

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: January 23, 2015

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Morton Hall

Presiding Officer: Christian Bale, President

Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by the President.

Menuka Ban, Vice President, reports that she has learned from meetings of the Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) that Dean Torczon will be sending emails to graduate students in each department to discuss her proposal to increase student donations. The decision was recently made that students' donations and matching donations can now be directed to the each student donor's individual program. Dean Torczon is emphasizing the low amount required for the donations, which can be in any amount. The symbolic amount of \$16.93 is especially encouraged.

Christian announces GSA's nominations for Faculty Teaching Awards. They will go to Danielle Dallaire (Psychology), Trent Vinson (Public Policy), and John McGlennon (Public Policy). He mentions none of the GSA nominees received an award last year. There was a discussion about the possibility of establishing our own award, and the decision was made to keep this as a possibility for next year.

Christian requests volunteers from the GSA representatives for someone to read part of the charter at the Charter Day ceremony on Friday, February 6. Patrick Blank volunteers.

Menuka also reports from COGS that there is a proposal that each department standardize the classes that students must register for to maintain student status during thesis or dissertation writing, so that each department uses the same number and has consistent requirements. There is some concern that these new requirements new classes might affect the costs of ongoing registration to part-time students. There is a consensus that Menuka should request that GSA be consulted on this decision. GSA wants to know more about how these changes would affect part-time students.

Sarah Mattes reports that an application to reserve a room for the President's Roundtable was submitted before Winter Break. This will be the same room and same set-up used for the event two years ago. She also made informal equipment reservations, although a more formal reservation will be made right before the event. The date has been set for April 8, and the room was requested for 5:00-10:00 pm. This should allow for a start time around 6:00 or 7:00 pm, after set-up. Some GSA representatives have classes in the early evening on this date, and so we may need to push the start time toward the later end of that range.

Katie Moore discusses Graduate Council (GC) programming. GC is co-sponsoring a readings night where testimonies on the theme of anti-violence against women will be presented on February 28. They need more people to apply, so she asks that GSA representatives encourage students to audition tomorrow. There is a selection of readings to choose from.

Also regarding GC programming: GC is planning the Night at the Muscarelle again this year. It will be a semi-formal event and take place at the end of March. A Leonardo da Vinci exhibit will be on display at the Muscarelle at that time. Refreshments are planned to include champagne, chocolate, and cheese! Students can bring their significant others. The estimated price is a little more expensive than last year and may be \$10-15. Also, we have to plan Spring Grad Bash, but that will come later.

Christian suggests GSA plan an Arts and Sciences Day of Service. Last year, there was a daycare center clean-up. One suggestion is made that the Therapeutic Riding Center in Toano accepts large volunteer groups and might be willing to plan something with GSA. He also wants to plan a fun field trip activity, and is thinking about a Virginia Beach day. We could possibly get drivers to shuttle people over. Sean will send out an email looking for van-certified drivers, and says that we will also do another College Dolly night this semester.

Sean Koebley, Social Chair says that the volleyball cookout will be planned for the upcoming warmer months. Also, the Oscars are coming out soon. Maybe we could have a Shorts night, at Sadler Center. GSA did that a couple of years back with The Princess Bride, and it was moderately successful. We could provide popcorn and soda.

Sarah: the Global Film Festival is coming up in February.

Christian says that we need to finalize a meeting time for spring semester. Katie will set up a Doodle poll to help select a time.