

Annual Committee Report (2023-2024)
Reporting on activities from May 2023-May 2024

1. **Date of report:** 25 May 2024
2. **Name of Committee:** Graduate Student Committee
3. **Name and site affiliation of the Committee Chair (or co-chairs or Executive Team):**

Joey Krieger Lodge (NWT)

Moriah Young (KBS)

4. **List of current members:**

Name	Site
Tatiana Latorre	AND
Zach Perry	AND
Abigail Rec	ARC
Jessie Motes	ARC
Mathea Kuurtz-Shaw	BLE
Nick Link	BNZ
Luke Ramsey	CAP
Grace Cawley	CCE
Miao He	CDR
Paige Kleindl	FCE
Matt Pierce	GCE
Alicia Brunner	HBR
Carina Berlingeri	HFR
Dylan Stover	JRN
Parikrama (Pari) Sapkota	JRN
Moriah Young	KBS
Rosalie Terry	KNZ
Mariely Vega	LUQ
Bradley Kryzsiak	MCM
Julianna Renzi	MCR
Adelaide Dahl	MCR
Xiating Chen	MSP

Rickie Ewton	NES
Nicole Webster	NGA
David Ortiz	NTL
Joey Krieger Lodge	NWT
Arianna Torello	PAL
Quintin Diou-Cass	PAL
Camila Silva	PIE
Reese LeVae	PIE
Kristen Michaud	SBC
Cassandra Miller	SEV
Lauren Brideau	VCR
Mikayla Call	VCR

5. How membership is determined (identified by sites, voluntary, appointed by the Executive Board, etc)

Membership includes one or two graduate representatives from each site who participate in a monthly committee-wide video conference. All graduate students at LTER sites are welcome to attend and participate in the LTER GSC monthly meetings, but non-representatives do not participate in GSC-wide votes.

Graduate student representatives will serve a term of no more than 2 years and will find a replacement halfway through their second year. Term length may be shorter (no more than 1 year) for master's students. Representatives will try, to the best of their ability, to find a replacement to start either in January or September depending on site field season. The process by which succeeding site representatives will be chosen is determined by each site. A period of one month minimum overlap is required between site representatives to facilitate continuity. Sites are responsible for submitting updated graduate representative contact info to the committee chairs each year. Graduate student representatives leaving their role are responsible for making sure their successor is invited to the Slack and Google Drive communication channels.

6. Meeting frequency: Once a month

7. Major activities or accomplishments for the year:

Community Working Group

- Created GSC Representative Orientation Packet
 - Created GSC Representative Orientation Checklist
 - Created GSC Representative Roles and Responsibilities document
 - Revised GSC By-laws document

Social Media Working Group

- SSALTER Blog had 13 new posts in the last year
- Instagram had 35 posts in the last year

Events & Initiatives Working Group

- Updated RFP for GSC events (however, we are no longer using this because allocation of funds by the LNO has changed)
- Visual media series
(<https://lternet.edu/stories/introducing-the-lter-visual-media-webinar-series/>)
 - Three interactive webinars on communicating science visually including speakers from *Scientific American* and *Nature*
 - RFP enabled us to recruit fantastic speakers and compensate them for their time (\$1000 each), especially for the personalized feedback for LTER attendees who submitted work
 - 242 registrants, 131 live attendees, and 333 YouTube views of the recordings from the first two seminars

8. Currently active subcommittees or working groups:

- Community working group: ensures that committee documents are up to date and creates documentation when needed.
- Social media working group: facilitates digital media interactions between LTER sites by sharing experiences through managing a blog and overseeing the LTER Instagram account.
- Events & initiatives working group: develops and organizes events across the LTER network with a focus on catering to graduate student interests and needs.

9. Planned activities for the coming year:

Community Working Group:

- Update LTER GSC Representative Orientation document
- Work with IM to put together workshop(s) geared towards grad students at the sites
- Work with DEIJ Committee/LNO Inclusion and Access Coordinator on climate survey (in progress)
- Template for site-specific grad student orientation

Social Media Working Group:

- Continue Instagram call for submissions and facilitating SSALTER Blog
- Photo contest featured on Instagram where we pit sites against each other
 - Working group picks a winner from each site, then sites enter a “bracket stage” for their ecosystem type where instagram votes determine who advances
 - Winner gets a prize
- Update SSALTER blog guidelines document

Events & Initiatives Working Group:

- Book club or Podcast discussions around relevant themes (e.g., research, social justice, careers)
 - Pitch to the community LNO group
 - Show & tell – have a theme for the month and everyone brings their relevant podcast/article/book to share
 - Build a list of thematic books/podcasts/articles/etc to share continuously
- Smaller virtual ecosystem/regional based “synthesis meetings”
- Career panel again
- **Advocacy coalition building partnered with the new DEI coordinator, around topics such as community engagement, data sovereignty**
 - How to write a data agreements, compensation
 - How to connect with local organizations to support coalition building
 - Connect with the new DEI coordinator for additional resources
 - Land acknowledgments & going beyond:
<https://nativegov.org/news/beyond-land-acknowledgment-guide/>
- LTER trivia / Jeopardy
 - Groups of 3-5 grad students from sites with contrasting themes
- **Arts & photos ideas (partner with Social Media)**
 - In person art days per site - could then take photos and upload onto Social Media
 - Funny animal photo competition
 - Could vote on favorite photos on the LTER website and apply for funding to make LTER postcards
- Quarterly personal development call: could work on things like creating business cards, website designing, writing accountability group
- Host an Inkscape workshop or a workshop on making animations (e.g., stop motion or easy animation software)
 - Could be useful for graphical abstracts, general science promotion

10. Any recent or upcoming changes in leadership, purpose, or process:

N/A

11. Do you have specific questions, problems, or proposals for the LTER Science Council for actions that could improve the quality or quantity of research, education, engagement, or inclusion in the LTER Network? (Please include adequate background for a non-specialist.)

Continued support for educational opportunities and community events that the GSC organizes throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Your report will be distributed to members of the Science Council and Executive Board before the June Meeting. The Committee's Executive Board representative will have about 5 minutes to present at the meeting and an additional 5 minutes for questions/discussion. We find that both the committees and Principal Investigators get more out of this face-to-face opportunity if the presentation focuses less on reporting activities and more on questions or issues that require discussion and input or action from the Science Council. Questions, issues or proposals that generate significant discussion at the Science Council Meeting may become the focus of deeper discussion at Executive Board or Lead PI Meetings throughout the coming year.