



1. Opening Remarks

2. Call to Order (President: Edward Olajide)

3. Attendance



4. Guest Speaker: Todd Brann, Institutional Research, Analytics and Decision Support (IRADS)

- Further information regarding updates to graduate student stipends for FY27 can be found in:
 - o UKNow Article: <https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/baseline-graduate-stipends-fiscal-year-2027-announced>
 - o Baseline Stipend information: https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2026-03/fy27_baseline-stipends_02112026.pdf
 - o Grad School Webpage: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/funding-your-degree>

5. Updates and Reports (as applicable)

a. President & Vice President – Edward Olajide and Maisy Webster

- **Academic Poster Printing:** Graduate students can have their poster printed for free from the GSC through UK Ricoh. Application details are posted on the GSC website.
- **Graduate and Professional Students Appreciation Week (GPSAW) events:** series of activities are outlined for the coming appreciation events including Pastries and Coffee, Lunch with the Dean of Students, and Ice Cream Social. Further details will be posted on the website, BBNvolved, and other social media outlets.
- **GSC Election:** Election into the GSC Executive Board will be held during the last General Assembly Meeting, April 22, 2026. Only Representatives and E-Board members who are present during the meeting are eligible to vote.

b. Chief of Staff and Operations – Deepti Adhikari

- **Upcoming professional development event(s):** Reminder about further activities outlined for Life After Grad School including Exploring Entrepreneurship after Grad School, Grad Student Networking, and Understanding Post-Grad Pathways. Further details are posted on the website.

- Together with the Society of Postdoctoral Scholars, there will be a networking event where grad students can connect and interact with postdoctoral scholars. Date to be announced later.

c. Treasurer – Kameron Cox

- **Promotional Items:** Promotional items are already ordered and hopefully they will be delivered before the next General Assembly Meeting.

d. Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee – Eytayo Akomolafe and Shabnam Ghorbani

- **Massage Therapy:** This event is designed to help grad students to reduce stress and promote relaxation. It will be holding later today at the Student Center. See flyers for further details.

e. Institutional Advocacy Committee – Megan Hall

- Regalia Rentals: Application are opened till March 27, 2026. Successful applicants will receive further communication regarding when and how to proceed with picking up their regalia. Congratulations to all graduands!

f. International Student Concerns Committee – Amanda Gyesei

- Global Grad Fest will be held in May 2026. Further details will be shared when available.

6. Institutional Research Committee – Survey

The committee identified key issues affecting graduate students' well-being on campus, which will help inform the organization's future plans and priorities.

7. External Affairs Committee – Update on One Beautiful Bill

One Big Beautiful Bill ~ Appeals Update

For graduate students, time is quickly passing by for us to locate funding through alternative means as the July 1st, 2026 deadline approaches. At that time, if you are a graduate student borrowing from the federal government, you will be capped at being awarded an annual limit of \$20,500 for one school year. That number is followed by a total cap that will only allow for a lifetime borrowing ability of \$100,000. A main issue being scrutinized is coming from those graduate students who are majoring in the educational field, and how the government has decided that, though a professional license is required, is not being labeled or funded as being a "professional field" in the eyes of the Department of Education. A separate March 2nd deadline previously expired that allowed the public to voice opposition to the ruling in an attempt to make a reconsideration on a final decision of the bill. In their article, the Brookings Institution: How OBBBA Reshapes Student Lending, Looney/Matsudaira/McCann, explain that over 80,000 respondents are concerned about the "Do No Harm" earnings test and the elimination of the Grad PLUS Loan. The earnings test is meant to show that what a student will earn in their lifetime in their chosen field could potentially "harm" their financial health in the long run. However, because of this bill's quoted intention to help maintain a student's monetary solidarity, it also forces a student to seek out 3rd party lending resources. Those parties will happily provide funding for those graduate

General Assembly Meetings are open to the public.

