

# Graduate Student Association History

In January of 2021 graduate student Michelle

David would succeed Erick as Vice President after the latter's graduation the following summer, at which point the role of Communications Officer merged with the role of Secretary, and both duties were taken over by Sean Stalley.

Throughout 2021, GSA concentrated on growing its contact list, creating a Canvas site to disseminate information, and establishing a name for itself through social events and hosting professional development workshops with other departments. The first in-person social gathering happened November 18th at Satori Coffee House. In December of 2021 the officers also compiled data demonstrating the disproportionality of graduate student worker stipends to the cost of living in Mobile, and used that data to write their first report to the Graduate Council and the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Harold Pardue, requesting an increase in stipends across the University. While change didn't come right away, GSA had at last

The first Graduate Council meeting to include GSA's President as a voting member took place on October 24th, 2022. One of the Graduate Council members to most support GSA's presence was Dr. Tres Stefurak, who replaced Dr. O'Neal as Faculty Advisor when she accepted a position at another university the previous week. At the meeting David mentioned GSA's original purpose of becoming a graduate equivalent to SGA. The idea met with support from

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Evan carried this encouraging information to Dr. Stefurak, who advised him to begin mobilizing GSA's other officers to research both the practices of South's current SGA and those of other graduate student governments. Thus began a campaign of messaging and meeting with South's SGA and influential faculty members to get a better idea of what services grad students already had at their disposal, how those were funded, how to admini Tf09 (52 reW\*nBTET60 0 62 792 reW\*nBTO,