

# GSO NEWSLETTER

## Updates on Fall 2020 Reopening

Aloha everyone,

On July 1st, President David Lassner officially announced the [Interim UH Systemwide COVID-19 Guidelines](#) - the plans and policies for reopening campus for Fall 2020. Please read over them for required and recommended health practices; screening and reporting procedures; classroom and campus facility access; and other guidelines. In the coming weeks, check your email for updates and potential changes to your class schedule or format.

GSO expects the following changes related out our operations and activities:

- All GSO meetings for the Fall 2020 semester will be held virtually on Zoom - see below for tips on Zoom meetings!
- All GSO-sponsored events will be virtual until further notice.
- Grants & Awards reimbursement meetings will continue to be conducted virtually

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming semester, please remember that GSO is here to help!

With gratitude,

Maura Stephens-Chu



## July Meeting Dates

**7/16:** General Assembly Meeting, 6-8 PM

**7/30:** Executive Council Meeting, 6-8 PM

## What's Inside:

*Fall 2020 Reopening - 1*

*July Virtual Coffee Hour Series - 2*

*2020 Merit Based Award (MBA) Recipients; MBA Chair Call for Applications - 3*

*MBA Recipient Profiles - 4-11*

*G&A Important Info - 12*

*Zoom for GSO - 13-14*

[gso.hawaii.edu](http://gso.hawaii.edu)



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# Virtual Coffee Hour Series

## Wednesdays, 12:00-1:30 PM

**Brought to You by Maria Teresa Houar,  
Employment & Compensation Chair**

### **July 1 Mask-Making Tutorial with Rebecca Goldschmidt**

[https://zoom.us/j/94802859552?  
pwd=cDJMMGdZOVlnazZDaDZXZnYrT2  
xDdz09](https://zoom.us/j/94802859552?pwd=cDJMMGdZOVlnazZDaDZXZnYrT2xDdz09)

Join seamster and artist Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt to learn how to make a simple mask and to talk about the importance of collective work and mutual aid that builds community for liberators futures! For the masks, please bring a yard of 100% cotton fabric - or an old pillowcase - scissors, and sewing machine (or needle and thread)

### **July 22 DIY At-Home Spa with Hannah Kline**

[https://zoom.us/j/92823178974?  
pwd=azR5d3NjRW9jMGN2VXZlcTBaRGw  
vdz09](https://zoom.us/j/92823178974?pwd=azR5d3NjRW9jMGN2VXZlcTBaRGwvdz09)

Join GSO Parliamentarian Hannah Kline for a simple DIY at-home spa tutorial. This workshop will remind us to slow down our day and help us discover some of the amazing care-regimens already in our kitchen - like honey, yogurt, flour, and olive oil.

### **July 8 TA Tools for Anti- Oppression in the Classroom** Details coming soon!

### **July 15 Labor Organizing Basics with Academic Labor United (ALU)**

[https://zoom.us/j/93846667511?  
pwd=MTdHenZWRVErd0ozckhiTWJ4YU15Zz0  
9](https://zoom.us/j/93846667511?pwd=MTdHenZWRVErd0ozckhiTWJ4YU15Zz09)

In this labor organizing workshop, Academic Labor United organizers will teach you skills to organize your friends, coworkers, and classmates for Graduate Assistant unionization! We'll talk about why we need a union for GAs, as well as how to have important conversations about unionization, sign up your friends, and use our resources to take action! This workshop will be fun, practical, and full of camaraderie!

### **July 29 Countertop-Gardening and Sprouting for Small Spaces with Russell Galanti**

[https://zoom.us/j/95134857714?  
pwd=K3JyRFZlMHZDMmxZNHJsTlRB  
bE5WQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95134857714?pwd=K3JyRFZlMHZDMmxZNHJsTlRBbE5WQT09)

Join UH Faculty Russell Galanti and learn the basics to growing edible plants at a small scale. Herbs, greens, and sprouts are some grocery items to stop purchasing and easily grow at home. The basic horticultural principles to growing will be discussed as well as several methods for growing your own herbs, greens and sprouts!

**Contact**  
[gsoemp@hawaii.edu](mailto:gsoemp@hawaii.edu)  
**for more info!**

# Congratulations to the 2020 Merit Based Award Recipients!

In order to promote outstanding graduate student work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) provides the annual Merit Based Awards to recognize graduate student excellence in Diversity, Mentorship, Research, Service and Outreach, and Teaching. These awards, each in the amount of \$5,000, fund up two students in each category.

