to be part of the equation when we talk about DEI initiatives and he suggested we reach out to disability resource centers and such to make the disabled graduate students feel belonged at Purdue. Other efforts include not just engaging the cultural centers but also individuals that do not belong to any of these cultural groups.

### **Graduate Student Organizations**

Since a lot of senators are also part of a graduate student organization, I hope this information could be helpful. Besides the graduate student organization grant by PGSG, there is this other grant from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging. Applications due by September 13, 2024. However, it does require you to have collaborations with other graduate student organizations. If any GSO is interested we can potentially collaborate. The One Community Grant provides up to \$2500 for student-driven programs which promote inclusion and provide Purdue students with opportunities to engage with those from other cultures and experiences. On another note, question to the grant committee I guess, is there any possibility to raise the \$1,500 awarded to graduate student organizations?

### **Shuttle Service Coordinator**

I'll be the shuttle service coordinator this year, and will coordinate with Somosmita to ensure that I'm effective in this role.

## **Indiana Lifeline Law**

Together with Victor, I met with Rebecca from PSC to discuss the Indiana Lifeline Law not protecting underage victims. Victor suggested that our Legislative Affairs officer, Alex, might be the right person to engage with, and I suggested they also engage folks in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion space in the university senate as well.

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Graduate Research Symposium (Poster Presentation)**

Fellow PGSG members, any thoughts on feasibility? We believe that every research project has a social impact component and the goal of this symposium is to teach graduate students to articulate the social impact components of their work that is related to DEI initiatives. Plan to collaborate with the community team and career team.

## **Report from Action Council Prep Meeting on Student Housing and Wellbeing**

On August 20, 2024, I met with Beth McCuskey, Haley Oliver and Kevin Boes in the Provost Office. It was noted that graduate students do not typically utilize the local rate for on-campus housing, as many do not reside on campus. Graduate students often reference housing options such as the River Market and Launch Apartments when considering off-campus. The average housing cost for existing graduate students is approximately \$1,000 per month. This figure reflects the rates for typical off-campus housing options frequented by graduate students. There is a recognized need for housing that accommodates both individual graduate students and those with families. The availability and affordability of such housing remain a concern. Admissions processes and requirements for graduate students differ significantly from those for undergraduate students. These differences may influence housing needs and availability for graduate students. A significant amount of new housing is currently under construction. There is an ongoing discussion about whether this new housing will adequately address the current housing challenges faced by graduate students.

## **New Diversity Member Recruitment**

We recruited around 16 new members this year, but many of our events are at odd times, so we do face issues with unavailability.

## **Legislative Affairs - Alex Seto ([pgsg.lad@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.lad@gmail.com))**

- Ongoing monitoring of legislation concerning graduate students
- Collaboration with legislative affairs at other universities

## **Career Chair - Desmond Mensah([pgsg.career@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.career@gmail.com))**

### **1. Advanced Degree Resume for Graduate Student - September 3rd, 2024**

The Advanced Degree Resume Workshop was a highly engaging event that drew over 40 graduate students eager to enhance their resume-writing skills. The workshop provided an excellent platform for students to learn how to effectively write their resumes for both academic and industry positions. The facilitators from CCO offered practical advice and emphasized the importance of customizing resumes to align with specific career goals.

Participants were actively involved throughout the session, contributing to a dynamic and interactive atmosphere. The opportunity to receive real-time feedback on resume drafts was

particularly valuable, allowing attendees to make immediate improvements based on expert guidance.

## 2. Accountability Club Revival

During the recent call-out event, the Career Team announced the revival of the Accountability Club, a new initiative where graduate students can set goals and work together to achieve them. The club aims to create a supportive community focused on personal and academic growth. Regular meetings will allow members to track progress, share challenges, and offer mutual encouragement. The Accountability Club is set to start soon, and we encourage all interested graduate students to join us in this exciting new venture.

## Community Chair - Sindusha Mysore Saiprasad([pgsg.community@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.community@gmail.com))

### 1. Recruitment:

- a. Recruited 10 members through the callout: 4 new and 6 recurring members

### 2. MHAW planning:

- b. A meeting arranged with CAPS representative Christopher, Crystal and the MHAW club president Mohammad
- c. Current ideas for the MHAW: Candle making, mug painting, pottery at 'All fired up', Karaoke or Salsa or Silent Disco, Baking & Ice cream making, Indoor badminton/soccer tournaments, Limited self-care kit giveaway. Speakers could be invited to the events to promote mental wellbeing and awareness.
- d. More ideas and budget are to be discussed after the meeting with the CAPS and MHAW group representative.
- e. Current date preferred by the community team for MHAW: October 21st to 25th.

## Life Chair - Praga Giri([pgsg.life@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.life@gmail.com))

### Fall Semester

1. Welcome Social (August)
  - a. Over 200 people attended.
  - b. At Lafayette Brewing Company
  - c. Spent- \$2500
2. Coffee Corner (September)
  - a. Expecting ~200 people at Greyhouse Coffee Shop
3. Oregon vs Purdue Football Tailgate (October)
  - a. 40 tickets are to be purchased for the giveaway.

**Grant Review and Allocation Chair - Secret Permenter ([pgsg.grantreview@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.grantreview@gmail.com))**

1. The Transitional Housing Grant went live on July 26, 2024 and has received 20 applications.
  - a. The grant is still open and will remain open until all funds are exhausted. We still have \$
  - b. There is a current vacancy for the THG vice chair. I have received some interest for this position, but if anyone else is interested please email me.
  - c. I will also be working with the newly-elected vice chair to write up legislation to improve the THG. New grants take a lot of trial and error to perfect, so we want to make sure that this grant runs smoothly for future applicants and PGSG boards.
2. The first round of Professional, Travel, and GSOGA grants have been sent out to reviewers – before the PGSG Callout we had over 30 reviewers, but I am hopeful that we will have more now that the call out has happened.
3. Working with the Treasurer to make the reimbursement process better for applicants and to streamline the process.
4. I will be working with the Accessibility VC to get the grant up and running this year.
5. We continue to work on updating the GRAC website.
6. There is a vacancy for the GSOGA/Symposium Vice Chair position. Any interested persons can email me for more information.