

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2013

Time: 6:15 pm

Location: James Room, Sadler Center

- I. Call to Order
- II. President's Report
 - a. Student Assembly Budget
 - i. The GSA requested \$10,000 and was initially given \$500. This means that we were granted no funding for colloquia, nor for the GRS.
 1. Funding for food was cut across the board.
 2. We currently have \$3,100 for next year's GRS. We need to apply for an additional \$3,000. It is possible that if we do not get those funds, that individuals may have to pay to participate in the GRS.
 - ii. The next Student Assembly meeting will be at **7 pm on Tuesday, March 19th in Blow 332. Please come and voice your concerns** about grad funding cuts. The more graduate students that attend, the more likely that our concerns will be addressed.
 - iii. Question asked about money from the Dean's Discretionary Fund: Will we ever get that funding again?
 1. The \$1,000 of the Dean's Discretionary Fund was revoked due to negligence in maintaining the Grad Portfolio. There does not seem to be a revival of those funds in the foreseeable future.
 - iv. Currently Arts & Sciences and VIMS are the only two schools not guaranteed funding from Student Activities. Libby wants to secure some kind of flat rate funding for next year.
- III. Vice President's Report
 - a. Elections
 - i. The GSA currently has only one nominee for an officer position.
 1. As a result, elections will not be held on March 20th as originally planned.
 2. **Please spread the word in your departments that we need nominees.** Self-nominations are acceptable!
 - ii. Frank Fucile suggested splitting the President's position into two Co-President positions. The suggestion was also made that the Student Senate Rep's position be split as well.
 1. Frank Fucile self-nominated himself for Vice President or Co-President.
 2. Janine Yorimoto self-nominated herself for Secretary.
- IV. Secretary's Report
 - a. Website updates
 - i. Once health and parking surveys are ready for posting to the GSA website, Meghan will put them up.
 - ii. Ellen informed Meghan that the form for colloquium funding is not working. Meghan will fix this.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Reimbursements
 - i. We currently have \$514 left for reimbursements.

1. It is likely that we will not use up all of the colloquium funding. Ideally, we do not want any leftover funds. **Please notify Ellen Chapman if you know of any opportunity within your department for using colloquium funding.**

VI. Social Chair's Report

a. Spring Event

- i. After much consideration, Sean has decided that a Field Day type event might be too much work and too much risk in organizing and executing. Sean suggested that we host a BBQ or Volleyball Tournament instead.
 1. Sean needs volunteers to assist him with planning and organizing this event. **Please contact Sean Koebley if you are interested in helping out.** Sean passed around a sign-up sheet.
 2. The date for the Spring Event will be **Friday, April 19th** (the week after Grad Bash).

VII. Student Senate Representative's Report

- a. Janine made call to students for them to come participate in the next meeting, where grad students will make a plea for a reversal/change in budget cuts.

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report

a. Grad Bash

- i. The date for the Grad Bash is **Friday, April 12th**– Look for emails from Trevor Daubensbeck for more information.

IX. Health Insurance Committee Report

- a. Ellen sent out summary of survey results and welcomes feedback on the report.
 - i. One of the main complaints was the payment schedule.
 1. Other concerns included Student Health Center fee (\$134 for first visit if you are not a funded student). This rule is not well publicized and students do not have a strong understanding of their insurance policy and what is covered by it.
 - ii. **Trista Sykes** is the contact person for health insurance inquiries. Students are encouraged to reach out to Trista with their questions and concerns.

X. Parking Committee Report

- a. Sean will send Libby his finalized report.
 - i. Sean was impressed by the number of students who took the survey (169 students) and provided comments on their parking experiences at W&M. Sean suggested that we send out surveys like this every year.
 1. W&M students pay more money for parking each year than students at any other school in Virginia.
 2. Primary concerns include high cost, lack of available spots, and safety.
 3. 74% of students say that they stay on campus after 5 pm more than 2 times a week. This raises concerns about have safe parking options.
 4. Libby will send out final report.

XI. New Business

a. Candidate Statements

- i. Postponed.

- b. **Professors' Roundtable: Monsanto** will be held **Wednesday, March 20th at 6 pm in Tidewater A**
 - a. Participants include professors from Chemistry, History, Philosophy, and Environmental Law.
 - b. Frank volunteered to make flyers promoting this event.
 - c. GRS Volunteers
 - a. We still need proctors for the GRS. Libby sent around sign-up sheet.

- XII. Old Business

- XIII. Other Business

- XIV. Announcements
 - a. Professors' Roundtable: March 20
 - b. GRS: March 22-23
 - c. GSA Travel Funding Deadline: March 29
 - e. GSA Meeting: April 3
 - f. Grad Bash: April 12
 - g. OGSR Funding Deadlines: April 26