## Teaching

Christine M. Ambrosino,  
Department of Zoology

Yuka Matsutani,  
Department of Second Language  
Studies

## Service and Outreach

Hannah Liebreich,  
Department of Sociology

Nathalie Rita,  
Department of Sociology

## Research

Randi L. Rollins,  
Department of Zoology

Louie Mar Gangcuangco,  
Department of Tropical Medicine,  
Medical Microbiology, and  
Pharmacology

## Diversity

Hannah El Silimy,  
Department of Political Science

Jessica Bullington,  
Department of Oceanography

**Check out the pages below for profiles on all of our amazing awardees!**



## Call for Applications: Merit Based Awards Chair

The Merit Based Awards Chair runs the Merit Based Awards program, which includes:

- Managing a budget of \$60,000 to provide \$50,000 in merit-based scholarships to graduate students
- Developing policies for the scholarship program, working with university administrators to secure annual funding, creating a call for proposals for the following five scholarship categories: Diversity, Mentorship, Teaching, Service and Outreach, and Research
- Coordinating the creation of review committees and scoring procedures
- Preparing year end reports and planning award ceremony

**Email [gso@hawaii.edu](mailto:gso@hawaii.edu) to apply!**



# The 2020 Hannah Liebreich Merit Based Award for Teaching

The Graduate Student Organization aims to celebrate and honor exemplary teaching by currently enrolled graduate students who are engaged in teaching undergraduate or graduate students. The Merit Based Award in Teaching is important because it honors outstanding graduate students, reminds the campus that teaching is a central part of the university's mission, and can inspire students and professors to give increased attention to the educational process.



## **Christine M. Ambrosino, Department of Zoology**

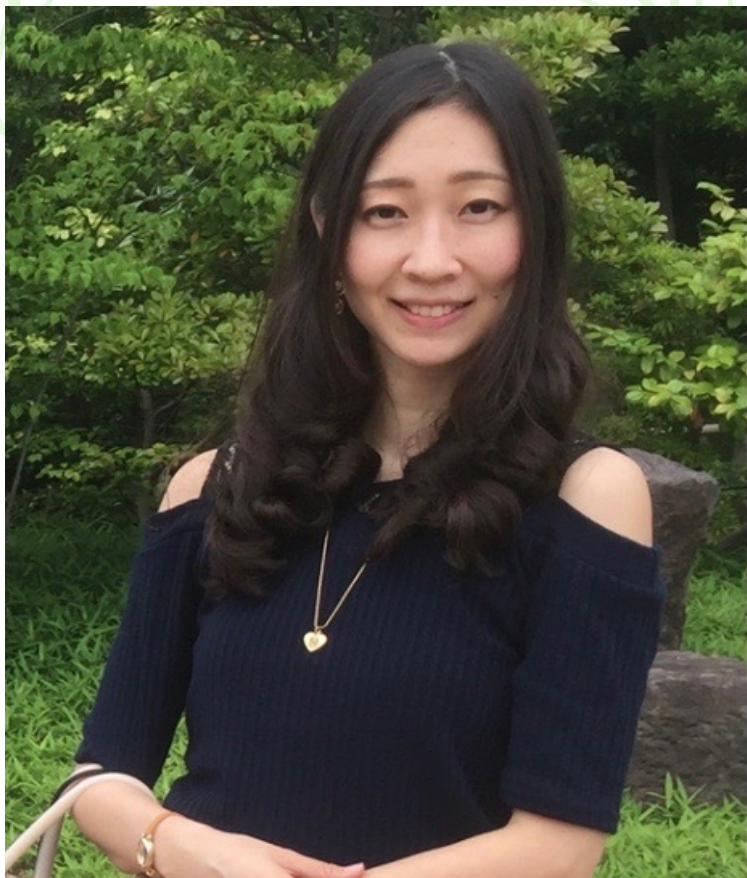
Academically and professionally, my training has focused heavily in the natural sciences, but as I become more interested in science education, and education practices in general, it has become clear that in many ways the science community is failing its students. I consider myself a discipline-based education research scientist in the sense I am a budding education researcher firmly rooted in the science community, but I am also trying to challenge the priorities, worldview, knowledge, and practices of science and science education through my research. Place-based pedagogies have become central to my curriculum development and are forcing me to examine my own relationship with science as well as the type of scientist I want my students to become (or the type of science community I am encouraging them to join). I have learned that by ignoring or removing the social or human side of research or a curriculum, science education can alienate the very students it is seeking to engage.

