

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2015

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Location: McLeod Business Library

Presiding Officer: Christian Bale, President

Meeting called to order at 7:16 p.m. by the President.

Christian reports that he was invited along with a group of students to talk to Chancellor Robert Gates about real issues affecting the College. Chancellor Gates was asking for frank discussion about current likes and dislikes. Christian responded by saying that he has noticed that when he was an undergraduate here, he had lots of resources available, but this doesn't seem to be the case with graduate students. Gates suggested that the students in schools "that care" make donations, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences does not have a particularly strong record with this.

Dean Torczon attended the meeting to discuss her idea of trying to solicit donations from graduate students. When the Graduate Studies Advisory Board was here for the fall meeting, they got the same answer that Chancellor Gates gave- that graduate students have not shown enough participation in giving. She asked President Reveley recently whether, if her idea went through it would make a difference, and he said yes. She has been out to lunch with several departments, she will be meeting with others soon. She is aiming for April 21, the date of this year's OneTribe OneDay event, as a target date for graduate student giving. She will send email messages in advance, and she will let us know for which funds faculty are encouraging donations, or for which they will provide matching funds. She is slowly getting faculty "buy-in" for matching funds. She emphasizes that students interested in donating make sure any funds that you are giving are clearly marked for Graduate Studies, and that this can be documented. She thinks it's time to take a stand and send a really strong message. As far as a participation goal, the undergraduates are aiming for 25% participation, and she wants to meet or exceed 25%.

Dean Torczon also spend some time discussing William and Mary's health plan, as a follow-up to a recent discussion with American Studies students. The College's health insurance policy is a fairly expensive policy. One of the American Studies graduate students pointed out that graduate students can take advantage of the new federal health care exchanges in order to obtain low-cost policies. Dean Torczon wants to emphasize that graduate students have options and there are different ways to get health care. She suggests we task a subcommittee to get that information together and post it on the webpage.

Menuka Ban, Vice President, asks Dean Torczon whether it would be possible for GSA to have our own faculty award, since our nominations for the campus-wide awards are not being followed up on. She does not have the funds to do this, but she thinks it's a reasonable request, and she thinks it's a really good thing to ask Advancement to put on their list to ask for money for. They could potentially ask alums from the graduate program. She will bring this up when she goes to Advancement.

Christian reports that the Graduate Council has started something called State of the Graduate Council, a forum where everybody gets to talk together about issues that affect people graduate school-wide. He would like to ask President Reveley to attend one of these meetings, and institutionalize it as a yearly thing. Dean Torczon supports this idea.

Andrew Kottick, Treasurer, gives a budget summary. There is a discussion about whether we should request a hearing for funding. There is a consensus that we should request an appeal hearing, not a hearing associated with applications. For next year's budget, the numbers are: 791.50 for year, of which 385.25 is reserved for pizza, appetizers at College Delly. We have 406.25 left. After pizza for GSA meetings is paid for, we'll have about \$320 left over at the end of the year for other activities. The Professors' Roundtable event has almost \$300 allocated, including \$100 for transportation for a speaker, the rest for table and chair rentals, and appetizers from Aramark.

Sarah Mattes, Professors' Roundtable Committee reports that the committee met recently, and came up with the idea of making vaccinations this year's topic. It has a lot of cross-departmental possibilities for discussions. The date has been set for April 8, tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Sean Koebley, Social Chair, gives an update on GSA social events. We can add all kinds of events to the William and Mary calendar. We should spread the word to departments or whoever that we can add events from different schools and departments. He has completed van training, and there is one more training session on March 28. It would be nice to have one another person who is van-certified. You have to sign up 10 days in advance. He is planning a possible trip to Virginia Beach, as well as a tubing trip on the James River. If we have people to drive vans, these would be basically free events for us (tube rental fees very small). Possible dates include April 18 for James River tubing trip and April 25 Virginia Beach trip. The Volleyball Cookout has been scheduled for April 24, the Friday before the last day of classes.

Katie Moore, Parliamentarian, gives an update from Graduate Council. An event highlighting domestic violence monologues has been organized through the Law School and will take place this Saturday. The organizers will donate the money they raise to Avalon Domestic Violence group. The title is "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer."

Christian nominates Peter Quinn Jacobs as GSA's new Student Senator. There is unanimous approval. Sarah notes that GSA should designate an alternate in future semesters to attend Student Senate, as GSA Senator attendance has been inconsistent in the past.

Grad Council Muscarelle Night: we're doing it again this year in the spring, March 27 (300-person cap, \$15 dollars entry in advance, \$20 dollars at the door, semi-formal); this is going through eventbrite, so you can buy your tickets online. This is a graduate event, a chance to be fancy with other graduate students, see da Vinci together

Grad Bash is scheduled. Approximately 700 people attended in the fall, and the event made a ton of money.

Christian wants to schedule GSA elections before the next meeting, so that new officers can have something of an apprenticeship. There is a consensus that this is a good idea. He gives a reminder that the President and Parliamentarian are both automatically on Grad Council.

Christian wants to make two subcommittees, one to address student health care and one to allocate conference funding. Katie will chair the conference funding committee, with the help of Menuka. Peter Quinn Jacobs will chair the health care committee.

Sean suggests that we have the Volleyball Cookout on the same day as this year's OneTribe OneDay event.