Welcome to the Baylor Graduate Student Association Assembly! Thank you for committing your time and energy to this organization. GSA exists to foster good citizenship among Baylor graduate students and to promote a holistic, integrative approach to graduate education. Your involvement as a representative is crucial to turning this vision into a reality. Over the past few years, GSA has achieved increased visibility and influence on the Baylor campus, and with your help, we can continue this growth in the coming academic year. By supporting GSA programs, promoting events, and serving as departmental advocates, you will demonstrate to the Baylor community that graduate students are caring and committed individuals who are eager to invest in our university. Thank you for your willingness to serve, and we look forward to working with you!

The GSA Leadership Council

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<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE CABINET</th>
<th>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Strietzel, President</td>
<td>Tom Millay, Policy Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Higher Education</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynneth Miller, Executive Vice President</td>
<td>Ian Grigsby, Social Life Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Candidate, History</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Kurinec, Vice President of Communications</td>
<td>Liz Marvel, Academic Affairs Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Psychology/Neuroscience</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maddie Larson, Vice President of Operations</td>
<td>John Miller, Service Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Psychology/Neuroscience</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student, Mathematics</td>
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<td>Ted Cockle, Secretary</td>
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<td>Ph.D. Student, Higher Education</td>
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<th>FACULTY ADVISOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Chris Rios</td>
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<td>Assistant Dean, Baylor Graduate School</td>
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GSA Mission Statement
The Baylor University Graduate Student Association is a community that strives to enrich the quality of academic and social life for students of each graduate program of Baylor University as well as advocate the rights of these students and voice their concerns. GSA fulfills this mission by pursuing events, programs, and initiatives in keeping with the vision statement, given below.

Vision Statement
An excellent graduate experience takes a holistic, integrative approach to graduate education that invites engagement in compelling scholarship and research, facilitates enriching careers, nourishes personal well-being, and cultivates a culture of belonging and collegiality.

Representative Responsibilities
Primary Representatives:
The GSA constitution stipulates that primary representatives must attend at least 75% of the monthly Assembly meetings. If you are unable to attend an Assembly, you must ensure that your Alternate Representative attends. Please inform the Executive Vice President if you or your alternate will be unable to attend meetings due to scheduling conflicts, so that a new representative may be appointed immediately.

Regarding specific roles, you are required to serve on one of the four GSA committees, and to assist with any activities or events planned by your committee. You are responsible for voting on motions proposed at the Assembly, and electing GSA officers. You are primarily responsible for ensuring that your department’s needs are represented within GSA and to the Baylor administration.

Your secondary but equally important responsibility is serving as a conduit of communication from GSA to your department. You will regularly receive emails from the GSA Executive Cabinet about GSA events or announcements. You are required to forward these emails to your departmental colleagues within 24 hours of receiving the email. You are also required to carbon copy (Cc:) the Executive Vice President and Vice President of Communications onto these emails.

Alternate Representatives:
Alternate representatives are not required to attend Assembly meetings except in the absence of the primary representative. However, you are encouraged to come as often as possible and to actively participate on one of the committees. In the absence of the Representative, you are required to attend the Assembly and vote on behalf of your department.

Joint Responsibilities:
Primary and alternate representatives share responsibility for ensuring that their department’s needs and concerns are represented within GSA. Representatives serve as the primary way for the Baylor graduate student body to advocate for their needs and wants to the university administration. Therefore, we ask that you remain attentive to conversations occurring within your programs about the quality of life among Baylor graduate students. When appropriate, bring these conversations to GSA and the Baylor administration for further consideration. Your advocacy and timely communication are critical to GSA’s ability to represent all graduate students effectively and enables you to developing creative solutions to problems within the Assembly context.
GSA Committees

Social Life Committee
The Social Life Committee organizes and plans events that encourage community among Baylor graduate students. This includes GSA's four largest events: Grads on the Water (in the summer), the Football Tailgate Mixer (in the fall), and the bi-annual Graduate Student Days at the Waco Downtown Farmers Market (once in the fall and spring semesters).

Academic Affairs Committee
The Academic Affairs Committee seeks to invite graduate students into a community of compelling scholarship and research, prepare graduate students for enriching careers both inside and outside academia, and cultivate an interdepartmental culture of belonging and collegiality. The primary ways in which the Academic Committee currently seeks to meet these goals is through the 3-Minute Thesis Competition in the fall and the Graduate Student Research Showcase and Appreciation Picnic in the spring.

Policy Committee
The Policy Committee works to promote and improve Baylor University policy development and enhancement as they relate to graduate students and advocate for their unique needs. Some examples of previous successes include health insurance, parental leave, spousal and childcare benefits, and support for international graduate students. The Policy Committee also takes the lead in refining and applying GSA's Strategic Vision, originally known as the Paradigm Project.

Service Committee
The Service Committee seeks to create, facilitate, and promote opportunities for graduate students to serve fellow graduate students, the university, and the local community, thereby helping to foster a more rounded and holistic graduate student experience. Examples include the Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program (GUMP). The Service Committee continually seeks to discover what service looks like at the graduate student level, and will work to facilitate new ways for graduate students to engage in philanthropic activities within the Baylor and Waco communities.
GSA Signature Events

**Grads on the Water** *(2 events; Social Committee) – July 29 and August 26, 2017*

**Grad Student Day at Waco Downtown Farmer’s Market** *(Social Committee) – August 19, 2017*

**GUMP Kickoff Dinner** *(Service Committee) – September 19, 2017*

**3-Minute Thesis Competition** *(Academic Committee) – November 7, 2017*

**GSA Tailgate** *(Social Committee) – October 28, 2017*

**Dialogue with Baylor Leaders** *(Policy Committee) – late November 2017*

**Grad Student Day at Waco Downtown Farmer’s Market** *(Social Committee) – February 10, 2018*

**GSA Service Event** *(Service Committee) – TBD*

**Graduate Student Appreciation Picnic and Research Showcase** *(Academic Committee) – First full week in April 2018*

*Dates are subject to change.* Additional events may be added throughout the academic year. Look for email announcements from the Executive Cabinet. We also highly encourage Reps to “Like” the GSA Facebook page and Twitter (@Baylor_GSA) accounts!

GSA Assembly Dates

All GSA Assemblies are held from 12:30-1:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month listed below. Most are held in the Student Union Building. Watch for emails from the Executive Cabinet and updates on Facebook for details.

**August 16, 2017** *(during New Graduate Student Orientation)*

**September 5, 2017**

**October 3, 2017**

**November 7, 2017**

**January 9, 2018**

**February 6, 2018**

**March 6, 2018**

**April Assembly TBD**