Place-based education that is culturally grounded, relevant, responsible, and sustainable helps to empower students in the science classroom. By grounding myself and my curricula in the unique place that is Hawai'i, I strive to incorporate place-based pedagogies to better engage our local students, a large proportion of whom are Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Pacific Islanders, ethnicities underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. After graduation, I plan to continue developing and teaching place-based science curricula in Hawai'i that celebrate the worldviews and knowledge systems of my students. I am honored and very grateful to be the recipient of this merit-based teaching award for my efforts to transform science education and science itself to be more diverse and inclusive by giving voice to marginalized students.

# The 2020 Hannah Liebreich Merit Based Award for Teaching

## Yuka Matsutani, Department of Second Language Studies

I am very honored and humbled to be a recipient of the 2020 GSO Merit-Based Award in Teaching. Inspired by Dr. King's speech, I believe that "Good education is intelligence plus character." The best teachers know teaching knowledge and skills is not enough in true education because this knowledge could be used unethically. For the past year, this philosophy has guided how I have taught SLS408 Multilingual Education to students who wish to become language teachers. This class deals with topics such as discrimination and oppression of language minorities, and celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity. To challenge such pressing social injustice, I have strived to develop my students' character alongside their academic abilities. My primary teaching approach is the sociolinguistic justice approach, which raises awareness and understanding of inequalities based on language and then challenges them in classrooms. Particularly, future language teachers need to be aware of the impacts on students of our beliefs and conduct in the classroom. To put this approach into practice, I have challenged my students to go beyond simply identifying the pressing social issues, by also examining their causes and solutions.



Another approach I take is individualization of teaching based on the conceptualization of students as "learners-in-progress." I believe there are not "good students" who do not need to learn and "bad students" who need special assistance. They are all in their own process of learning, and each student has both what they can do well already and what they need to learn now. For me, the best teachers pay close attention to each student and assist them in achieving their individual learning goals, believing in their potential to succeed. Teachers are also a learner-in-progress and the joy of being a teacher is to continue along with this never-ending journey.



# The 2020 Merit Based Award for Research

The Graduate Student Organization aims to support graduate students in timely completion of their course of study at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa through encouraging excellence in research. In order to support this aim, GSO Merit Based Awards in Research will be awarded to one (1) Master's level student completing their Master's Thesis, and one (1) Doctoral level student completing their dissertation. Successful applicants will demonstrate a history of scholarly contributions and commitment to research.

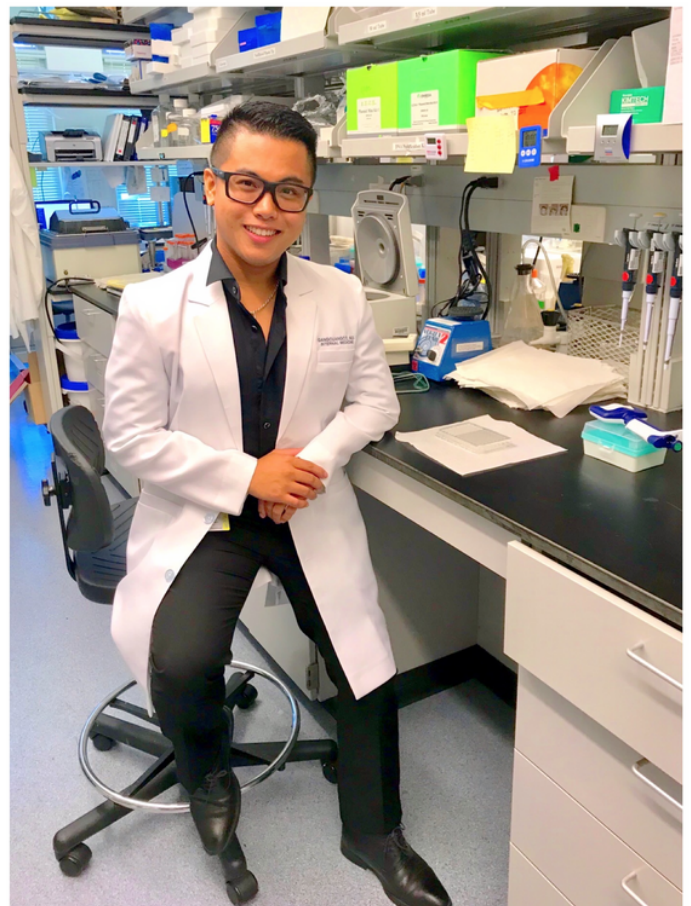
## **Louie Mar Gangcuangco, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and Pharmacology (Master's)**

My Master's thesis focused on comparing substances in the blood of persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) living in the Philippines and Hawaii. HIV is a virus that damages the immune system. Since the beginning of the epidemic in the 1980's, the World Health Organization estimates that about 75 million people have been infected with HIV. There are medications to control HIV, but there is currently no cure or any vaccine against it.

