



- **Doctoral Summer Funding**

- 40 students with dissertation completion fellowships were funded over the summer, as well as 43 early-stage doctoral students with pre-dissertation fellowships. The early-stage awards were a new allocation due to GSO's advocacy during the 2021 – 2022 academic year. [[article link](#)]
- This year, the Graduate School will be piloting a summer option program for graduate assistants with full academic year assistantship appointments to have the option to spread out their regular 18 semi-monthly disbursements over 24 semi-monthly disbursements. Enrollment in this option closed 7/22/22. The GSO, and particularly Senator Christopher Dean Arnell from Biology, were instrumental in this effort.
- Future work: we will be advocating for an increase in the minimum stipend currently issued at \$16,485/academic year, to a dollar amount at or near the current average (~\$21,000).

- **First-time Graduate School Orientation**

The GSO was influential in advocating for an orientation of some sorts for graduates at the start of the Fall semester, and it occurred for the first time in August. We hope this provided for a smoother transition to both incoming domestic and international graduate students.

- **Campus Initiatives**

- The Student Association would like to collaborate with GSO on climate action. We will place them in contact with the Climate Action Committee currently active in our Senate. If you are interested in such collaborative work, please reach out to [Daniel J. Kimmel](#), GSO Internal Vice President, for placement on the committee.
- The University announced this summer some changes to the structure of the department of public safety (DPS) and Title IX [[article link](#)]. In short, DPS is now under the Enrollment and Student Experience umbrella to foster student-centered safety measures, and the Title IX office will now have a student-dedicated branch which would expedite the handling of cases (2 weeks – 2 months turnaround).

- **Inn Complete Operation**

The Inn complete is a bar/venue on South Campus hosting GSO's regular events. Graduate students received a 20% discount on food and beverages. Currently, the Inn will no longer be utilized exclusively by the GSO and will be booked as needed and as available. During the 2021 – 2022 academic year, catering could not fill the trivia night graduate position to run Thursday night Trivia. If there is interest in pursuing this, please reach out to me [[email](#)].

If you are interested in booking the Inn, please reach out to [Ian Ferguson](#), GSO Comptroller.

- **Graduate Parental Accommodation**

A graduate policy is expected to be finalized this year to allow for Graduate students who bear children during their graduate work to take an 8-week parental accommodation without impacting their legal status (internationals) or pay (those on assistantships). There will be

funds available to compensate departments for teaching assistantships, for example, that pay for such responsibilities to continue being fulfilled within the department over the period of time the student is out. Parental accommodation policy efforts were initiated by the Graduate Faculty Council.

The Graduate School is hosting an open forum on the matter on September 23rd at 12pm in Room 312 of Lyman Hall to gather students, especially those bearing children or with plans to bear children during their time at SU and collect their feedback on their preferences for the implementation of this policy.

- **Advocacy & Representation**

We advocated/filled graduate representative seats in the following areas:

- Department of Public Safety (DPS) Student Advisory Committee
- Community Review Board (CRB)
- Bike Donations to Interfaith Works