Any questions or concerns – gsc@uky.edu

students in educational fields with exorbitant interest rates in comparison to the very reasonable rates that the federal government provides. Published in an earlier article by Inside Higher Ed, overall widespread concern is taking place on the basis that official acts are taking place that allow insufficient time for the Department of Education to review the tens of thousands of appeals that have been made by the public. Other issues that stem from grievances are putting a voice to the fact that the IRS and Department of Education haven't provided any final guiding principles of the bill that would protect current students with a "legacy" clause to allow them continue on their loans taken out at the time they began their course of study before this new bill was even a thought. The takeaway thought is that our federal government and Department of Education don't believe that the teaching profession should be allotted a professional standard title when borrowing even though those in education must obtain and maintain a professional license. Their basis is that they are trying to "protect" the student from borrowing outside of what their profession may provide through ROI. In the meantime, they are forcing education students to source funding from 3rd party lenders with interest and exorbitant overall cost that will most certainly exceed what one would repay to the federal student loans system. These actions have already forced those studying education and other public services to leave these fields that already have historically low enrollment.

Written by:

Matt Morphew ~ 3/24/26

Instructor Learning & Behavioral Disorders

Meadowthorpe Elementary School

MAT Graduate Student, (LBD) College of Education University of Kentucky

Special Education Representative

Graduate Student Congress (GSC)

Citations:

Brookings Institution: How OBBBA Reshapes Student Lending

Inside Higher Ed: ED to Review Regs for Student Loan Programs

Department of Education: Negotiated Rulemaking Concludes

8. Open Floor/Discussions

9. Meeting Close



Mental Health Wellness Event

Massage Therapy Session



Take a break, relax, and recharge during this
Mental Health Wellness Event.

Enjoy a *free massage therapy session* designed
to help reduce stress and promote relaxation.



Date: March 25, 2026



Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM



Location: Gatton Student Center

Room 212C – Gatton Grand Ballroom

◆ Stop by anytime during the event! ◆

- Free Food & Giveaways •
- Networking Opportunities



Relax • Recharge • Take Care of Your Mental Health



LIFE AFTER GRAD SCHOOL



MARCH 23RD - MARCH 30TH

You don't want to miss these perks:

- Enjoy free food
- Received UK Invest Credit
- Networking with fellow students and professionals

RUN DOWN

MARCH 23TH FROM GRAD SCHOOL TO BUSINESS OWNER: GETTING STARTED WITH THE SBA

Learn how to start a small business in the U.S. with the U.S. Small Business Administration, featuring insights from Senior Area Manager Michael Ashcraft.

Location: Zoom | Time: 12:30pm - 1:30pm



MARCH 24TH FROM GRAD SCHOOL TO PAYCHECK: MASTERING SALARY NEGOTIATION

ZOOM ONLY

Learn to negotiate salary and evaluate job offers. Hybrid event featuring Abbie Wood from the University of Kentucky Career Center.

Location: Zoom
Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm



MARCH 26TH EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AFTER GRAD SCHOOL

Learn how to turn your ideas into a business and explore resources available after graduation. The session will feature panel speakers from the Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship.

Location: Zoom | Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm



MARCH 26TH GRAD STUDENT NETWORKING NIGHT AT GOODFELLAS PIZZA @ MANCHESTER ST.

FREE FOOD!

Network with fellow graduate students at Goodfellas Pizzeria and build connections for life after grad school.

Location: 1228 Manchester St, Lexington, KY 40504 |
Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm



MARCH 30TH YOUR NEXT CHAPTER: UNDERSTANDING POST-GRAD IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS

Learn visa options and key steps to stay and work in the U.S. or pursue international opportunities after graduation. Speakers: Karen Slaymaker and John Honeycutt.

Location: Zoom | Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm



UKYGSC



UK GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

General Assembly Meetings are open to the public.
Any questions or concerns – gsc@uky.edu



Get your academic poster printed for free!



Apply on [BBNvolved](#)

Graduate & professional students can apply to have their academic poster printed for free through UK Ricoh! Please apply **2 weeks** in advance of when you need the poster. Limited availability, printing is first-come first-served.