

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, September 16th, 2022 11 a.m.- 7th Street Underground (in-person and ZOOM).

I. Next meeting: Sept. 30th in the 7th Street Underground.

II. Executive Reports

a. Board members:

- i. Tea Wheat
- ii. Ruby Oboro-Offerie
- iii. Jessica Meadows
- iv. Gabe King
- v. Myra Taylor
- vi. Dr. Timm

III. Words from the Graduate Dean

- a. Library resources readily available- check website and ask faculty for more information.
- b. Differences between graduate school and undergraduate school. Adapting to the program is important- making friends, scheduling assignments, etc.
- c. Representation matters- how you present yourself and represent your program is important.
- d. Grants-
 - a. William's Travel Grant: available for students traveling for research and conferences.
 - b. Research and Creative Activity Grant: available for students looking to do research on behalf of their program or for additional resources.
 - Available in the both the fall and spring semesters!
- e. Tip for stress management and wellness: taking care of yourself matters. If you are ever in need of assistance, the Dean's door is always open.

IV. Elections and Open Positions

- A. Overview: three positions open. A student is nominated and it is seconded by a member of the board. The nominated student expresses why they are deserving of the position and a vote is held.**

Open Position: *Vice President of Programming*

Duties:

- *Assist building the GSAC community through programs/events.*
- *Coordinate Guest speakers for each semester*

- *Plan and execute events of GSAC*
 - *Social*
 - *Educational*
 - *Professional*
 - *Volunteer*

Bi. Nomination

- Motion to open the floor
- Seconded by MBA
- Communication Studies nominates Taylor Comer (accepted)
- Seconded by College Student Affairs
- Communication Studies nominates Cynthia Kmety (accepted)
- Seconded by CDS
- MBA nominates Okewa Owoeye
- Seconded by Comm. Studies
- President moved to close nomination
- Seconded by MBA

Ci. Nominees Speeches

- Taylor Comer
- Fits position because she is a worker in the civic engagement volunteer office, works for the food pantry, operation: EIU Votes, works with the social justice society, degree in sociology and criminology with connections to staff, coordinates fundraising programs, philanthropy with SAKIS, volunteered with the animal shelter (TAWS for PAWS). She is willing to coordinate with programs, including those she is unfamiliar with (perhaps by potlucks or game nights).
- Open floor for questions
 - Ruby: How would you combine your GA with GSAC?
 - Answer: Service-to-go projects. GSAC can participate in volunteer events such as blanket-making or aiding with a non-profit. Wants feedback before scheduling anything to see if GSAC would be interested.
 - Tea: How do you balance saying yes with saying no?
 - Answer: Addressing concerns for a specific topic. Validating that an idea is a good one, but may not work at this time.
- Motion to end Q&A
- By comm studies seconded by MBA.

- Cynthia Kmety
- Second year interpersonal comm major w/ focus on health communications. In her GA, she plans programs including presentations for orgs across campus (50+ presentations last year), Smores and Snores event to promote sleep health, tabling experience, involved w/ Earthwise environmental club in undergrad, Habitat for Humanity, Student Volunteer Center, Food Pantry, Acapella Group, works with Scheduling and SAKIS, coordinating with campus police for improving student safety.
- Open floor for questions:
 - Comm Studies: How would you manage your schedule if you are very busy through the HERC?
 - Answer: I manage my schedule so that I can be as involved and never leave any emails or concerns unnoticed.
- Motion to close floor:
- Motion by CDS, seconded by MBA
- Okewa Owoeye
- Fits position because she works a GA and is involved in the Office of International Students, and with her adventurous personality could bring a lot to the table for this position.
- Open floor for questions.
 - Health Comm: Can you explain your duties in your program?
 - Answer: Help professors with grading and coordinating MBA social gathering events.
 - MBA: If you could plan one event for GSAC, what would you plan?
 - Answer: An event where international students and domestic students to collaborate. EIU is doing a great

job of welcoming international students, but more work needs to be done. There is a need for connection for the students and it is important that we all come together.

- Discussion: One minute discussion w/ department, three-minute discussion all together.
 - Motion to end discussion: Aging Studies seconded by CDS
- **Secret Ballet Voting**
 - **Decision: Taylor Comer!**

Open Positon: *Vice President of Public Relations*

Duties:

- *Creates all print and digital marketing materials*
- *Creates and published monthly newsletter*
- *Social media and website management*
- *Public and campus coordination*

Bii. Nominations:

- Motion to open:
- Health Comm seconded by Aging Studies

- Sustainability nominates Elian Mackey (accepts)

- Seconded by MBA

- Ruby nominates Attainea Toulon (declined)

- Communication Studies nominates Justin Richards (accepts)

- Seconded by Health Promotion

- Motion to close vote: CDS seconded by MBA

Cii. Nominee Speeches

- Elian Mackey:
 - Fits position because he focuses on intentionality and bringing his best effort to it. Has a GA in the food department and works with

marketing for dining and housing (runs social media accounts). Attempting to bring more diversity into various orgs through social media and using various creative methods forward. RA in undergraduate with connections to marketing and advertising programs/events.

