

GSAC General Body Meeting

Friday, September 18th, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

- I. Guest speakers
 - a. VP of Student Affairs – Anne Flaherty
 - i. Focused on improving mental health services on campus
 - ii. Wants students to reach out to her if they have any concerns or ideas about improvements on campus (agflaherty@eiu.edu)
 - b. “Mental Health in Grad School” – EIU Counseling Clinic
 - i. Counseling clinic
 1. Offers individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric care, consultations, and outreach
 2. Setting up an appointment
 - a. Call 217-581-3413
 - ii. Reasons students seek services
 1. Adjustment/transitional issues, relationship issues, depression, anxiety, anger/irritability, suicidal ideation, grief, trauma, substance use, eating disorders, race related stress, identity issues, family issues, stress/time management, and more
 - iii. Finding balance in your wellness
 1. Physical, mental, emotional, spiritual wellness
 - iv. Maintaining connection
 1. Virtual Netflix parties and dinner dates
 2. Socially distanced activities
 3. Establish group chats with classmates
 - v. Tips for working from home
 1. Designate a workspace
 2. Get ready for the day like you normally would
 3. Create a schedule
- II. Executive reports
 - a. President – Zachary Sandoval
 - i. Pantherpalooza on Monday from 4-7PM
 1. Going to register GSAC for this event
 2. If anyone is interested, reach out to him
 - a. Carson is signed up
 - ii. Cross-disciplinary research
 1. Looking into this topic, might be presenting on this topic
 - b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. No new updates
 - c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins

- i. Working on social events for us to participate in this semester
 - d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. Going to be highlighting GSAC members on social media
 - ii. Probably going to be emailing the group soon; be on the lookout for an email
 - e. Graduate student dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Voter registration drive
 - 1. September 22nd from 10AM-12:30PM in South Quad
 - a. Organized by CEVO
 - b. Hoping GSAC members will be willing to help
 - c. Could also be a good networking opportunity
 - d. Let Brock know if you're willing to help
 - ii. Sending out a survey to international graduate students about their experiences
 - 1. A few open-ended questions
 - a. Why they chose EIU, how COVID-19 has impacted their academic experience, how we can better support them during this time
 - 2. A good opportunity to get some insight; ties into our mental-health theme
- III. Departmental updates
 - a. Aging studies - no updates
 - b. Biology – no updates
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
 - d. Chemistry – no updates
 - e. Communication – no updates
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
 - g. Counseling (clinical) – no departmental updates but most students in department are taking the NCE in October, comprehensive exam next Thursday
 - i. Keep them in your thoughts
 - h. Clinical psychology – no updates
 - i. College student affairs – no updates
 - j. English – new faculty member meet & greet via Zoom
 - i. One faculty member per month featured in these meetings
 - ii. October 2nd
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences – No updates
 - l. History – No updates
 - m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
 - n. Human Services Program and Administration – accepting nominations for ambassador program
 - o. Business Administration – No updates
 - p. Music – no updates
 - q. Political Science – tentative event plans

- i. Promoting the topic of intersectionality
 - 1. 2-3 movie chats
 - 2. First movie: Chisolm '72: Unbought & Unbossed
 - 3. Also wanting to discuss the LGBTQ community and feminism
 - 4. More details to come
 - ii. Coles County Election Authority website has important voting resources for Coles County
 - r. Special Education – no updates
 - s. School Psychology – a conference on November 6th for interns to come back and talk about experiences
 - t. Sustainable Energy – no updates
 - u. Technology – no updates
- IV. Reminders
- a. Be on the lookout if you are emailed for social media highlights and for more information on social events
 - b. Next meeting: October 2nd

