



# *The Mānoa Graduate*




Elections Edition 2013

Graduate Student Organization Newsletter

**GSO Elections run from 12:01 AM on  
April 8 to 11:59 PM on APRIL 12, 2013.**

***Candidates were asked two questions &  
Here are the responses.***

*Please stop by and visit us at Hemenway Hall 212 or on the web at <http://gso.hawaii.edu>*



## How to Vote:

- Sign onto *MyUH* and look for the "GSO Election" tab.
- Click on the tab and you will see the **Election/Survey Channel.**
- Find the link for "GSO Elections 2013" to vote.

## **Presidential Candidate:**



### **Tom Robinson**

Department: Meteorology  
Graduate Status: Ph.D.

#### **What one issue is most important to you, and what do you think you can do to have a positive impact on this issue?**

Last year we raised the minimum pay level by nearly \$4000. Next year I will work to set up a long term solution to the problem of funding by encouraging future dialog between UH administration and the GSO as well as departmental discussions with graduate students. These conversations are important and should continue. I will use the positive working relationships that I forged this year to influence these policies being implemented.

#### **What are some ways you can build graduate student solidarity and maintain that unity?**

Next year we will continue holding events for graduate students by providing diverse and fun activities. Of course there will be free food! Also, continuing to share our newsletter and having more input from students will make it more interesting while keeping graduate students informed about what is going on around campus.

## **Vice-Presidential Candidate:**



### **Shahin Rahman**

Department: Urban & Regional Planning  
Graduate Status: Ph.D.

#### **The VP is responsible for duties assigned by the President. How will you assist the President, and what issues do you want to see GSO focus on next year?**

I have been working with the GSO since summer of 2011 as an Employment and Compensation Executive Committee Chair. During my tenure in GSO I worked closely with the former president Anjali Nath and the current president Tom Robinson. I hope to continue working closely with the GSO president next year in the capacity of vice president to coordinate meetings and events that achieve the priorities and goals of GSO. In addition, it will be important to continue increasing graduate student involvement regarding decisions that directly and indirectly affect our student body at UH Manoa

#### **What are some ways you can build graduate student solidarity and maintain that unity?**

Finding common ground among graduate students on different issues is key to building solidarity. If GSO can spearhead initiatives that concern the majority of the graduate students, then we will see more unified student voice. The new policy for increase in graduate assistant pay (taking effect Fall 2013) is a case in point. GSO has worked tirelessly during the last couple of years, advocating higher pay for graduate student employees. This issue has brought all of the graduate students together and recently Chancellor Apple has adopted a new pay structure for the graduate assistants. In moving forward, if I am elected as vice president I would like to work on reopening the Ombudsman Office. At the same time, I would like to work on graduate students' collective bargaining rights. The majority of the graduate students are in favor of both of these measures.

## **Treasurer Candidate:**



### **Mahabub**

Department: Epidemiology  
Graduate Status: Ph.D.

#### **The GSO has a large pool of reserve funds. What is your plan for these funds?**

From my experience as the Grants and Awards (G&A) Chair of the current committee, I feel that we need to increase allocation for our G&A. We can only fund approximately one third of the requested amount, so I will make it my priority to increase the G&A fund. I will also try to allocate some money to make our G&A application process online, so that we can minimize the application and reimbursement time for students. I will also focus to increase allocation for different committees such as activities, conference, and advocacy.

#### **What are some ways you can build graduate student solidarity and maintain that unity?**

GSO tried to unionize UH students this year. Despite tremendous effort from some of the executive council (EC) members, we were unsuccessful. I strongly believe that proper advocacy and greater visibility of GSO's role could change the situation. As a treasurer, I will try to allocate more money for the advocacy and activities committees. Furthermore, as an EC member, I will effectively participate in those activities to make our community more vocal. This is only one example, and I strongly believe that we have a lot to do to unite the community and work together for our own benefits

## **Secretary Candidate:**



### **Jess Glasser**

Department: Social Work

Graduate Status: M.S.W.

#### **The Secretary is responsible for supervising the Office Manager. How will you go about this? And what plans do you have for the GSO office space?**

Setting expectations at the outset is key to meeting expectations in any working environment. As a Master of Social Work student I understand the importance of effective communication and do my best to incorporate it into my practice. I plan to start off with a conversation with the Office Manager and the outgoing Secretary about what worked and what didn't work, and to follow that up with regular face time checking in on what's working, what we need to do differently, and how I can best support the Office Manager in those efforts. As for the GSO office space... I can't say I'll make it any prettier than it is now, but I can certainly work to make it a welcoming space in other ways.

#### **What are some ways you can build graduate student solidarity and maintain that unity?**

More happy hours! No, seriously. Too many of us operate in silos: we should be getting together—and networking—more often. With input from graduate students, the GSO can organize monthly or quarterly rendezvous where we have the opportunity to participate in kooky icebreakers, share our research, build our networks, inspire each other, and take a break to recharge our creativity. This can be done at happy hours, while grabbing coffee at The Curb, at a picnic, on a hike, etc. Let's collaborate with other groups and offices on campus and make this happen!