

## Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2014

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Location: James Room, Sadler Center

Presiding Officer: Nabeel Siddiqui, President

The meeting of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by the President.

Nabeel introduces Dean Torczon, who has several points to bring up with GSA. First, Steve Otto, Director of Communications for Arts and Sciences, has been working recently on improving William and Mary web offerings and is interested in finding ways to get information to graduate students more effectively. He has looked over GSA's website and would like to help improve its content if GSA is interested. Specifically, he would like us to consider linking the GSA's Events Calendar with the William and Mary calendar system. Summer Moore will provide access information to Steve so that he and his staff can identify areas for improvement.

Dean Torczon's second point involves the Graduate Studies Advisory Board. At the most recent meeting, the Advisory Board members were unanimous in wanting to include current Arts and Sciences graduate students on the Board. They want input directly from graduate students concerning what types of goals they should be setting as they initiate fundraising efforts. They would waive minimum annual contribution for two representatives, but give them full voting rights. The Advisory Board would like to have one representative from the Humanities and Social Science and one from Computational and Natural Sciences. The Board meets twice a year, with one meeting after Homecoming and one following the Graduate Research Symposium. Teleconferencing was started last year to reduce the gap between meetings, and two teleconference meetings will probably take place next year. Based on the small number of meetings occurring each year, they have suggested that the representatives have two-year terms, staggered. Dean Torczon asks GSA to provide her with guidance regarding how representatives should be selected, by June if possible.

Dean Torczon's third point concerning commencement. She has organized a commencement ceremony for this year's Arts and Sciences graduate students. The timing remains tentative. The Graduate Student Advisory Board voted to fund refreshments. Invitations to Chancellor Gates and President Reveley have been issued. The venue will be able to accommodate Spring graduates and possibly Fall graduates, as well, along with significant others, family, and possibly academic advisors. She requests GSA's input in relation to decisions concerning priorities concerning the types of guests who can be allowed, as well as a reasonable limit on the number of guests for each student, given space considerations. Input should be sent to her in the next week or so.

Social Chair Sean Koebley gave his report. The Volleyball Cookout is planned for Friday. Each department should put together a team and encourage people to come. A possible rain location is planned. For First Tuesdays, he would like to propose that \$300 left in the OGSR budget be used for a tab at an end-of-year gathering at a pub or restaurant. This proposal was approved. The event should occur before commencement. May 7 is set as a tentative date for the event.

Frank Fucile, Vice President, reported on the Professors' Roundtable event. The Roundtable could not be scheduled this year due to lack of participants. He will try for a date in the fall.

Nabeel requested committee members to review applications for travel funds for this summer, which are due tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. Christian Bale, President-Elect, will be trained to organize this process. A sign-up sheet was passed around for committee volunteers.

Concerning GSA representatives to the Advisory Board, Nabeel suggests that nominations be considered in the same way that GSA officer positions are filled. If two people are nominated, the GSA will vote on a representative. These positions are not GSA positions, although they will be elected by members of the GSA. There is a suggestion to create a sub-committee to outline details of the nomination and election process, and come up with a counter-proposal to the suggestion that representatives have two-year terms. Menuka Ban, the new Vice President, will head this committee. Menuka will email Nabeel with results of sub-committee meeting. He will create a yes or no poll for the GSA based on the sub-committee's decision and submit it to GSA membership.

Nabeel will send an email to listserv concerning commencement input for Dean Torczon.

The next GSA meeting will be April 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.