

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, April 21st, 2023 11 a.m.- Paris Room (in-person and ZOOM).

I. Executive Reports

Tea Wheat:

- Presidential election still open for applicants!
- Remember to advocate for Sexual Assault Awareness Month!

Ruby Oboro-Offerie: No update this week!

Gabe King:

- 2023 graduate expo was a huge success! Thank you to all who came/ helped and congrats to the award recipients!
- Be sure to get your graduate cords!

Justin Richards:

Graduate Student Appreciation Week is next week!

- Goodie bags on Monday
- Grab-n-Go breakfast on Tuesday!
- Jimmy John's/ picnic next Wednesday

Jessica Meadows:

Boost your mental health!

- Sleep 7-9 hours each night
- Take breaks often
- Connect with others frequently!
- Recognize your feelings
- Talk to someone if needed
- Hydrate
- Pay attention to your nutrition
- Move your body and get outside!

We are in need of 17 more graduate student mentors! Please sign up and aid the transfers!

Elian Mackey:

- No update this week!
- Will need helpers next semester!

Attainea Toulon:

- Thank you to committee members for their dedication and contributing to Inclusion Events!
- Holy Festival on the Library Quad at 1 p.m.!
- Asian American/ Pacific Islanders Heritage Month! Pay attention to events on the schedule!

Myra & Dr. Timm:

- Thank you GSAC Executive Team for supporting the Graduate School Awards Ceremony!
- Congratulations to our two GSAC members who have been inducted into the Hammand Society Scholars Class of 2023, Jess and Ruby!

Word from the dean:

- Thank you for a great year! This program has been organized very well because of students like you!
- The graduate expo went off with a bang! Students deserve to be honored for their hard work.
- We're at the end of the semester, where things are the hardest. We're sending our best wishes and we know you all can get through this.

II. President/ VP Elections

President nomination: Elian Mackey

Why me?

- Involvement in GSAC for his first year has inspired me to get more involved. I want more people to be able to see our stuff through posters and engagement more with the student body. I want to improve programming through Diversity events and also through regular graduate school events! There are many great ideas that can be implemented next semester that didn't get done this year. Lastly, I want graduate students to feel heard, even the ones who cannot always be present in GSAC!

Questions:

Did Ruby persuade you to do this?

- No. I originally declined because I was worried that I wouldn't be able to put 100% of my effort into the program, but now I feel much more prepared to.

What do you see as a challenge for you as you enter this role?

- I've experienced challenges while on Exec Board, and I believe the initial transition would be difficult and trying to continue what the previous president left behind (while bringing my own personality to this position).

You mentioned graduate student voices are not always heard. How would you plan to ensure that they are heard?

- There are many things that graduate students are often nervous to discuss difficult topic (i.e. fair payment) and I plan to involve myself in these problems in and out of GSAC.

What are some ideas for how you could expand engagement?

- Working closely with the future Public Relations VP. Increased social media presence. Having exec faces out at all events as much as possible, not just GSAC events.

Closed Discussion and Secret Ballot Voting.

Elected: Elian Mackey!

Vice President Nomination: Okewa Owoeye

Why me?

- Being in GSAC will help me bring in and hone my skills for working with other graduate students. I want to help the community grow through international student outreach, because it has impacted me. The Graduate School is very busy and I believe others aren't fully aware that they can get more than they already are getting. I want to benefit GSAC through working with Attainea and other members of exec to aid in bringing the community together (through activities and improved communication of values).

Questions:

How would you engage online graduate students?

- The online community are also students. Offering online students an opportunity to participate in events either in-person or virtually is something I plan to do!

Follow-up: not everyone can come in-person. How can we involve out-of-state students?

- Giving them a voice through virtual events and helping them realize that they get a say in what happens at EIU.

How are you going to lend your experience as an international student to this position?

- Prioritizing my time and putting my best foot forward to as many events as possible.

Closed Discussion and Secret Ballad Voting.

Elected: Okewa Oyoeye!

III. Department Updates

Music:

- Concert tonight at 7:30 in Dounda!
- Choir concert Sunday 4 pm!
- Wind symphony concert Wednesday!

Human Services:

- Conference is over! It was a huge success!
- Wrapping up labs and other work.

Student Accounting Society:

- Food donations end today (non-perishables). Come to Lumpkin to donate!
- Wednesday, free donuts given to students for event.

Aging Studies:

- Conference- both online and in-person- has completed.

Counseling and Higher Education:

- Full-time coordinator for school department needed!
- Consider being a mentor!
- Hooding Ceremony is around the corner!
- Orientation in August!

CSA:

- Theses are currently being defended!
- Three Hammand Scholar recipients this year!
- Transitioning into "Celebrating Mode!"

Communication Studies:

- Theses are about to begin being defended!

Clinical Psychology:

- 11 incoming first-years!

- Current first-years have secured their internship sights.
- Second years defended theses!

Have a great summer!