2018 Report
Since the last faculty meeting (Sep 2017), GSA has launched several initiatives. These include:

**GSA Peer Mentorship Program**
This program pairs incoming first year students with post-candidacy students based on research interests. The pairing begins in the summer so incoming students can have someone to talk to about housing, transportation, etc. Once the Fall semester begins, GSA hosts a luncheon to introduce both parties and facilitate discussions about program selection, tutorial lab rotation selection, and other academic topics. The GSA Peer Mentorship Program was launched Summer 2017 and is continuing this year with the 2018 incoming students. We hope to improve and expand this program in years to come.

**GSBS Housing Survey**
We gathered anonymous housing information from current GSBS students and made it openly available for all students to view. Data gathered included: neighborhood, specific apartment or condo complex, flood damage (Y/N), recommend to others (Y/N), and free responses options. This survey will be updated on a yearly basis.

**Anonymous online suggestion drop box**
One of GSA’s main responsibilities is to address the concerns of the student body and relay that information to the Deans’ office. This online anonymous suggestion box installed on GSA’s webpage allows students to speak openly about their recommendations for both GSA and GSBS.

**Alumni Relations**
GSA would like to provide opportunities for current students to meet successful GSBS alumni. We hope to partner with GSBS Alumni Association to host networking events and build upon the current e-mentorship program. Our first official networking event will be in December.

**Student Group Organization Collaborations**
GSA organized a meeting for all GSBS student groups to facilitate discussion about future plans and potential collaborations. We hope to work together with the other student groups to host larger events, share resources, etc.

**Naturejobs Career Expo | Texas**
GSA is working closely with Nature and the GSBS Career Development Office to organize this career expo in late October. GSBS students will be able to attend this event for free and will be the first to register.

**Events since last report (Oct 2017 – Aug 2018):**

**October:**
- [GSA Halloween Social (“Graveyard Gala”)]
- [Town Hall Meeting with the Deans]
November:
- Pet Therapy

December:
- Holiday Friday Afternoon Club

January:
- GSA Peer Mentorship Luncheon II

February:
- Unofficial Networking Event

March:
- Pet Therapy

April:
- GSA Officer Elections
  - 2018-2019 GSA Officers:
    - Robert Williams, President (4th Year, Microbiology & Infectious Diseases)
    - Daniela Branco, Vice President (2nd Year, Medical Physics)
    - Wayne Jiang, Treasurer (4th Year, Cancer Biology)
    - Medina Colic, Secretary (2nd Year, Quantitative Sciences)

May-July:
- GSBS Housing Survey
- 2017-2018 GSA Peer Mentorship Luncheon III
- 2018-2019 GSA Peer Mentorship Program Launched
- GSA Summer Social with Undergraduate Summer Students
- GSA Photography Competition + Announcement Social

August:
- Student Group Organization Collaboration Meeting I
- Orientation
  - GSA Peer Mentorship Luncheon I
  - GSA Guide to Graduate School
- Unofficial Incoming Student Social
- Breakfast for First Years on Day 1 of Core Course

Future Events will be finalized in mid-September. As of now, GSA’s plans for this semester include:

September:
- Deans’ meeting with Auxiliary Enterprises

October:
- Naturejobs Career Expo | Texas
- Town Hall with the Deans
- Student Panel for Candidacy Preparation

November:
- Pet Therapy
December:
- Holiday Friday Afternoon Club with GSBS Alumni
- GSA Peer Mentorship Luncheon II

GSA would like to thank the Deans, Faculty, and 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 robert.williams@uth.tmc.edu.

Sincerely,

2018-2019 GSA Officers
Robert Williams
Daniela Branco
Wayne Jiang
Medina Colic