GSAC General Body Meeting

Friday, October 2nd, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

- I. Executive reports
 - a. President - Zachary Sandoval
 - i. Open discussion
 1. Asks how many graduate school departments have groups within their departments
 - a. Seems like less than half
 2. Asks if there are group chats with cohorts or any sort of communication
 - a. Some do but many do not
 - b. The reason the executive board this is because GSAC members are like ambassadors for the graduate school and GSAC exists to bring all of us together to discuss what is happening in our departments
 3. Members speaking about their experiences with departmental groups
 - a. Jen - biology
 - i. The graduate student club is called BSGSA. The purpose of it is to bring together students from across the department to attend seminars and have discussions. Anyone can join but there is usually a \$10 membership fee. That fee was waved due to COVID. All of the members help sell lab manuals for the department. This serves as a fundraiser for the department. This provides opportunities for networking and there are seminars with meet-and-greets. The seminars are chosen by the executive board and are typically monthly. While COVID has caused these seminars to be delayed, the executive board is working to come up with new ideas. They also give out three awards at the end of each year (BSGSA award, teaching award, and research award). Usually other gatherings when there is not COVID. These are optional events that add to participation for club scholarship award. There is not an official chat but a lot of social groups form
 - ii. The biology ambassadors program is an opportunity for current students and alumni to get involved.

They go to local high schools and talk to the students about why they should choose the EIU biology program.

- b. Andrisell
 - i. Their department has a group chat
 - ii. Their goal in CSI is to help transition people into the program and help transition them into the program and the department. They meet monthly; right now, the meetings are via zoom. They have activities about the program and about fellowship; they have trips to pumpkin patches, do a mug exchange, etc. They have a mentoring program within CSI that allows first-year students to meet with a mentor
 - c. Anchal - chemistry
 - i. ACS and ACMB
 - ii. They meet every Wednesday at 5PM. They put on seminars and do research activities. The ACS fee is \$15; the ACMB fee is \$10. They are going to have seminars about COVID-19
 - d. Nate – communications department
 - i. Nate says that their department is not quite big enough for a formal organization but their department is tight-knit and there are solid social groups within it
 - e. Shaibu – sustainable energy
 - i. Shaibu says that their department has a mentoring program and they plan to discuss creating an organization within their department
4. Zach asks how many members would be interested in learning more about how to start a group within their department. Zach thinks it would be nice to bring in someone to give in new details to give us a general idea and then we can all start giving updates on where we are at in the process
5. Brock thinks that these organizations should begin including online students in these organizations since the meetings are already online; Lori agrees and thinks this will help them feel more involved and set a solid foundation for more online student participation
- a. Leah – special education
 - i. Their department is already all online so finding a way to create an organization that holds online

meetings would work well for the department and the people within the department would enjoy it

6. These groups do not to be official; these can be unofficial groups with a few members
7. Zach asks if there are any concerns or questions about the purpose of GSAC
 - a. Leah – wondering if we can put out more information about how to get information about graduate programs to undergraduate programs
 - i. Lori – GN4U program reaches out to sophomores and tries to get them to come to an event or goes to present to groups. This is an online incentive program that encourages students to go to graduate school. There is also a graduate student mentoring program.
 - b. Brock – does not think that all of our members understand the purpose of the organization or feel involved in it. He hopes everyone will take the survey being sent out and share their concerns and feedback
 - ii. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 1. Carson gave members her email and encouraged them to send her any information that they want included in the minutes if they do not put it in the chat
 - iii. VP of programming – Lacey Jenkins
 1. Upcoming events
 - a. 10/10 – hiking and picnic trip
 - i. 12pm at Lake Charleston
 - ii. Food will be provided
 - b. 10/23 – Trick or Treat booths
 - c. 11/1 – Turkey Tom competition
 - d. 12/4 – Christmas card making
 - e. 12/13 – finals week starts
 2. More information will be distributed before events. Lacey encouraged members to email her if they have any questions
 - iv. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 1. Going to be featuring GSAC members on socials and will be emailing a list of information she needs to all the members
 - a. Information needed: name, program, how long they have been at EIU, what they are involved in at EIU, what they enjoy most about being a graduate student, what they want to do in the future, any fun facts, and a picture of themselves
 2. Follow GSAC social Instagram, twitter, and Facebook pages

