

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: April 3, 2013

Time: 6:15 pm

Location: James Room, Sadler Center

- I. Call to Order
- II. Vice President's Report
 - a. Elections
 - i. Deadline for nominations was April 1, but last minute nominations will be accepted.
 - a. Right now the Parliamentarian position is vacant. The Parliamentarian is responsible for attending Grad Council meetings, planning Grad Bash, etc.
 - b. Current nominees will present their pitches tonight and election emails will go out soon.
 - ii. We have a problem in that there are 4 students from American Studies nominated for executive positions. The constitution states that we can only have 3 students from one department.
 - a. Janine withdrew her nomination but stated that she is willing to serve in the fall if needed.
 - b. Sarah made a pitch to students in the Sciences to nominate themselves or others in their departments, as the GSA is slim on people from the Sciences.
 - c. Sarah will send an email to A&S students asking for students to participate in GSA.
- III. Secretary's Report
 - a. The nominees' "blurbs" are up on the website.
 - b. Meghan will post the Health Insurance report and Parking report on the GSA website as soon as Ellen and Sean have finalized versions ready.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Colloquium Funding
 - i. Ellen put a freeze on colloq funding.
 - ii. Ellen asked to see a show of hands of departments that will need to apply for funding. 2 dept reps raised their hands.
 - iii. There is \$94.72 left in colloq funding. \$222 was not spent on the professors' roundtable. \$20 was not spent on welcome back party. We now need a decision on how to allocate those remaining funds.
 - iv. There is enough money remaining to fund the 2 departments' requests for funding.
- V. Social Chair's Report
 - a. Committee has done a lot of work on organizing a Volleyball Tournament/BBQ. Sean wants every grad student to know about this event and circulated flyers for people to post in their departments.

- i. Games will include bocce ball, cornhole, and croquet. There will be drinks and food.
- ii. Location: Bryan Courtyard. Starts at 5:30 pm on Friday, April 19. **RSVP is required.** RSVP on Facebook or by emailing Sean.

VI. Student Senate Representative's Report

a. New Bills

- i. Janine and Kendall Lorenzen, Student Senate Chair, have worked on two bills. Thanks to all those who came to the Student Senate meeting to share their thoughts and concerns, as there was a good showing of grad students. Please contact Kendall with any questions: ktlorenzen@email.wm.edu.

1. Student Development Act

- a. Would grant \$2,184 of the total \$5,290 available funds to the GSA.

- i. Janine and Kendall presented this bill to the Student Senate, but it was rejected by Curt Mills, the President. He thinks it may be unconstitutional for the Student Assembly to fund grad events.

- ii. Funding restrictions that we all should be aware of:

1. **Student Activities does not fund events that involve alcohol.** Please keep this in mind when requesting event funding.
2. **Student Activities does not fund food** unless it is necessary for a cultural event or is required for the proper functioning of an event.
3. **Only campus-wide events will be funded.**
4. **Please be specific and itemize the things that you need funding for when you apply.** Some groups have not received funding solely because their applications were ambiguous or poorly explained.
5. **Student Activities is invested in funding social events** more so than academic functions.
6. Janine urged Anthropology to seek money from Student Activities & Events and to apply for each of their events when all details are known and can be explained thoroughly in a funding application.
7. If departments want to get funding from Student Activities for colloquia, they need to work on making a strong case for the essential nature of colloquia for graduate students and departments. **Otherwise, colloquia will likely not be funded.**
8. Law, Business, Education, and VIMS all have guaranteed funding from Student Activities on a year-to-year basis. **Arts & Sciences is the only school that does not have guaranteed funding.** We need to collectively express our concern about this if we want it to change.

iii. Kendall spoke with Student Activities and they suggested that we try to get funding from the Activities & Events Fund in hopes of ensuring that the GRS will be able to continue.

1. Someone asked why OGSR does not fund all of the GRS.

a. They do not have the budget for it.

2. Protection of GSA Student Act

a. Would 1) stipulate that the GSA appoint or nominate a member to the Events & Activities Committee and 2) include a provision that states that the Student Assembly President and Student Senate Chair will attend GSA meetings in order to foster better communication and understanding between GSA and SA.

i. Currently, the Secretary of Finance (student) chooses all members of the EAC and it is not spelled out as to how he/she should go about making those selections.

1. There are currently 2 graduate students on the EAC.

2. GSA members have not served on the EAC for

ii. The EAC rep could have a proxy in the case of their being unable to attend a meeting.

3. Motion made to present and propose the bills at the next Student Senate meeting. Voted. Approved.

VII. Parliamentarian's Report

a. Grad Bash is April 12

i. Currently in need of a DJ. Please contact Jenna Carlson if you know of someone who could serve this purpose. They will be paid \$200 for their services.

ii. A Google doc will go out soon requesting volunteers. TIPS trained volunteers are needed, as well as people to help out with miscellaneous event duties.

Volunteers get in free!

VIII. Health Insurance Committee Report

a. An article is coming out soon in the *Flat Hat* about students' concerns about health insurance.

b. There is a chance that student health insurance fees will go up. More info is forthcoming.

c. Ellen will send Meghan a finalized report for posting to the GSA website.

IX. Parking Committee Report

a. Sean met with Bill and went to the Parking Advisory Committee meetings. They are currently voting on a new policy that will be implemented in the future.

b. The school has hired a consulting company to advise them on parking. The company will perform two assessments and give a report after the Fall assessment.

c. One of the biggest problems seems to be that students do not understand what they are getting when they buy a parking pass. Spaces are not guaranteed to be available, nor are they guaranteed to be close to where you are going on campus.

X. GSA Officer Candidates' Statements

a. All present candidates stated their intentions for serving on GSA and stated their goals for the 2013-14 academic year.

- XI. Old Business
 - a. Professors' Round Table: Monsanto Recap
 - i. Event was a great success!

- XII. Other Business

- XIII. Announcements
 - a. Grad Bash: April 12
 - b. OGSR Funding Deadline: April 26