

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2019

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Colony Room, Sadler Center

Presiding Officer: Erin Schwartz, President

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Grad Council Visit (guest: Lindsey Whitlow, President of Grad Council)
 - A. One function of Grad Council is to communicate between the graduate students and the administration, as they represent all grad schools, not just A&S (like GSA does)
 - B. Main duties have been event planning (ie. Grad Bash) and networking opportunities, but they are looking to expand by bringing the major decisions of each school specific council to the administrators in order to give GSA, etc. a bigger voice in school affairs
 - C. Linsey requested information about how GSA functions (funding, how members are appointed, how information from meetings is shared, etc.)
- III. Officer Reports
 - A. Vice President:
 1. New Secretary: Jessica Burns, Biology M.S. student
 - B. Treasurer:
 1. \$250 social funding needs to be spend by the Biology department; Bio Representative must sign off on this; Kelsey (Psychology/Journal Club) warned that some items may be rejected by the school (ie. mini fridges)
 - C. Senate Representative:
 1. Mental Health training to assist students on Feb 23; sign up is through Fitwell
 2. Feb 15 from 6-8 in Commonwealth Auditorium is TedX; go to TedX.wm.edu for more information
 3. Traffic Safety Resolution is being implemented to make campus more pedestrian friendly; Asked for suggestions to share with the planning committee
 - a) Suggestions: Bike lane in heavily pedestrian traffic areas, sound based crosswalks, more crosswalks at bus stops
 - D. Social Chair:
 1. Professor Roundtable will likely be in late March but it needs more publicity than last year to increase attendance

- E. Parliamentarian: N/A
- F. President:
 - 1. Volleyball Cookout didn't work well: Please send ideas for a replacement event to Erin or Seth (ie. networking, etc.)
- IV. GSAB Report
 - A. March 16-17 (the weekend of the Graduate Research Symposium) is a GSAB meeting; if you have ideas for events, etc. for GSAB to fund, email them to Nicki or Holly
- V. Old Business
 - A. Graduate Student Exit Survey
 - 1. WM (the Dean and Sarah Glosson) looking to implement an Exit Survey for all graduate students, which would cover topics such as Admission, Mentoring, Financial support, Career Placement, Research experience, General environment, etc.
 - 2. Intended to improve the experiences of current and future grad students
 - 3. Looking to base it on the Council of Graduate Schools example survey, but it is too long and geared more towards PhD students
 - a) GSA members suggested making questions less binary, including a mini version as part of a yearly review (possibly with an incentive for completion)
 - b) Members wanted to know if the results of such a survey would be shared with the student body
 - B. OGSR/GSA Conference Funding - Spring 2019
 - 1. Thank you to the committee members who helped with awards.
 - a) Notifications for awards should be out already
 - 2. No immediate suggestions made to improve ranking system for awards; please share ideas if any come up
 - C. Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award:
 - 1. The nominations are due February 1st at 5pm.
 - 2. All nomination materials (signed nomination form, 2+ student letters in support of nominee, 1+ chair and/or program director letter in support of nominee) must be in 1 PDF
 - 3. For future nominations: Can lab coordinators be nominated?
 - D. GSA Spring Meeting Tentative Dates/Times:
 - 1. Last Wednesday of each month from 5-6pm: February 27th, March 27th, and April 25th
- VI. New Business
 - A. Wellness Workshops

1. Looking to implement graduate student focused Mental Health and Wellness events like workshops and therapy groups

2. Tentative dates/times:

- Feb 19, 2:30-3:30 p.m. - "Are you Busy or Hurried? Stress Management 201"
- Mar 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m. - "Perfectionism & Procrastination: Two Sides of the Same Coin"
- Apr 2, 2:30-3:30 p.m. - "A Rested Development"
- Apr 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m. - "Perfectionism & Procrastination: Two Sides of the Same Coin"

3. Suggestions from officers/representatives:

- a) Include short bio of speakers in advertisements, maybe also quotes from people who have attended similar events
- b) A Slack page for workout buddies/planning informal graduate student events that are fun/physically active
- c) Can we attend faculty/staff classes at the Rec/Wellness Centers?
- d) Wellness Wednesdays: 1+ events per month like therapy dogs, chair massage, wellness walks, etc.
- e) Create a monthly newsletter specifically for Wellness events
- f) Pick more varied days/times for workshops -- this will allow more students to find something that works for them

B. Can no longer access tax forms from off campus; this could be an issue for students who have graduated or are away during the tax season

VII. Meeting adjourned