



MEMORANDUM

TO: Prof. Sonia Salari
Academic Senate President

FROM: Dave Kieda
Dean, Graduate School

DATE: March 20, 2023

SUBJECT: 2022-2023 Graduate Assembly Task Force report

On October 3, 2022, the Academic Senate voted to reinvigorate the Graduate Assembly Task force, with the intent that the GA Task Force would explore the formation of a representative body for Graduate and Professional Students, and begin the process of forming the Graduate Assembly. This memorandum is being submitted to the University of Utah Academic Senate to report on the activities and status of the Graduate Assembly Task Force.

2022-2023 Graduate Assembly Task Force members

David Kieda (Dean, The Graduate School)
Julio Facelli (Distinguished Professor, Biomedical Informatics)
Tucker Hermans (Associate Professor, School of Computing)
Timothy Brusseau Jr, (Professor, Health & Kinesiology)
Ethan Foley (Student Governance Advisor, ASUU)
Sarah Lucas (Graduate Research Assistant, Human Genetics)
Taylor Gregory (Graduate Assistant, ASUU)
Joshua Bartkoske (Graduate Research Assistant, Physics and Astronomy)
Srabani Karmakar (Graduate Research Assistant, Metallurgical Engineering)
Amaya Sinha (Graduate Teaching Assistant, Physics and Astronomy)

Other Individuals Collaborating with the GS Task Force

Muskan Walia (Presidential Intern, ASUU)
C.J. Reid (Office Assistant, Office of Undergraduate Research)
Anthony Tenney (ASUU Senate)

2022-2023 Graduate Assembly Task Force activities

The GA Task Force held meetings on 10/31/22, 11/18/22, 12/19/22, 1/24/23 and 2/15/23

The main activities of the Task Force were:

The Graduate School 302 Park Building

201 South Presidents Circle
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-9016
(801) 581-7642 · FAX (801) 585-6749
www.utah.edu/gradschool/

- a) During Fall 2022, the task force collected data regarding the different types of Graduate Assemblies in the PAC-12, Big-10, and University of California institutions. The review examined the different purposes of the Graduate And Professional Student assembly (GAPS) at these institutions, including collective bargaining, advising the graduate dean and administration, and providing feedback on graduate student policies, of graduate stipend levels, and graduate student benefits.

The Task Force considered the merits of a standalone versus an assembly that is closely linked (or a division of) a larger student assembly (like ASUU). In subsequent discussions, the Task Force decided that leveraging the resources and infrastructure at ASUU could be the best way to bootstrap the UU GAPS assembly into being quickly. Consequently, the Task Force endorsed moving forward with the inaugural GAPS as an expanded, distinct effort within ASUU.

- b) The GA Task Force engaged with ASUU leadership in January 2023 meeting to discuss the idea on the formation of the GAPS associated with ASUU, sharing of resources, and the development of a path forward to advance the GAPS assembly. These discussions continued through Spring semester 2023.
- c) Discussions with ASUU in February 2023 revealed that it would be difficult to develop a full set of bylaws and constitution for GAPS by the end of the legislative year. These items would be needed for formal approval of the GAPS within ASUU. Instead, ASUU leadership endorsed an alternate plan to develop the constitutional and bylaws with ASUU through the formation of Graduate Student representative body using the mechanism of the ASUU college Student Councils (CSC). A graduate student council (GSC), equivalent to a CSC, would be formed and be responsible for writing the GAPS constitution and bylaws during 2022-2024. Once it has its bylaws established, the GSC can enter a conversation with ASUU about how it can more fully participate within the student government.
- d) A joint resolution for the creation of the GSC was written in March 2023 (See appendix) and has been submitted to the ASUU Senate Exec and ASUU Assembly. The proposal has been discussed with ASUU representatives and offices, and all are supportive. The proposal will be voted upon at the formal ASUU Senate committee on 3/30/23, followed by a vote by the full ASUU Assembly.

2023-2024 Graduate Assembly Task Force

Once the GSC is approved, it is recommended that the ad hoc Senate Task Force on Graduate Assembly be disbanded, as the GSC will serve as the conduit of the development of the GAPS constitution and bylaws within ASUU. The work of the Graduate Assembly Task Force will therefore be complete.