The Philippines has the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the Western Pacific region, registering more than 1,000 new HIV cases every month. Doctors have previously observed that the immune system of Filipinos with HIV seem to be damaged more rapidly compared with those living in developed countries. To help understand this observation, we compared several substances in the blood of HIV patients from the Philippines and Hawaii.

We found that the immune cells fighting infections (called 'CD4 T cells') are much lower in the Philippines compared with Hawaii. We also found that the rate of previous tuberculosis infection is higher in the Philippines. Furthermore, a certain chemical in the blood called 'TGF-beta' is higher among people living in the Philippines compared with those living in Hawaii. Interestingly, high TGF-beta was linked with a weaker immune system. Other researchers have reported that high TGF-beta is associated with various diseases such as hardening of organs, also known as 'fibrosis.'

This study is part of a larger research collaboration between the University of the Philippines and the Hawaii Center for AIDS. Further research is being conducted to fully understand the effects of HIV not just to the immune system but also to the other parts of the body.



# The 2020 Merit Based Award for Research



## **Randi L. Rollins, Department of Zoology (Doctorate)**

The focus of my GSO Merit Award application is angiostrongyliasis (rat-lungworm disease), a debilitating and occasionally deadly neglected tropical disease caused by ingestion of a parasitic roundworm, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*. Despite discovery of the disease in 1961, relatively little is known about the parasite's biology and ecology. Pathways of human transmission are still not fully understood, nor are protocols in place for treating the disease. These are important elements of disease mitigation, and understanding the relationship of the parasite with its environment and host organisms (snails, slugs and rats) can elucidate infection pathways, and provide insight into treatment options. To fill these gaps in knowledge, I employ ecological concepts in conjunction with epidemiological approaches to study the rat-lungworm transmission cycle. During the past three years working in the Cowie and Medeiros labs, both in the Pacific Biosciences Research Center, I've had opportunities to collaborate with the Hawaii State Department of Health, John A. Burns School Of Medicine, local physicians, and local farmers (contaminated produce is a possible pathway for transmission) to understand and prevent this enigmatic disease. Results from fine-scale surveys of snails on Oahu show rat-lungworm infection depends largely on snail species, snail size, and local environmental conditions (rainfall, temperature, and vegetation), indicating human risk varies greatly across the island. Other projects include testing natural compounds as potential drug treatments, assessing the possible risk associated with snail slime on produce, and investigating the role microbes play in development of the rat-lungworm over its life-cycle. These projects contribute to reducing infection in communities across the Pacific Islands and around the globe where this deadly brain parasite is present. Additionally, this research serves as a model for other zoonotic diseases, and for understanding interactions between the environment, parasites, and their hosts. The GSO Award supports my contributions to this body of knowledge, and contributes to the University of Hawaii's position as a global center for rat-lungworm research.



# The 2020 Rachel Wade Merit Based Award for Service and Outreach

The Graduate Student Organization recognizes the importance of promoting graduate student service to the University and outreach to the community at large. This category is broadly defined to include student-led projects/programs and/or student work experience that benefit and enrich the university, local, and/or global community. Successful applicants will demonstrate a history of beneficence.

## Hannah Liebreich, Department of Sociology



My name is Hannah Liebreich, and I am a current PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I research how policies aimed at addressing gender-based violence on college campuses impact members of the campus community, and I also do applied, community work related to my research. For example, I helped the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Hawai'i, pass stronger state Title IX policy.

The latest project I am volunteering for is a local Candidate Forum on behalf of the AAUW, Hawai'i. We have invited all candidates running in five state House of Representative races. We will be asking candidates to speak about core AAUW issues such as Title IX policy, equal pay, and abortion access, to name a few. I am also volunteering as the treasurer for a local politician running for the state House of Representative District 20.

I am honored to accept the Rachel Wade Merit Based Award for Service and Outreach. Without the support of the Graduate Student Organization's Merit Based Award, I would be working a fourth job in the service industry this summer. Thus, I would not be able to volunteer and contribute to our community. Thank you to the Graduate Student Organization for all that you do, mahalo, for awarding me the Rachel Wade Merit Based Award for Service and Outreach.



