



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

Meeting of the Full Graduate Student Congress
University of Kentucky
12 - 1 pm
January 24th, 2025
In person: Gatton Student Center
Room 375
Remote: Via Zoom

1. Opening Remarks

2. Call to Order (President: Tori Stanton)

3. Roll Call (Secretary: Michelle Graham-Smith)

a. [Representative Registration Form](#)

4. Guest Speaker (Dr. Lisa Schroot, Writing Center)

5. Executive Board Reports (as applicable)

a. **President (Tori Stanton)**

i. Thank you for your hard work in the fall

-Saima Rahman

-Amanda Lee

-Rujeko Machinga-Asaolu

-Ian Robinson

-Deepti Adhikari

-Sarah Carr

-Mounica Talasila

ii. So much has happened!

-Ashley went back to CELT full time as of January 1. She was planning to remain in the advisor role until a replacement was found

-Provost spoke at the DGS meeting on January 10

-I was told, "I'd like to relay his request to them to you as well: please work directly with your partners in Student Government. The Graduate Student Congress partners with SGA, a change that was structurally made a few years ago. Please also feel free to reach out to Dean of Students Trisha Clement or Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner if you have questions about issues you have raised or other questions regarding support for graduate students."

-I met with Dean Kenney and the Vice Provost on Monday January 13

-GSC has been moved from the Graduate School to Student Orgs.

-I met with our 2 new advisors on Friday Jan 17

-What does this actually mean?

-Unclear

-Some logistical changes will be necessary (e.g. conference funding requirements)

-Dean Kenney will no longer be attending GSC meetings. My understanding is that he was told by administrators not to attend

-Not sure if my monthly meeting with him will continue or not (next meeting is scheduled for Feb 6; I'll wait to see if he cancels or not)

iii. Received one submission for Dean Kenney to respond to:

Please respond and address the specific data collected in our survey in Spring 2024, which includes issues such as stipend coverage, food insecurity, and other factors negatively affecting academic performance.

1. Can we refine this to be more specific questions?

2. I asked Dean Kenney to speak to this before I knew about the changes and that he was not attending our meetings

3. I am trying to find a person who can speak to this and if I can get any responses before our February meeting I will send via email

iv. How baseline stipends are determined?

"UK's Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee will reevaluate baseline stipends annually, using national standardized benchmark data from the Oklahoma State University Graduate Stipend Survey."

-Asked Dean Kenney if there was some report or publication about the methodology decided on by the Stipends and Benefits Committee

-He said no

-I asked Dean Kenney if the OSU data was publicly available or available through UK

-He said no. Looks like it costs about \$75. I wasn't able to find a version through googling

-Working to get more information

b. Vice President (Edward Olajide)

i. **Vote on Chief of Staff position**

c. SGA Director of Graduate and Professional Affairs (Sarah Shepherd)

i. SGA Graduate Senator-at-Large positions

1. Deadline for candidate filing period is Feb 3

2. Write-in period is Feb 4- Feb 23

ii. Link to apply

<https://uky.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/student-government-association>

Under forms -> 2025 Spring - SGA General Election Filing Application

d. Meet our new advisors (Courtney McCalla and Liliana Gomez-Greene)

6. Committee Reports (as applicable)

a. Awards Committee (Chair: Mounica Talasila)

i. Deadline for third round awards – FEBRUARY 7, 2025

ii. <https://ukgsc.uky.edu/gsc-awards-and-fundings>

iii. Currently form is not accepting responses; hope to have it back by Friday

b. Institutional Research Committee (Chair: Adeola Oladeji)

i. Pilot survey (responses will not be collected. **YOU STILL NEED TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS YOU KNOW WHEN IT IS FINALIZED**)

ii. https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NF3LT8HdBju6VM



iii. Please email 2024-2025institutionalresearchcommittee@l.uky.edu by FRIDAY JANUARY 31 with any feedback

c. Professional Development & Networking (CoChairs: Deepti Adhikari & Uzo Nwaduba)

. Potential event on the horizon: LinkedIn & Portfolio session, Conference Etiquette, Asking for grant money-based session.

i. Life After Grad School (maybe March 31-April 3?)

d. External Affairs Committee (CoChairs: Madison Flory)

- i. KY Capitol Hill Day - Feb 19 (probably)

e. Appropriations & Revenue Committee (Chair: OPEN)

- i. Deadline for the third round of GPSO funding is FEBRUARY 7, 2025
- ii. <https://ukgsc.uky.edu/gsc-awards-and-fundings>

f. Mental Health & Wellbeing Committee (CoChairs: Marian Jaitto-Jeffrey & Ayesha Riaz)

- i. Self-Care Workshop Series (Self-Injury Awareness Day March 1)
- ii. Sleep Health Awareness Campaign (National Sleep Awareness Week March 10-16)
- iii. Art Therapy event (joint with PD and N Committee)

g. International Student Concerns Committee (CoChairs: Rujeko Machinga & Saima Rahman)

- i. Continuing conversation with housing about grad housing time limit

7. Executive Board and Committees without reports

- a. Chief of Staff and Operations (David Lu)
- b. Treasurer (Pegah Safavi)
- c. Secretary (Michelle Graham Smith)
- d. Institutional Affairs Officer (Adeola Oladeji)
- e. External Affairs Officer (Madison Flory)
- f. Student Government Association (SGA) Representative (OPEN)
- g. Communications and Documents Committee (Chair: Levone Lee)
- h. Institutional Advocacy Committee (CoChairs: Adeola Oladeji)

8. Floor Time (Link to request motion or speaking time: <https://forms.gle/4uijp2KeguATtog79>)

9. Meeting Close

NEXT MEETING

February 21

Back at Alumni Gallery in the Young Library and on zoom

GSC general meeting

Sign-In



Hello,

I hope this email finds you well! I am reaching out to invite qualified graduate and professional students to join the **Student Fee Allocation Committee (SFAC)**, a vital group that plays a key role in shaping the allocation of student fees at the University of Kentucky.

About the Committee:

The SFAC reviews the use of current student fees and evaluates proposals for fee increases or decreases. Your participation on this committee will give you the opportunity to:

- Contribute to decisions that directly impact the student experience.
- Develop skills in financial analysis and strategic planning.
- Represent the unique perspectives of graduate and professional students.

Time Commitment:

Meetings will range from one to three hours and will occur once every one to two weeks.

Why Join?

As a member of the SFAC, you'll help ensure that student fees are used effectively and equitably to enhance services, programs, and resources that benefit the student body. Your voice is crucial in ensuring graduate and professional student needs are represented in these discussions.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or have any questions, please reply to this email or go ahead and apply on our UKSGA BBNvolved [page](#).

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you'll consider joining this important initiative!