v. Student Dean – Brock Hammond

1. Brock is surveying all international students; responses began coming in Thursday. He asked them about themselves, why they chose EIU, and how their academic experience has been impacted by the pandemic and how GSAC can better serve them. He has gotten 5 or 6 responses already. He thinks that surveying all graduate students will allow us to see common trends and study the issues better

vi. Graduate school liaison – Austin Eichhorn

1. Looking into buying headspace subscriptions, about 500. The executive board, Austin, and Lori are doing a 30-day trial. She is wanting three more volunteers for this. Emily, Nate, and Kareen volunteered
2. The GSAC member survey was dropped in meeting chat and will be emailed. She wants to know how connected we feel to our departments and to provide an opportunity to give feedback to the organization.
3. Every other meeting will be a professional development or guest speaker meeting. If you have any ideas on who we should bring in let her know
4. We are still hoping to recruit more people to be mentors. This is a great way to implement a connection between undergraduate and graduate students.
5. The GSAC website has updated contact information for the executive board in the officer section. The meeting minutes are also on the website. If you have any questions about accessing it feel free to reach out to Austin or the executive board.

vii. Advisor – Lori

1. Williams travel grants can be applied for now. These can cover registration fees. Research and creativity grant applications are also coming up. She believes these are due November 6th. Check the graduate school page for more information.

II. Departmental updates

- a. Aging studies – there is a SACIS virtual 40-hour training for potential volunteers to learn how to more effectively support survivors of sexual violence
- b. Biology – no updates
- c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
- d. Chemistry – there is a new analytical chemistry professor and there have been changes to labs to make sure they are safe with COVID
- e. Communication – no updates
- f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
- g. Counseling (clinical) – both the school and clinical tracks have taken their comprehensive examinations and almost everyone did well. The NCE has been

determined so now they will be studying and then taking the exam within the next couple of weeks. The recruitment committee has started to reach out to individuals to recruit undergraduate members to the program. They are going to begin calling into clubs and classes to talk about the program

- h. Clinical psychology – comps are scheduled for December
- i. College student affairs – no updates
- j. English – working on getting their student organization back up and running but that is still in the beginning stages. They are starting their monthly meetings with faculty next Friday
- k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates
- l. History – no updates
- m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
- n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates
- o. MBA - they are going to speak with their coordinator to find out if there is some sort of group or if one can be created
- p. Music – no updates
- q. Political Science – the Illinois Innovation Network Research Conference on Sustainability on October 29th from 9AM-4PM. Zoom presentation on October 13th at 6:00 about Justice Ginsburg, “How RBG became notorious: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project”
- r. Special Education – no updates
- s. School Psychology – no updates
- t. Sustainability – Some of their students will be presenting at the Illinois Innovation Network Conference on Sustainability that Brock mentioned during the political science departmental update
- u. Technology – no updates

GSAC General Body Meeting

Friday, October 30th, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

- I. Executive reports
 - a. President – Zachary Sandoval
 - i. Career Services will be the guest speaker next week
 1. This is a really important resource on campus
 - b. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. Trick or Treat booth
 1. Today at 12-2 on Library Quad
 - ii. Turkey Tom
 1. Starting next Friday (11/6)
 - iii. Fully virtual events coming soon
 - c. VP of Administrative Activities
 - i. Volunteer opportunity
 1. Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office
 - a. Food Pantry
 - b. 5-7PM on 11/5 and 11/19
 - d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. Social media giveaways coming soon
 1. Follow GSAC social media pages
 - a. Facebook: eiugsac
 - b. Twitter: @EIU_GSAC
 - c. Instagram: eiu_gsac
 - ii. Social media spotlight entries still open
 - e. Graduate Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Funding available to assist those impacted by COVID-19 pandemic
 1. There is relief being put together by alumni and donors
 - ii. International student survey results
 1. If anyone would like to discuss the survey, please reach out to Brock
- II. Graduate School liaison report
 - a. Headspace for work update
 - i. Budget
 1. We're starting with a \$10,000 budget. Some of the money has already been set aside for scholarships (\$1,000), spring awards (\$1,500), and events (\$700-\$1,000), leaving us with about \$6,000 for general use.
 2. If we were to buy 500 of these, the price would be between \$4,000 and \$4,500 for one-year subscriptions. Every 500 we get, they give

