

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: March 28, 2019

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: McGlothlin-Street Hall; Room 020

Presiding Officer: Erin Schwartz, President

- I. Welcome & Introductions

- II. Officer Reports
 - A. President:
 1. Several Summer Conference Travel Grant applications already in; volunteers needed to select awardees
 2. Thank you to all GRS volunteers
 - B. Vice President:
 1. Officer elections in April: Nomination form will be sent out the first week of April (also required for those rerunning)
 - C. Treasurer:
 1. There is money available (~\$3000) that can be applied for. This money can be used for office supplies, graduate events, etc. However, it must be used by the end of May or the money is taken back.
 2. Also, each department has \$250 (+ an additional amount if there are many graduate students) which they need to use by the end of the semester
 - D. Senate Representative:
 1. Student Assembly had some structure changes which include:
 - a) Graduate students can now be on the review board
 - b) If a graduate student/program feels that funding is unfairly distributed, they can petition the Student Assembly
 2. Let Grads Ring Act currently being discussed: Will allow ceremony so graduate students ringing the bell on the last day of classes
 3. Still applying new law passed to condemn racist behavior on campus, including renaming building that were named after Confederate soldiers
 - E. Social Chair:
 1. Professor Roundtable will be March 27th at 7pm in Small Hall; Topic = climate change; Speakers from Psychology, Biology, VIMS, and Public Policy
 2. There is also an Anthropology talk from 6-7pm that same day in Blow Hall

F. Parliamentarian:

1. Working on rewriting GSA Bylaws a few section per month (see New Business)

III. GSAB Report: Recent meeting discussed 3 major topics

A. Health Insurance:

1. GSAB is looking into the possibility of graduate students on low stipends to apply for Virginia Medicaid
2. Also working with the school to try to lower WM insurance premiums OR have part of the cost included in graduate stipend packages
3. In coming months, looking to form a working group focused on researching options (like Medicaid and lowering WM insurance), as well as creating educational tools to share this information with current and incoming graduate students
 - a) This group can include graduate student who are not active GSA members

B. Getting in the Public Eye: University Advancement is looking to increase graduate student representation in WM publications and are asking students to get their departments to send stories regarding grad students (cool research, public outreach, etc.)

1. Contact: Heather Golden, Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Advancement Communications & Chief of Staff (hegolden@wm.edu)
2. We may want to look into assigning a board member to work on this, or enlist the help of the Graduate Assembly

C. Mental Health: GSAB shared our concerns regarding mixing of graduate students with the undergraduates we teach, as well as the desire for more graduate specific options/programs due to differences in our needs compared to undergraduates

1. GSAB willing to help with costs of implementing such programs
2. Looking to form a working group to address these issues and propose options to WM and the Wellness Center
 - a) This group can include graduate student who are not active GSA members

IV. Old Business

A. Wellness Workshops

1. Rescheduled Sleep Workshop to Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30-6:30
2. Can organize and lead your own wellness walks during finals

V. New Business

A. Current Adjustments to the Bylaws: Voted on and approved by the general council

1. Membership automatic for all Arts and Sciences graduate students
2. Defined or redefined terms and rules
3. Minor wording changes

B. Depending on status of business in April, GSA might call a May meeting

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm