

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2015

Time: 7:15 pm

Location: McLeod Business Library

Presiding Officer: Christian Bale, President

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by the President.

Dean Torczon gives an update on her campaign for graduate student donations for OneTribe OneDay. She says that we will have four separate prizes for departments for fundraising (with different goals). The prize money goes back to department or program for us to use however we want. Advancement is volunteering to provide for refreshments, to encourage students to come out to give. Dean Torczon and Sean Koebley, Social Chair, will go back to Advancement and ask whether they will contribute to refreshments at the Volleyball Cookout, since that is where the fundraising push for graduate students will take place. This event is scheduled for 5:00 or 5:30 on Tuesday, April 21. Dean Torczon needs access to department email address lists, if we want her to send info about fundraising procedures that way.

Christian notes that today we have a joint meeting with all incoming and outgoing members. There is a consensus that both incoming and outgoing Board members will be allowed to vote at this meeting.

Andrew Kottick, Treasurer, suggests that for OneTribe OneDay, we establish a committee that is tasked with finding a central giving place. He volunteers himself to head this committee, which will find a table, find a place to set up, etc. Katie Ball volunteered for the committee. Sarah Mattes will be using her laptop to sign people up on that day.

Christian says that the Professors' Roundtable was a resounding success. To follow up on this success, the Public Policy program (possibly together with GSA) this week or early next week will host another roundtable debate. The Supreme Court's April 28 oral arguments on same-sex marriage case will be discussed. It will take place next Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

Christian also notes that the Graduate Council recently endorsed legislation for the City of Williamsburg that would extend non-discrimination rights for sexual identity and expression. Although not enforceable through district court, he states that it is a strong symbolic gesture.

Peter Quinn Jacobs, GSA Senator reports that the Student Senate has been spending their money very fast. The discussion about fair representation for graduate students in the Senate has been ongoing, and a committee has been created to talk more about that. So far, no agreements have been reached. A bill has been proposed giving info packets for incoming students explaining what Student Senate is, and what it does. This bill only applies to undergraduates right now, but he wants to extend this program to graduate students, as well.

Christian notes that we recently received additional representation in the Senate for grad students. VIMS can give us the appointment power to make a selection for them, since they typically do not attend Senate meetings. A bill has been proposed that will require graduate senators to meet once a month to discuss legislation they want to propose to the Student

Assembly. This bill creates a caucus of graduate student senators. Currently, one Graduate Council member sits on the Executive Board of Student Assembly.

Christian also mentions that, in the recent GSA elections, we did not have the role for the new member on the Graduate Student Advisory Board as a position to be filled. Filling of this position has been postponed until after the new academic year begins, so master's students (who often have one-year programs) will have the opportunity to participate.

Sean Koebley, Social Chair, reports that he has run into administrative complications in planning two planned spring GSA off-campus events. The policy states that we can only have one van at a time, and one van will only carry 10 people. Questions about liability have been raised, and he has continued to receive no response to his inquiries. As a result, the two trips will be cancelled.

Sean also says that planning for the Volleyball Cookout continues. He is waiting to hear back about the reservation for the volleyball courts, but there should be no problem. He will rent lawn games, bocce ball, and cornhole, and he will start advertising today or tomorrow. The event is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 21, at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. Hopefully the weather forecast will improve!

Christian announces that this coming Sunday we will have the first version of a program that will be expanded next year. Presidents of each in-house departmental organization will be invited, on a voluntary basis, to meet with the Graduate Council, in order to discuss issues that are of interest to their program. He wants to institute this on a semester-by-semester basis.

Katie Moore gives an update on Graduate Council events. Spring Grad Bash is scheduled for Friday, April 24. They may need some TIPS-trained volunteers to serve alcohol.

Christian has a motion he wants to pass. He thinks it would be useful for the President of GSA to be able to delegate their seat to another sitting member. He says that it too much work for one person, and that no other student organization has the President actually sit on Grad Council. The motion passes unanimously.

Andrew mentions that there is \$200 left in the GSA budget. We should have a College Delly night to buy appetizers.

Josh Magee suggests that we put somebody in charge of organizing Professors' Roundtable now, so that the committee can get started planning as soon as possible next year.