# The 2020 Rachel Wade Merit Based Award for Service and Outreach



## **Nathalie Rita, Department of Sociology**

My name is Nathalie Rita, and I am a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where my research focuses on Migration and Mobility Studies, Race and Ethnicity, and Urban Sociology.

Throughout my graduate studies, I have been dedicated to community service inside and outside of the UHM community. First, I have assisted recent immigrants as they undergo the asylum process by assisting with language translation, transportation, and childcare. Second, I have helped draft local legislation related to immigration, as well as helped create programs aimed to assist marginalized communities based on my research. Third, I have taken on various leadership roles in student led organizations, such as the Graduate Student Sociological Association and the Graduate Student Organization, aimed at improving the educational experiences of graduate students.

It is an honor and a privilege to accept the Rachel Wade Merit Based Award for Service and Outreach, which recognizes the importance of student service to the University, as well as outreach to the community at large. To uphold the values of the award, I am committed to dedicating more time to community and institutional service work, as well as completing my dissertation research. Thank you GSO!

# The 2020 Merit Based Award for Diversity

The Merit Based Awards in Diversity are designed to recognize outstanding graduate student work related to diversity or diverse populations. The Graduate Student Organization defines diversity broadly to include race and ethnicity, national origin, indigenous heritage, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, developmental or acquired disabilities, socioeconomic status, and other human attributes with significant implications for social identity and historical experience.



## **Hannah El Silimy, Department of Political Science**

As an international rights activist, educator and researcher, my work has always been guided by a deep commitment to diversity. I come from an international family with parents from Japan and Egypt, and have lived and worked in Southeast Asia, the U.K and the U.S. Over the past decade, I have worked with social movements for peace, minority and Indigenous rights, and gender justice in the U.S. and Asia as an educator and organizer. In 2014, driven by our shared commitment to promote global leadership of minority and Indigenous women in civil society, I and two women peacebuilders from Colombia and Burma co-founded Weaving Bonds Across Borders. Over the past four years, I worked as the Co-Director of our organization, which is an international network of women activists and peace builders from Indigenous and ethnic minority backgrounds. Through promoting Indigenous and minority women's leadership, we have helped create more diversity in community activism and social movements across Asia. Since starting my PhD in Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I have continued to focus on issues related to diversity and justice. For my research, I am undertaking a collaborative research project with minority and Indigenous women-led transnational civil society networks working for peace and justice in the Asia Pacific. I am also committed to supporting diversity in all forms on our UH campus. As an instructor of Political Science, in my classes I teach a number of hands-on activities related to identity, race, gender, and personal story sharing, so that students have a chance to learn from each others' diverse perspectives and experiences. Finally, I also support diverse forms of learners through using experiential and hands-on activities in the classroom, as well as policies to support student parents and working students in the classroom.

# The 2020 Merit Based Award for Diversity



## **Jessica Bullington, Department of Oceanography**

I am a second-year graduate student in the Department of Oceanography and I am a woman. Throughout my undergraduate education, I was actively discouraged by my superiors from pursuing my dreams of becoming a professor in science. Their dissuasion was based on how my intelligence is perceived in a physical sciences field based on my gender. Fortunately, I had incredible mentors and a supportive community who encouraged me to pursue my career ambitions despite discrimination and sexual harassment. Through these experiences, I realized my immense privilege as a white woman and the necessity of a support network. I made it my goal to pay forward this support throughout my graduate career by creating a space where students feel a sense of belonging rooted in empowerment. Because 'who' does science defines the priorities of scientific research, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are objectives ingrained in my various roles as a researcher, leader, and mentor. Within oceanography, my commitment to EDI is driven by four core initiatives: 1) facilitate minority undergraduate student mentorship, 2) change course curriculum to better serve graduate student diversity, 3) ensure work-place facilities are gender inclusive, and 4) establish an EDI permanent office. As President of the Nā Kama Kai (NKK) oceanography graduate student organization, I have been working closely with the Oceanography Department Chair and LGBTQ+ Center to implement these changes. I mentor undergraduate students through the SOEST Maile Mentoring Bridge and the Strategic Monitoring and Resilience Training (SMART) Ala Wai program. I also initiated and coordinated a course this spring, OCN 750 Professional Development and Career Diversity. Being awarded the GSO Merit Based Award in Diversity inspires me to continue to merge my passion for oceanography research and social justice.



