



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, | 7:00 p.m.  
Law Auditorium

## CALL TO ORDER

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

## OPEN FORUM

Tyre “T.J.” McDowell (Dean of Students) came to GSA to introduce himself and assure students his office is open to any suggestions.

Students for Palestine representative came to GSA to speak on his organization, asking for GSA endorsement as well as from GSA reps. Asked for the signing of organizations to sign a petition and to expand the coalition.

President Venn Jemkur speaks on report from students being detained and the uncertainty in the US.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### President Jemkur

Had meeting with President Gold. Katie will give a perspective on the implications of the meeting in terms of representation and Board of Regents.

I have been meeting with leadership members and discussed funding, research and what's happening in terms of federal funding. Regarding research and funding uncertainty, frozen funding has been reactivated, Fullbright students are getting funding for the current semester. Spoke on what was discussed at the faculty senate meeting, it was discussed that the university will continue research. They agreed to establish multiple defenses compact for Big10 universities in defense of academic freedom and integrity, this was passed today for all faculty senates to put forth a statement together.

### Past President Mowat

Had the opportunity to join the meeting with system president. Speaks on this being an amazing opportunity as it opens dialogue between graduate students. Meeting showed the distinction between undergraduate and graduate students.

### Executive Vice President Vasquez

Did an in-depth comparison between UNL and Big 10 universities regarding available funding for conference travel as well as different funds available to promote research among graduate students. I found that other universities offer many different types of research awards and

allocate more research money for graduate research. Research papers show that higher funding leads to better research profile of a university. Presented these findings to President Gold. Worked during summer to get research funding for graduate students and secured \$25000 in funding for the semester Fall 2025. GSA hopes to allocate this money to restore GTAP and to give funding for research to graduate students.

#### Vice President of Student Affairs Hafeez

No report. Reminded students to email her to update GSA about things happening in meetings in external committees across UNL

#### Vice President of Representation Skinner

Asked about diversity and inclusion changes and use of legal services at the meeting with President Gold. President Gold mentioned the university will comply with Federal guidelines as the university receives numerous funding from them.

#### Vice President of Finance Morris

Discussing GTAP interpretation with leadership. President Gold mentioned his office will work on the way student fees is being interpreted. GSA will hold GTAP elections for the 2025-2026 semester.

Has been actively responding to email regarding no GTAP being awarded for summer 2025.

Working on removing GTAP from university advertisement. Encouraged students to apply for the office of graduate studies travel grants. Encouraged students to email GTAP if any suggestions/recommendations as well as GSA reps to communicate this information to their departments.

GTAP for 2025 reimbursement and big expenditures is almost finished. Prioritizing use of GSA money allocation for the remainder of the semester.

Will work on a statement from the executive board so GSA representatives can share it with their respective departments.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Distributed SPGP funds, working on offices for reimbursement. Met with office of graduate students regarding student research days. Asked for help to judge undergraduate research posters (need help for the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 12pm for 2:30 pm).

#### Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Uncertainty regarding DEI. Has been attending DNI meeting.

Faculty DNI meeting showed frustration across the university, specifically groups across the university.

#### Graduate Travel Award Program (GTAP) Committee

Finishing GTAP awards for Spring 2025. Emailed certificates. Will email forms to recipients to share statements in order to be recognized and to share how GTAP was impactful to them.

### Quality of Life Committee

Working on canvas orientation resources documents for incoming graduate students. Spoke on meeting with President Gold.

### Social Events Committee

Murder mystery night/dinner (Thursday April 24 at Kiewit Hall  
Mixer on Friday (malpractice) - will be uploaded to website.

### Communications Committee

Updated survey for GSA representatives survey – will be sent out in the following weeks.

### External Committees Report

No reports

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

Art representative asked about changes in how departments and graduate representations is being affected. For us to have a clear representation to visualize changes. Katie spoke on representation of graduate students across the university with changes and restructuring happening across the university.

- Attendance
- Absences/gaps (how do we visualize who is not here)

Are there trends according to university wide changes?

- VP of representation Skinner will work on this initiative and involvement.
- Need for institutional involvement.

Social for Fall semester (hand over orientation social) - speaking notes

### GSA Bill #8 (moved to next month)

### GSA Discussion Session (moved to next month)

## ELECTIONS

### Vice President of Student Affairs

Faiza Hafeez

### Vice President of Representation

Colten Skinner

### Vice President of Finance

John Jostes

### Academic Affairs Committee (Co-)Chair

Hasnat Alam (co-chair)  
Prabhashis Bose (co-chair)

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Co-)Chair  
Shalom (co-chair)

Graduate Travel Award Program (GTAP) Committee (Co-)Chair  
Meryl (co-chair)  
Drew (co-chair)

\*Professional Development Committee (Co-)Chair

Quality of Life Committee (Co-)Chair  
Promise

Social Events Committee (Co-)Chair  
Ally scholl

Communications Committee (Co-)Chair  
Kenanile (co-chair)

ADJOURNMENT @ 9:24

YAY!