



Faculty Meeting Report Spring 2021

Spring 2021 Report

The Graduate Student Association's (GSA) mission is to provide a student forum for discussion of common needs, cooperate with the faculty and administration to build a recognized and respected institution, and develop student fellowship. Since the last faculty meeting, GSA has successfully completed, continued, or launched several initiatives that align with our missions. These include:

GSA Fall Town hall

On October 6, GSA hosted a virtual town hall for the student body with Dean Blackburn and Dr. Mattox. The Webex event invitation was accepted by 90 students, and 79 students remained on the call throughout the town hall. In addition to presenting the Dean's Cup award winner, the town hall gave students an opportunity to voice needs and concerns to the Dean while also learning more about the administration's plans. Most of the discussion facilitated in the event revolved around Dr. Barton's departure from the GSBS and the impact of the move on the GSBS. Students were able to gain an understanding of Dr. Mattox's increased roles in the administration to compensate for the lost Dean. Additional concerns addressed were commute problems due to COVID, parking, visas, graduation requirements, changes to classes, diversity and inclusion, and vaccination strategy. Students that attended the town hall voiced satisfaction with the event.

SIC Salutation

GSA represented the GSBS at this year's UTHHealth Student InterCouncil (SIC) Salutation, on October 1. GSA officers made an introductory video for the virtual event. This video described the GSBS and our mission. The video also introduced the student groups and their roles in the GSBS. GSA officers attended the Salutation Webex and hosted a breakout room within the Salutation. The breakout rooms were designed to function as a substitute for having a table at the Salutation.

Meetings with Dr. Kalluri

MD Anderson has appointed Dr. Kalluri to a position of student mentorship in an effort to compensate for the loss of Dr. Barton from the GSBS leadership and MD Anderson faculty. GSA officers have had meetings with Dr. Kalluri and Dr. Blackburn to identify needs within the GSBS student body that Dr. Kalluri could help address in his new role and the manner in which he would be able to do so without disrupting the processes in place within the GSBS. Ultimately what has been decided thus far is that the GSA will host a town hall in Spring 2021 which will feature Dr. Kalluri, allowing him to address the student body on what his role in the GSBS may be going forward and communicate with the student body.

Bylaws

GSA has made changes to our bylaws in accordance with the policy changes indicated to us by Dr. Shadding and Cheryl Spitzengerger.

Future initiatives and events

UTHealth has provided COVID-19 vaccines for GSBS students, and much of the student body will be vaccinated by the end of February. As a result, the GSA will be working to help students transition into the new routines that will take effect around the GSBS in adjustment to the coming phase shifts. This will be balanced with normal GSA events for the student body and integration of MD Anderson's mentor figure into the GSBS.

March

Mental Health Week

April

Town hall with the Dean and Dr. Kalluri
Peer Mentorship event

May

GSA Elections

June

Celebratory Summer Event

July

Summer Interns Welcome/Mentoring Event

GSA would like to thank the Deans, faculty, and GSBS staff for their continued support, assistance and encouragement. Together we will continue to make GSBS the best graduate school for our students. **If there are any recommendations for future events or initiatives, please email me at mmoses@mdanderson.org**

Sincerely,

2020-2021 GSA Officers

President: Malcolm Moses

Treasurer: Rhiannon Morrissey