

The Mānoa Graduate

Special Elections Edition



2015-2016

GSO

Executive Council Elections

The nominated Candidates are:

Vice President:

Bret Polopolus-Meredith

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Vice-Presidential Candidate



Bret Polopolus-Meredith

Department: Physics
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 this year?

As Chair of the GSO's Employment and Compensation Committee since 2013, my primary focus has been on unionizing graduate assistants (GA), increasing GA pay, and improving working conditions. Last year, in conjunction with other GSO members, we successfully lobbied the Hawaii State Legislature to pass a bill granting the right to collectively bargain to graduate assistants, and we have also begun talks with UH President Lassner this year to improve pay and working conditions for GAs. I also advocate for graduate students on the System-level as Vice Chair of the UH Student Caucus. Other past and present projects I am involved with include pushing for the reestablishment of the Ombudsmen's Office, requesting more student involvement in evaluations of senior administrators, and developing a graduate student bill of rights. I also plan to assist in the implementation of GSO's efforts to establish longer library hours during the summer months. Additionally, I plan to encourage the chancellor's office to create a protocol that would appropriately address on-campus tragedies, as well as increasing student awareness of the mental health services offered by the university.

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

Personally, I've enjoyed many of the GSO's social events over the past few years, as these are great ways to meet graduate students outside of my own program. My personal favorites have been Trivia Night and monthly Coffee Hours. I look forward to helping promote, increase, and improve all of GSO's events in order to foster a greater sense of community amongst graduate students.



GSO Elections

Important dates:

8/31- 9/18 Campaigning period

9/14-9/18 Voting period: online through UH SurveyShare (polls will close at 11:59 pm Hawaiian Standard Time on 9/18/2015)..

9/24 Report election results to GSO

General Assembly for ratification.