



Graduate Representative Organization

GC Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET September 5th, 2023

Mergentaller 111 and [Zoom](#)

Meeting Slides: [GRO GC Meeting 9/5/2023](#)

I. Call to Order and Agenda Review

- A. Orientation for incoming reps started at 5:45 pm. The GC meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

II. Welcome to the GC! Orientation Slides and Review

- A. [GRO GC Meeting - FYI Slides](#) presented by Gabriel (Grad Involvement) and Lakshmi (Secretary). Recording for the orientation can be found here - [GRO GC Onboarding 2023-24 Recording](#)

- Roles & responsibilities for the reps primarily revolves around staying connected and accessible to graduate students in their department.
- Rep duties include attending GC meetings, representing their student body and voting for GRO motions.
- Meeting calendar QR code was shared, all reps can embed this calendar with a regularly updated agenda.
- Attendance criteria: reps need to attend at least half the GC meetings in a semester and need to vote for all motions in an attended meeting. If criteria is not met by a rep, then all graduate students of the department lose eligibility for conference grants. Attendance will be taken by the Secretary (Lakshmi).
- Voting logistics and general functioning of GC was discussed.
- GC of 2023-24 is made of 32 active departments with 1-2 reps each and the E-Board consists of 18 members.
- Sources of information shared: by-laws, GRO website.
- Monthly summaries would be prepared by the Secretary and a rep volunteer. Reps would be recommended to forward it to their departments.

Rep (unknown): I'm here to understand the difference between GRO and TRU.

Gabriel: I didn't plan on covering this in the session today but the main difference is that TRU is more representative of PhD students in terms of payroll etc. but for masters' students GRO would be the main representative body. GRO is also

integrated into other committees and is responsible for social events as well.

Gabriel: Another thing with attendance is that we do not wish to strongly impose the rule that if reps do not meet the attendance criteria, the department loses eligibility for conference grants. We do understand that we are also students and we have a lot of other commitments. This is something that we can vote against in the later GC sessions maybe.

Rep (unknown): Roughly how often is there voting? Is there voting in all GC meetings?

Lakshmi: There is usually voting in all GC meetings unless a quorum isn't reached. Now we don't wish to unload too much information right now but what **quorum means is if at least half the active members of the GC are in attendance for a given session. If quorum is not met, no voting motions would be carried out in that session, only a general discussion would be held and voting would be scheduled for the next GC meeting.** If there is any clarification needed on voting logistics please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

B. Call for Volunteers for Events

Michael: Welcome to the GC everyone, I'm the co-chair and this is Ali Siddiqui, the other co-chair. Our main focus today was going to be the intercampus election but since the candidates aren't here on time we can go to cover other items on the agenda until they're here. One thing we've always faced and what we want to change going forward is to bridge the gap between the EBoard and the GC. How we plan to do that is by involving the GC in our upcoming social events. We'll put up calls for volunteers for events soon and this may give you an idea as to how we go about events. Another aspect where **we need your help is in circulating the monthly summaries that would be prepared at the end of each month, detailing all GRO activities of that month.**

III. Elections: Intercampus Chair and Intercampus Coordinator

Michael: I'm going to read through the election proceedings now since we have all candidates in the meeting. I will be the elections officer. Nominees can be made from the floor where you can nominate either yourself/someone else. Each nominee would be given 2 mins to give their speech followed by 4-5 minutes of questioning. After all nominees have presented, we'll have a group discussion and as the elections officer I cannot involve myself in this discussion so all questions you have for the co-chairs would be directed to Ali. We will do secret ballot voting for elections unlike what Lakshmi walked you through in general voting. We shouldn't know whom each of us is voting for so online folks would be sending in their vote privately to the secretary (meeting host) and in-person folks would be turning in a piece of paper.

Radhika (Biology rep): Would each rep vote separately?

Michael: No, there would only be one vote per department so if there is more than one rep you can discuss with each other and arrive at a consensus. I'm also really happy to see the attendance for today's meeting, given that its been a while.

Ali: We're also hoping to do more in-person meetings.

Michael: In the future, we also plan to have food as an incentive for our in-person meetings so there should be food going forward but we can't confirm just yet given that our budget hasn't been approved.

Rep (unknown): I had a question with respect to the voting form, so would the polling ID be something given to us by our department?

Michael: We'll provide you with that. This won't apply to the elections and secret ballot voting. Importantly, do not say your vote publicly, send it privately to only Lakshmi. Any other questions?

Rep (unknown): Would there be any other vote for today?

Michael: We'd have a vote to close the meeting for today I guess but I don't want to enforce the attendance rule for today's meeting as I do believe that all departments are transitioning with new reps.

Nominees for the intercampus chair: Ahan Dalia, Satvik Kethireddy, Will Watkins

Results: Satvik Kethireddy is elected as the Intercampus Chair.

Nominees for the intercampus co-ordinator: Ahan Dalia, Will Watkins, Shubham Patil, Akshaat Singh, Sanket Patil, Pariichay Limbodia, Qinfen Song

Results: Will Watkins is elected as the Intercampus Co-ordinator.

IV. Dean Ed Meeting Reminder: Call for submissions

Michael: I wanted to remind those part of WSE regarding the meeting with Dean Ed tomorrow (September 6th) at 12 pm. Some of you have already reached out to me confirming your attendance and the things you'd like to talk about. If you haven't already reached out to me, please do and we can forward your topics to the Dean's office so that they come prepared to answer your questions. Are there any concerns regarding this?

Gabriel: So I had joined one such meeting with the Dean of KSAS so I definitely recommend attending these meetings. Prepare sharp questions and its a great opportunity to meet the person running your school.

Michael: The next meeting with Dean Ed would be in December and we're still working out the next meeting with the KSAS Dean but if you're part of the WSE we definitely recommend you to attend this. Another thing I'd like to inform you is that for the next GC meeting we'd have GRO advisors attending (associate deans of WSE and KSAS, LEED office members working with the GRO).

V. GRO Committee Service

Michael: If you've noticed we have hyperlinks at the end of every mail, where we've attached the link for the GRO website. There should be a link on the website about all the committees we're required to serve on and who is currently representing us on that committee. The members from these committees would soon be giving out updates from these committees. For example, the doctor of philosophy board would focus on how doctoral degrees are awarded, if anything needs to be changed with the current system on that etc. So if any of you have anything specific to bring up to any of these committees, please reach out to the corresponding GRO member serving on this committee.

VI. Open Discussion & Questions

Gabriel: I wanted to announce the **formation of a new transparency committee that will invite people from both within and outside the GC to maybe have coffee and discuss a few things in general.** I will be sending out an email soon regarding this.

Michael: If there are no questions with respect to the transparency committee I think we can proceed to adjourning this meeting. With no AV support in this room it would be very difficult to display the polling ID and collect votes for adjourning the meeting, instead we would just directly adjourn today's meeting. **No attendance would be taken for this meeting.**

Pariichay: I wanted to know when the call for funding other graduate groups would be posted by the GRO, is there a schedule for that?

Michael: We haven't opened that up yet as our budget hasn't been approved but once that's done we'd be putting it up very soon.

Michael: General logistics would be through the mailing list which is regularly updated and you can definitely use the google calendar that Gabriel has prepared, which will have an associated agenda for every meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.