\$1 off per license. If we had 100-500, they would charge us \$8.99 per person.

ii. Wellness committee

1. If anyone is interested in giving feedback on this and joining the wellness committee, email Austin

b. GN4U mentors

- i. If you would still like to sign up, you can. This is a great way to give back to our undergrad student population and the time commitment is low

c. Information on forming professional graduate student groups

- i. A lot of students are interested in forming these groups. We're working on putting together a 101 sheet on how to get started
- ii. We are also researching best practices on what to do once the group is formed. This is being actively worked on

III. Departmental updates

a. Aging studies – no updates

b. Biology – no updates

c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates

d. Chemistry – no updates

e. Communication – those who are teaching Intro to Speech are about to have their students give their persuasive speeches; nothing new department-wide

f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates

g. Counseling (clinical) – selling department apparel and hoodie/crewneck that says “going to therapy is cool”; you can contact CSI president, Austin, or Karen if interested

h. Clinical psychology – no updates

i. College Student Affairs – there have been professional development opportunities that they have been excited about

j. English – Friday the 13th there will be a meet and greet for three of the creative writing department; visit the writing center if you need help with anything

k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates

l. History – “Teaching Social Studies in Historic Times” event on November 6th; free virtual via Zoom but please register if you are planning to attend

m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates

n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates

o. Business (MBA) – no updates

p. Music – no updates

q. Political Science – great quote from one of the department’s students in response to the question “Why did you choose EIU?” The student said, “I chose EIU for numerous reasons. It offered me the flexibility to earn my master’s degree online, yet feel connected to a physical university. The professors are amazing and while I did not know it at the time, I think it would be difficult to find this quality of education elsewhere” ; Dr. Kevin Anderson gave a talk on fundamentals of US

presidential election and explained the Electoral College and Popular Vote. It was recorded so let Brock know if you are interested in watching it

- r. Special Education – no updates
- s. School Psychology – no updates
- t. Sustainable Energy – no updates
- u. Technology – no updates

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, November 6th, 2020

11AM – Online via Zoom

I. Guest Speaker

a. John Marr from Career Services

i. Handshake

1. This is where you register for appointments with someone from Career Services

a. You can also email John if it does not look like he has any availability but you need an appointment ASAP

2. Job openings here

a. They have been vetted to ensure that they are real jobs

b. You can filter by type of job or location

c. There are also internships on here

ii. Resumes and cover letters

1. Formatting and samples can be found for all career options

iii. There are private rooms available with a professional background to have Zoom

II. Executive reports

a. President – Zachary Sandoval

i. No updates

b. VP of Administrative Affairs – Carson Gordon

i. No updates

c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins

i. Thank you to everyone who helped with the booth last weekend

ii. Turkey Tom (11/9-11/20)

