



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. Kirsten Turner, Vice President for Student Success)

5. **Executive Board Reports** (as applicable)

a. **President (Tori Stanton)**

i. GPSAW (April 7 - April 18)

 Cookies, baseball, block party, food! More details will be out soon!

ii. Response from Dean Kenney to survey report from 2024

The survey highlighted a number of things that are of concern to graduate students, and for that I am very thankful. In particular, I noticed that many respondents report needing more community and communication in their programs; a number also expressed a desire for sustained support that would assist them in their training as teaching assistants or research assistants. These are areas the Graduate School is focused on and working actively on, in a number of ways. By the end of the semester, I hope to be able to share some results.

iii. Reached out to the three SGA presidential and vice presidential candidates and their statements are at the bottom of agenda

iv. **Graduate At-Large Senate Candidates**

1. John Hurley

2. Lizzy Hornung

3. Riccardo Paolo D'Amato

4. Noah Douthit

5. Reed Burrow

6. Kat Tanaka

v. SGA elections March 3 - 4 on BBNvolved

- vi. Summary of debate:

<https://kykernel.com/111628/news/presidential-and-vice-presidential-candidates-share-platforms-at-sga-debate/>

b. Vice President (Edward Olajide)

- i. Vote on Chief of Staff position

6. Committee Reports (as applicable)

a. Awards Committee (Chair: Mounica Talasila)

- i. Deadline for fourth round awards – MARCH 7, 2025
- ii. <https://ukgsc.uky.edu/gsc-awards-and-fundings>

b. Institutional Research Committee (Chair: Adeola Oladeji)

- i. Still working on the survey, it will be deployed soon.

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

- i. Life After Grad School (March 31st - April 3rd)
 - Meet with Von Allen Center people to set up the entrepreneurship session.
 - Working with Abbie Wood to recruit people working in the industry
 - PD&N committee meeting this Thursday to finalize the social event, as well as recruit professors to speak at Life in Academia
- ii. Collaboration with Presentation U on March 11 (flyer below)
- iii. Potential Collaboration with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee for March

d. External Affairs Committee (CoChairs: Madison Flory)

- i. New date for Hill Day (still tentative until we get approval): Wednesday, March 5
- ii. State Legislative Update

e. Appropriations & Revenue Committee (Chair: OPEN)

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

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

- i. Collaboration between GSC and MHC for the event.
- ii. **Theme:** Painting a Path to Success: Wellness & Networking
 - 1. Painting

2. Pottery etc

7. Executive Board and Committees without reports

- a. Chief of Staff and Operations (David Lu)
- b. SGA Director of Graduate and Professional Affairs (Sarah Shepherd)
- c. Treasurer (Pegah Safavi)
- d. Secretary (Michelle Graham Smith)
- e. Institutional Affairs Officer (Adeola Oladeji)
- f. External Affairs Officer (Madison Flory)
- g. Student Government Association (SGA) Representative (OPEN)
- h. Communications and Documents Committee (Chair: Levone Lee)
- i. Institutional Advocacy Committee (CoChairs: Adeola Oladeji)
- j. International Student Concerns Committee (CoChairs: Rujeko Machinga & Saima Rahman)

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

9. Meeting Close

NEXT MEETING

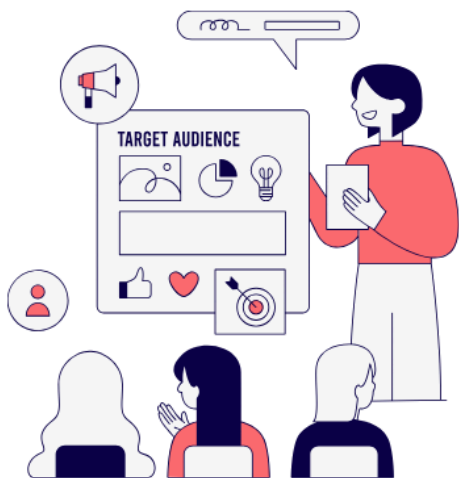
March 28

Alumni Gallery in the Young Library and on zoom

Grad MasterClass

Presentation

Workshop



Presentation U can:

- Enhance communication skills
- Provide support for non-native English speakers
- Offer free peer tutoring for communication and composition assignments in any course or format

Date: March 11, 2025

Time: 5pm - 6pm

Where: Alumni Gallery (1-65) at
William T. Young Library

**FREE
FOOD!**



GSC general meeting

Sign-In



Morgan Brooke & Sam Kahsay

Team Brooke and Kahsay recognize the challenges facing graduate and professional students, with inadequate stipends being a top concern. Many serve as lab researchers and assistant instructors, yet are undercompensated. We are committed to increasing these stipends and have engaged with administrators to implement changes in the 2025-2026 academic year.

We also understand the need for strong representation. We have helped increase graduate student senators in SGA and now we want to continue this work by collaborating with the Graduate Student Congress to ensure their voices are heard. Graduate students make up 23% of our university, yet many feel overlooked—we are dedicated to changing that.

Financial stability is another major concern. Tuition has risen by over \$10,000 in the past decade. We will advocate for reinstating a tuition cap, ensuring students pay a fixed rate throughout their four years. As Student Body President, I will use my vote on the Board of Trustees to push for this change. To support student organizations, we will work to increase grants from \$2,000 to \$3,000, providing more resources for professional development and advocacy.

Our mission is simple: amplify graduate student voices, secure necessary funding, and make higher education more accessible. We are ready to take action.

McKenna Dowell & Jackson Baird

We are very passionate about meeting every student (undergraduate, graduate, professional, etc.) where they are at. This includes parking expansion and increased availability since most of our graduate and professional students reside off campus. We have met with the Director of Parking & Transportation at UK (Mr. Broeking) and collaborated to making a \$14 semester nightly parking pass. This essentially will be a nightly parking pass students can use when attending classes on campus (because we know most graduate and professional. Classes take place in the evenings). Also, we are building two new parking garages across this campus to expand availability for all students. Lastly, we are collaborating with UK Parking & Transportations Marketing team to create a interactive parking map so students can see where they can/cannot park across campus.

We are prideful athletic fans, and McKenna was previously a Student athlete on the STUNT team here at UK. We want to enhance the gameday experience for not just our current students but prospective students, alumni and our Lexington community at large. This can be done by hosting a university-led tailgate, something we have already discussed with UKAthletics. Additionally, we have met with the Director of Recreation (Mark Lattin) and associate dean of student success (Dr. Brandon Thompson) and have already been approved for funding and all other logistics to implement cold-plunges and saunas in the Johnson Center by Fall of 2026.

McKenna travels to Frankfort for work twice a week for an internship. This is about 1.5 hours of driving a week- something most students also have to face to work to afford their rent, tuition, dues, etc. We would love to start a grant students who travel for work for can apply to cover their gas costs.

We are so passionate about serving students and have other things we plan on implementing if elected such as mental health excuses absences, infrastructure improvement, and collaborating with alumni for internships/clerkships/shadowing and all professional development experience. We would love to hear your thoughts/ideas/concerns/ambitions/etc and what ways we can serve students in all capacities. We would be happy to meet with you and anyone else on ways we can enhance your experience both during your academic career here at UK and once you graduate. Thank you so much.

Fishback & Roberts

Did not respond