# Grants & Awards

## - Info to Keep in Mind -

- **As a reminder, the G&A Program does not just fund conference travel. You can apply for professional development activities (i.e., workshops or special courses/training, including online formats) and for research materials.**
- We will continue accepting and reviewing applications, as well as reimbursing for the funded ones that took place before the pandemic. Our application cycle remains the same: monthly deadlines from August through May (applications are accepted over the summer but will not be reviewed until the start of the Fall semester).
- If your research or travel grant has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions please consider the following guidelines:
  - Applicants who had to cancel their trips due to pandemic related restrictions are requested to pursue all reasonable pathways to obtain refunds for their airfare, accommodations, and conference fees. If these pathways have been exhausted and the supplier of either of the funded budget lines refused to issue a refund, GSO will consider reimbursement requests on a case-by-case basis.
  - Activities that were approved for funding and have been postponed due to the pandemic related restrictions will be considered for reallocation. In each case the student has to apply for reallocation individually, with evidence of event delay. In order to receive the reimbursement for an event delayed due to COVID-19, the applicant must be a current student of UH Mānoa at the time of reimbursement.
  - Until further notice, the meeting with GSO office staff required for reimbursement will be conducted online. To schedule an online reimbursement meeting, use this link: <https://doodle.com/mm/uhmanoagraduatestudentorganization/award-meeting>. Please consult the reimbursement guidelines for the materials and documents needed for the meeting (<https://uhmgso.wixsite.com/website/reimbursement>).

# Instructions for GSO Zoom Meetings

The GSO General Assembly meetings will be held via Zoom for the Fall 2020 semester. **We will NOT be meeting in person / on-campus!**

In advance of your first GSO Zoom meeting, make sure that you have set up a Zoom account and installed Zoom on your preferred device. If you have never used Zoom before, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the basic features before the meeting. We recommend you start with our “GSO Zoom Tips” (on the following page) and the Zoom Help Center: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>. There are plenty of other online resources and tips as well.

You will automatically be muted upon joining the meeting. **Please stay muted, when not speaking, to reduce background noise and interference.** Use of webcam video is optional.

Below is an outline of how the virtual meetings are run. They are quite similar to an in-person GA meeting, albeit a slightly different format!

1. Like at a typical GA meeting, once you join the meeting, please use the QR code on the first page of the agenda slides to complete program rep check-in.
2. One of the Executive Council (EC) members will be sharing their screen to display the agenda slides as each EC member gives their report.
3. To vote: use the green ‘yes’ button to vote “aye”, the red ‘no’ button to vote “nay”, and the blue teacup ‘take a break’ button to “abstain.” **Remember: only EC members and program reps can vote, and only one vote per program!**
4. The EC members will take turns giving their respective reports. There will be time allotted at the end of each report for questions and discussion.
5. To speak or ask a question: A) Type your question/statement into the Chat. Your question will be answered during the questions/discussion time at the end of the relevant EC report. OR B) Use the blue hand icon to “raise your hand.” Wait until you are called on by the relevant EC member, then speak. Deactivate the “raise your hand” button once you are done. **Whether you are typing or speaking, don’t forget to include your program name, just like at a typical GA meeting!**

GSO appreciates your flexibility and patience as we all adapt to this new format!

# Zoom and You: A GSO-Specific Quick and Dirty Guide

Below are some of the basic features and tools you will use during the GSO General Assembly. Visit the Zoom Help Center for further details (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>).

## Join a meeting

Once you've downloaded and installed Zoom, you will have the option to plug in a room code. This code will be provided to you.

## Mute/unmute yourself

Please mute yourself if you do not currently have the floor. The "mute" button looks like a microphone and is in the lower left-hand corner of your screen. If you have the floor, you can either hold the spacebar to temporarily unmute yourself or you can click the microphone button to unmute yourself. Please remember to mute yourself after you've finished speaking.

## Raise/lower your hand

In the "participants" window, there is a row of icons at the bottom of the list. One is a small blue hand. Click it to "raise your hand." Click the icon again and you will lower your hand. Please remember to lower your hand once your question has been answered.

## Vote "aye"

In order to vote "aye," click the green "check" button on the bottom of the "participants" window. Click on it again to remove the icon.

## Vote "nay"

In order to vote "nay" click the red "x" button on the bottom of the "participants" window. Click on it again to remove the icon.

## Vote "abstain"

Should you choose to abstain from a vote, click on the blue teacup icon (it's marked "take a break" but for our purposes we are using it to abstain from a vote). Click on it again to remove the icon.

## Leave a meeting

In the bottom right hand of the main window there is a red text icon that says "leave meeting." In order to leave a meeting, click that icon and then confirm you are sure.