iii. November – pet photo contest

iv. December – GSAC cookbook

v. Flyers will be sent out

d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman

i. Social media giveaways live until next Friday

e. Graduate Student Dean – Brock Hammond

i. No updates

f. Graduate School Liaison – Austin Eichorn

i. Wellness committee

1. Reach out to people in your programs

ii. Survey responses

1. There is a prevalent need for additional resources

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, November 20th, 2020

11AM – Online via Zoom

I. Executive reports

- a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - i. Headspace for Work Proposal will begin
 - ii. Next meeting, we will talk about best practices and the guide to creating your own departmental organization
 1. This will give you the opportunity to brainstorm it more over winter break to begin working on it in the spring
- b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. No updates
- c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. GSAC Turkey Tom
 1. Post on social media using the hashtag #GSACTurkeyTom and the person with the most will get a gift card
 2. It ends today
 - ii. Post a photo of your pet using the hashtag #GSACSmartyPets and the one with the most likes will get a gift card from Fetchers
 - iii. GSAC recipes
 1. We are compiling a cookbook for our members
- d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. Follow us on instagram, twitter, and facebook
 - ii. Member spotlights
 1. Gotten a few responses back, but wanting to hear back from everyone
 2. Send her your name, preferred programs, program, activities involved in at EIU,
- e. Graduate Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Attended the NAGPS conference this past weekend
 1. Heard from guest speakers and went to workshops highlighting various topics
 2. Elected leadership positions
- f. Graduate School Laison – Austin Eichorn
 - i. GSAC attendance raffle
 - ii. Analysis of wellness survey
 1. A lot of students are using counseling center, but also a lot are using no services
 2. Students want more counseling center funding
 3. Students are wanting student insurance to cover outside counseling because that is a barrier right now

II. Proposal

- a. “The purpose of this proposal is to confirm the purchase of 150 Headspace for Work passes for the graduate student population at Eastern Illinois University. The purpose of this purchase is to support the prevalent need for additional mental health and wellness resources among the graduate students at Eastern Illinois University. The expenditure will cost \$1,348.50 at the cost of \$8.99 per pass. Passes will be available on a first-come first-serve basis and students can sign up for a pass through an electronic form. These passes can be used for a one-year duration and overall usage can be used for a one-year duration and overall usage can be monitored through an administrative portal.”
 - b. Unanimous approval – motion passes 10-0-0
- III. Guest Speaker - Frank, President of AIS
- a. The past week there were programs
 - i. Flagship program, Global Cultural Night, was virtual
 - 1. International students performed aspects of their cultures virtually
 - b. Experience of international students during COVID-19 pandemic
 - i. The hybrid system has helped and made it a positive experience
 - ii. Many students have been bringing up the topics of financial issues
 - 1. International students are struggling during COVID-19
 - 2. International students brighten up campus and bring diversity
- IV. Departmental Updates
- a. Aging studies – Heritage Woods of Charleston is doing an Adopt a Resident for Christmas; they are now accepting stocking stuffers if anyone is interested
 - i. If you call Heritage Woods, they will give you a room number and a list of what to bring
 - b. Biology – no updates
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
 - d. Chemistry – no updates
 - e. Communication – no updates
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
 - g. Counseling – no updates
 - h. Clinical Psychology – no updates
 - i. College Student Affairs – no updates
 - j. English – EIU writing center has had a lot of students coming through; they have been keeping very busy
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates
 - l. History – no updates
 - m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
 - n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates
 - o. Business Administration (MBA) - no updates
 - p. Political Science – no updates
 - q. Special Education – no updates
 - r. School Psychology – had a conference that went really well; it was interesting to hear from interns about how the transition to online services has been going
 - s. Sustainability – no updates

- t. Technology – African American Heritage Month is coming up; if you would like to get information about it or if you are interested in participating you can contact Yolanda Williams or Mary Fleming

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, December 4th, 2020

11AM – Online via Zoom

I. Executive updates

a. President – Zach Sandoval

i. Basics of forming a professional student group

1. He'll type up an info sheet to have Austin send out via email

2. Steps

a. If anyone is interested in creating a group, they need to find a great long term since students graduate every one or two years

i. This will help create a solid foundation

b. Check with your department chair to find out if there is an old group that you can revitalize or resurrect

i. Also check with your chair on who the best faculty advisor would be

c. You want to check and see if your organization is partnered with national organizations

d. Goals: programming, professional engagement

e. Develop a constitution or bylaws

i. Reach out to other organizations to base yours off of

b. VP of Administrative Affairs – Carson Gordon

i. No updates

c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins

i. Smarty Pets – Catie Witt's dog Mason the Beagle (winner of competition)

ii. Turkey Tom - haven't gotten any social media presence on this

iii. Recipe book – Lacey sent out a google docs link to post your recipe so that we can put together a GSAC cookbook

1. You can either upload a screenshot or type out a recipe

d. VP of Public Relations - Kristy Workman

i. Don't forget to follow the social media pages (instagram, twitter, facebook)

ii. Member spotlights – email them to Kristy

1. Name, preferred pronouns, program, activities involved with at EIU, plans for the future, optional: fun fact, picture of you

e. Graduate Student Dean – Brock Hammond

i. Arbor Day support

1. We have a proposal sent to us by Dr. Hendrickson, Dean of the Graduate School. In order to remain a Tree Campus USA member, we

would like to spend \$250 to support the purchase of new trees on campus.

2. Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to provide financial support to support the purchase of new trees for campus. The university is part of the Tree Campus USA program through the Arbor Day Foundation. This expenditure will cost \$250.
3. Motion: Zach would like to make a motion to approve this proposal. Emily and Andi second to approve this proposal.
 - a. Motion is approved 7-1

- f. Graduate School Liaison – Austin Eichorn
 - i. Over 100 of the passes were claimed on Monday
 1. There are only 20 passes left to claim
 - ii. Notebook Drive
 1. We just got approved for this so it would be amazing if everyone talked to their departments about this
 2. There will be GSAC stickers on the notebooks
 - iii. Attendance drive -Shannon, Carson, Austin D., Taylor, Emily, Anchal, Sabrina, Mary, Jeff, Jenny, Kareen, Frank, Lacey, Tanner
- g. Graduate School Advisor – GSAC has graduation cords if you are interested in having one

II. Departmental Updates

- a. Aging studies – no updates
- b. Biology – no updates
- c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
- d. Chemistry – no updates
- e. Communication – no updates
- f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
- g. Counseling – sweaters that say “going to therapy is cool” have come in; email akpinney@eiu.edu for information on how to pick them up
- h. Clinical Psychology – comps for department are in two weeks; Psi Chi website got international recognition for their new website
- i. College Student Affairs – no updates
- j. English – no updates
- k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates
- l. History – no updates
- m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
- n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates
- o. Business Administration (MBA) - no updates
- p. Political Science – no updates
- q. Special Education – no updates
- r. School Psychology – no updates
- s. Sustainability – no updates

- t. Technology – no updates
- III. Next meeting: February 5th

GSAC General Body Meeting

February 5th, 2021

11AM – Online via Zoom

- I. Executive board updates
 - a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - i. Thesis/research updates
 - ii. New AIS representative is Arwa Ibrahim.
 1. Getting her Master's in Sustainability
 - iii. 16 headspace passes left.
 1. Reach out to Zach if you need help claiming one.
 2. Be sure to claim them before they are gone.
 3. Let people in your departments know that there are still some left.
 4. These are first come first serve.
 - b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. Reviewing and updating the constitution with Brock
 - ii. There are some aspects of it that the organization no longer follows that need to be modified.
 - iii. Planning to bring the updates to the general body after speaking with the executive board.
 - c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. GSAC is looking into a few different events and will be sending information out about them as soon as possible.
 1. Trivia idea
 2. Online and in-person events are expected.
 - d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. Follow the GSAC social media pages.
 1. There are updates and giveaways featured on these pages.
 - e. Graduate School Liaison
 - i. GSAC scholarship due next Friday
 - ii. The rest of the meeting consisted of members joining breakout rooms to discuss various topics and members were given the opportunity to join different rooms.
 1. Breakout room 1: diversity
 - a. Brock, Mary, and Frank/Arwa were discussion leaders.
 2. Breakout room 2: events
 - a. Lacey and Kristy were discussion leaders.
 3. Breakout room 3: recruitment
 - a. Carson and Zach were discussion leaders.
 4. Breakout room 4: Q&A/other
 - a. Lori and Austin were discussion leaders.
- II. Departmental updates – consisted of a thesis/research share this meeting that provided people an opportunity to share their research and find participants.

