

Graduate Assistants United

January 2018 Member Meeting
January 16, 2018, 5 p.m.

Brief GAU Introduction (for those who have never attended)

1. We are the graduate student union on campus which bargains with the administration for GA rights.
2. For example, we have obtained health insurance, increased minimum stipends, obtained fee deferment, etc.
3. We also provide legal representation in any employment dispute, but only if you are a member at the time of the incident.
4. Senators attend the twice-annual UFF meeting, which is composed of GAs from other Florida colleges and Florida faculty; there, we motion and vote for policies that UFF will advocate for in the Florida legislature.

Elections

1. Karena double-checked who has already voted online and compared that to the list of people who have signed in.
2. If you are a member and have *not* already voted by email, you can vote at the meeting.
3. Elections for organizing co-chair, two new senators.
 - a. Organizing Co-Chair duties: Help organize orientations and coordinate membership efforts.
 - b. Senator duties: Represent member priorities at Senate meetings, help develop positions and policies, and vote on legislative motions at Senate meetings.
 - c. Election procedures -
 - i. For Organizing Co-Chair - simple majority vote.
 - ii. For the Senate election - each person voting can vote for as many candidates as they like, no more than once per candidate.
 - d. Organizing Co-Chair candidates: Matthew Chernesky, Hanisha Tatapudi.
 - i. Hanisha elected; total of 25 online votes, 17 in-person votes.
 - e. Senator candidates: Matthew Chernesky, Kathryn Dorn, Ofelia Sanchez, Deven Soondar.
 - i. Deven not present; Ofelia could not be there and sent in advance notice, so Erin read her statement.
 - ii. Ofelia, Kathryn elected; total of 25 online votes, 17 in-person votes.
4. New head steward needed - can be appointed by Erin and Marcy. Call for volunteers!

Outreach

1. A steward communicates to their department for GAU and vice versa. Call for stewards!
 - a. Reminder from first-time attendees - people tend to assume that GAs are automatically in the GAU, and don't necessarily know much about what GAU does.
 - b. People have a fear of potentially losing their jobs if they contradict authority.
 - c. If anyone has ideas, please feel free to volunteer for steward, or just feel free to volunteer your ideas! Send ideas to Karena.
 - i. Student chapters have executive boards; maybe invite representatives to our meetings? (Suggestion from Hanisha.)
 - ii. Anthropology Department mailed ~25 postcards about the tax debacle last semester; they'd like to invite other people to participate in similar actions, maybe weekly.
2. Does your GSO have a steward? If not, want to be your department's steward? Okay to have several stewards per department.
3. Do you want a department social? (GAU can pay for alcohol, unlike student government...)
4. GAU T-shirts, bags, buttons distributed to members.
5. Vision and dental discount programs included as part of USF insurance for GAs - this has been announced.
6. International Student Chair position is open - Erin and Marcy could appoint someone?