- Open floor to questions
 - MBA: How are you going to bring intentionality into the program?
 - Answer: He does not want to come up with all the ideas for events. He wants to open the floor for other programs to get involved and fulfill their needs. Wants a genuine connection to his position opposed to simply fulfilling the requirements.
 - Health promotion: What is your preferred format on social media?
 - Answer: Using creativity while properly conveying information to the student body on upcoming events. Outside of social media, he will have access to flyers and through marketing events.
- Justin Richards:
 - Fits position because he has a background in graphic design and social media managing for different orgs on campus. He is also in charge of marketing for student life and collaborates through marketing and social media to stretch information to as many people as possible. Has experience with newsletters and PRs to make advertisements looks both official and creative. Has previous experience in this position, but did not have much opportunity to use it to the degree he desires.
 - Open the floor for questions:
 - Aging studies: What would you do differently from last year, this year?
 - Answer: He never had the chance to do much because events and marketing was prepared beforehand. He wants to have a hands-on approach to social media and marketing since he is most familiar with it.
 - MBA: How do you intend to handle this position with a busy schedule? How would you handle being overwhelmed?

- Answer: Has his events and meetings scheduled out and will manage his free time around it. Working as a GA, he knows how to properly manage his time. As for being overwhelmed, he has other team members running social media platforms with him in case he is unable to fulfill a specific duty.
 - Discussion
 - Motion to end discussion: Comm Studies seconded by MBA
- **Secret Ballet Voting:**
 - **Decision: Elian Mackey!**

Open Position: *Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity*

Duties:

- *Serves as a liaison between GSAC and student body.*
- *Focuses on the inclusion of all students.*

Biii. Nominations:

- Motion to open floor:
- Comm Studies seconded by MBA
- College Student Affairs nominates Okewa Owoeye (accepted)
- Seconded by Comm Studies
- Comm Studies nominates Attainea Toulon (accepted)
- Seconded by CDS
- Nomination to close floor:
- Aging Studies seconded by CDS

Ciii. Nominee Speeches

- Okewa Owoeye
- Fits position because she believes that unity is very important in this position. Member of the Nigerian Student Association and currently organizing upcoming MBA event to ensure that students can learn from one another and come together. Past experiences with diversity organization.
 - Taylor: Besides African students, how would you integrate students from other cultures?

- Answer: The events would not be limited to African students. They would be open to all cultures to learn from one another.
 - CDS: What kinds of topics would you prioritize for this organization?
 - Answer: Racism. Wants to address how it is common not only between cultures, but how it is prevalent in one's own culture.
 - Ruby: Besides the Nigerian Student Association, how would she involve other groups?
 - Answer: We can get other events involved in GSAC to show that they are important and heard.
- Attainea Toulon:
 - Due to a diverse background, she has been interested and involved in various organizations including BSU and NASO and continues to look for other ones. Through these organizations, she has begun speaking with a large diverse group of students. Thesis will include diversity and inclusion- involving both students and faculty. Wants to focus on sustainability and combatting racism. To her, diversity includes, race, sexuality and ethnicity.
 - Question: How do you see yourself as an educator?
 - Answer: When we are solving problems, education is most important. Setting up topics or webinars on inclusion involves all students and faculty. Wants to introduce new and unique ideas to explore diversity- possibly faith-based concerts!
 - Ruby: How would you work with the LGBTQ+ Community?
 - Answer: In terms of LGBTQ+, she has connections to Tanya Willard and is working on a paper to reduce LGBTQ+ discrimination. She wants to work with Tanya in this center for future collaborations on this topic.

Discussion: Motion to open floor

- Aging Studies seconded by Comm Studies.

- **Secret Ballet Voting:**

Decision: Attainea Toulon!

V. Department Updates

- a. School Psych- inclusiveness with children.
- b. Health Communications- merged w/ nutrition department! This includes crossovers and collaborations between both programs.
- c. Communication Studies- N/A
- d. MBA- upcoming event: Sept. 30th at Charleston Lake for anyone interested in MBA. The program has a new chair member.
- e. Communication Disorders and Science: event on Oct. 21st on autism and augmentative communication. Also, dept. chair is organizing a trip to Trinidad and Tobago for interested students.
- f. College Student Affairs: upcoming conference in October for undergraduate students. RISE conference Oct. 7th on diversity and inclusion.
- g. Aging Studies: Promoting program to recruit students. In the process of arranging a Pen Pal program and assisted living. Changed from an M.A. to M.S. program and can be a second degree.
- h. Counseling: Second years took Comprehensive Exams. CSI is organizing events that will be disclosed at a later date, but it will involve students. New chair- Catherine Polydore.
- i. Sustainability: Encouraging residents to save electricity in various ways. Electric use is through the roof and becoming problematic. Throughout the school year, there will be events on how to save electricity. Renewable energy center is accessible to students now. Energy center visit Friday, Sept. 23rd, 2022.
- j. Clinical Psychology: 2nd years are doing internships and studying for their licensure. Dr. Allen is back from sabbatical and can talk more with students. Looking for a new faculty member.
- k. Human Services: Looking for new chair members.
- l. Chemistry: holding a picnic at 5 p.m. Location available online.

VI. Upcoming Meetings

Meeting Sept. 30th, 2022 at 11 a.m. in 7th Street Underground.

Theme: Ice Cream!