- a. Aging studies – no departmental updates
 - b. Biology – no departmental updates
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – on fourth week of in person clinics; currently having a team of four grad students compete in state competition.
 - d. Chemistry – no departmental updates
 - e. Communication – department just interviewed candidates for a new professor of public relations; many students in the department got to meet with them and discuss their research with them.
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – got a new graduate advisor and are looking at the schedules of all the students in the program and making sure they can graduate in time.
 - g. Counseling – no departmental updates
 - h. Clinical Psychology – had a few students accepted into MPA.
 - i. College Student Affairs – have a conference coming up from a student affairs association.
 - j. English – interviewing candidates for new professor position; down to four candidates.
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences – no departmental updates
 - l. History – no departmental updates
 - m. Human Services Program Administration – new speaker series for undergraduate students that explain all the different departments.
 - n. Business Administration – no departmental updates
 - o. Music – no departmental updates
 - p. Political Science – EIU’s Model Illinois Government and Moot Court will be arguing cases as if they were in front of an appellate court and legislators.
 - q. Special Education – working to push recruitment in their department because they have had a lot of students in the department taking breaks from their studies.
 - r. School Psychology – no departmental updates.
 - s. Sustainability – no departmental updates but looking for volunteers for Earth Week events.
 - t. Technology – there is a scholarship that can be applied for 2021-2022 school year for the School of Technology
- III. Next meeting: February 19th

GSAC General Body Meeting

February 19th, 2021

11AM – Online via Zoom

- I. Guest speaker – Dr. Timm
 - a. Discussion on the feeling of belonging in Graduate School and the Impact of Imposter Syndrome
 - i. Members shared their experiences with Imposter Syndrome and how they work to overcome it.
 - ii. Dr. Timm mentions that it is something that never goes away; it is something that you learn to live with
- II. Executive Board Updates
 - a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - i. PHD panel coming soon
 1. Looking for speakers from the “hard sciences” and asked members for any suggestions they might have
 - ii. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 1. no updates
 - iii. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 1. Planning to have a trivia night at the end of March and a movie marathon sometime in April; Lacey will have the dates of these events for everyone soon
 2. Lacey is looking into more social media competitions for everyone to participate in
 - iv. VP of Public Relations
 1. Make sure to follow the GSAC social media pages
 - a. Facebook: eiugsac
 - b. Instagram: @eiu_gsac
 - c. Twitter: @eiu_gsac
 2. There will be a social media giveaway soon so be sure to follow the pages so that you can be in the know when it happens.
 - v. Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 1. No updates
 - vi. Graduate School Liaison
 1. Headspace update (as of 2/9)
 - a. There are 89 members enrolled.
 - b. The most used features are for sleep and meditation.
 - c. The engagement has been slowing down each month
 - i. Engagement is much lower now than it was in January and in January it was even lower than it was in December

III. Next meeting: March 5th

ii. Austin is hopeful that this means people have found other resources to use on campus.

GSAC General Body Meeting

March 5th, 2021

11AM – Online via Zoom

- I. Guest speaker – Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office (Crystal and Sophie)
 - a. Discussion of food insecurity and a potential Big Blue Campus Food Pantry
 - i. Substantial portion of EIU students experience this and the negative side effects associated with it.
 - ii. There are currently departmental efforts within the Student Dietetics Association, library snack stations, and other decentralized efforts.
 - iii. Hoping to establish the food pantry on campus in August.
 1. Mission: to eliminate food insecurity amongst members of EIU campus community.
 2. Hoping to minimize the stigma; this pantry is for anybody and everybody.
 3. Still figuring out some of the logistics, like hours and location. They are wanting to be as open and accessible as possible, though.
 - iv. They would like to have GSAC's support as they move forward.
- II. Executive board updates
 - a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. Constitutional updates slideshow with Brock
 1. Carson and Brock proposed eliminating the current VP of Recruitment and Retention position and replacing it with a VP of Diversity and Inclusion position and making some other language changes.
 2. Two bills will be voted on next meeting: one is regarding the proposed new “VP of Diversity and Inclusion” position and one is regarding other language changes within the Constitution.
 - c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. Trivia night: 7PM on March 26th
 1. Respond to Microsoft link by March 24th to sign up.
 - ii. Movie marathon via Zoom: April 24th
 1. Still deciding which movies but will let everyone know at the next meeting.
 - d. Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Going to be sending everyone the bills that will be voted on at the next meeting.
 - e. Graduate School Liaison – Austin Eichorn
 - i. GSAC scholarship extended to March 5th at 4:30PM
 - ii. Graduate expo
 1. April 12th-15th
 2. Virtual – April 12th and 13th
 3. In-person – April 14th and 15th

- III. Departmental updates
- a. Aging studies – no updates
 - b. Biology – no updates
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
 - d. Chemistry – no updates
 - e. Communication – in the process of hiring a new PR instructor and believe that it just recently happened.
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – currently working on building a community in their department because their entire department is online; they are looking for ideas and tips as to how to go about this.
 - g. Counseling – just had their interview day this past Friday; it was online, which was the first time they have had it online. Everything went well, though.
 - h. Clinical Psychology – CSI is having a spirit week next week.
 - i. College Student Affairs - no updates
 - j. English – the Writing Center sent out an email to all students to try to get more people to schedule appointments.
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences - no updates
 - l. History - no updates
 - m. Human Services Program Administration
 - n. Business Administration – had a PHD panel yesterday that went well but unfortunately did not have enough preparation to get the information out to students from all departments.
 - o. Music - no updates
 - p. Political Science – Moot Court and Model Illinois Government had their virtual simulation, and it went very well.
 - q. Special Education - no updates
 - r. School Psychology - no updates
 - s. Technology - no updates

GSAC General Body Meeting

April 2nd, 2021

11AM – Online via Zoom

- I. Executive board updates
 - a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - i. Graduate Expo
 1. 4/12 (in-person) in Effingham Room of MLK Union and 4/15 (virtual)
 - ii. 2021-2022 presidential election coming soon.
 - iii. GSAC cords
 1. Pick up in 1201 Blair Hall.
 2. You can also pick up a GSAC mask here.
 - b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. No updates
 - c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. 4/24 - planning a movie marathon via Teams or Zoom.
 - ii. More information to follow.
 - d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. No updates
 - e. Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Discussed the importance of passing the constitutional updates.
 - f. Graduate School Liason – Austin Eichorn
 - i. Fighting through Finals: Graduate School Care Packages
 1. Wanting to use our funds that would have been used for food at events to purchase care packages for graduate students. Austin would like to hear suggestions on what students are interested in having in these bags.
- II. Voting
 - a. Vote on minor language changes
 - i. Bill was passed unanimously.
 - b. Vote on creation of new VP of Diversity and Inclusion position
 - i. Bill was passed unanimously.
 - c. Vote on statement of support for Big Blue Campus Food Pantry
 - i. Bill was passed unanimously.
- III. Departmental updates
 - a. Aging Studies – no updates
 - b. Biology – nominated Dr. Meiners for Raynes Outstanding Mentor Award
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
 - d. Chemistry – no updates
 - e. Communication – no updates
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – updating website and noteworthy section for department.
 - g. Counseling – hooding ceremony is coming up and it will be in person; might not be able to have guests but even having the opportunity to have it there for students will be very meaningful.

- h. Clinical Psychology – no updates
 - i. College Student Affairs - no updates
 - j. English – the English department has a lot of different conferences coming up for research presentations.
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences - no updates
 - l. History - History career day was on Wednesday.
 - m. Human Services Program Administration - no updates
 - n. Business Administration – Undergraduate FIN4220 team received third place in Undergraduate Growth Portfolio 2021 Portfolio Competition. This was the fourth time the portfolio has ranked in the top three since 2013; student athletes in department have been great about getting tutoring help when needed.
 - o. Music - no updates
 - p. Political Science – Model Illinois Government transition meeting is coming up soon; the department is excited and proud that the EIU Faculty Laureate for the upcoming year is a Political Science Instructor, Dr. Kevin Anderson.
 - q. Special Education - no updates
 - r. School Psychology - no updates
 - s. Sustainability – in three weeks there will be Earth Week; there will be poster released soon. You can sign up to work Earth Week events on the CEVO webpage.
 - t. Technology - no updates
- IV. Next GSAC meeting: April 16th, 2021