

Graduate Student Association Meeting Agenda

Date: April 14, 2020

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Presiding Officer: Nick Beluzzo (president)

I. Welcome & Introductions

A. Began meeting at 5:20 pm

B. 16 people present

1. Officers: all present

2. Department representatives:

a) Applied Science and Public Policy reps absent

b) All other reps present

c) 1 guest - President of Grad Council

II. Officer Reports

1. President (Nick)

2. Vice President (Richard)

a) Officer nominations and the GSA election

(1) Only one nomination (for President) so we plan to keep it open for another 2 weeks (until April 28th meeting) - vote will happen at that meeting

(2) Current Social Chair voiced interest in shifting to VP position if nobody else runs

(3) Please nominate yourself or remind others to do so if they are interested

3. Treasurer (Casey)

a) Update on GSA funds situation (more info from Chasity)

(1) Chasity has approval to move all GSA funds into an index fund so it rolls over into next year -- this is not yet complete

(a) This allows us to use this money next year since there is no easy way to spend it this year

(b) Additionally, this will help us if we get less funding for 2020-21 year due to budget cuts

(c) If possible, we will try to do the same in future years to avoid losing unused funds

(2) For Journal Club, we are still waiting to hear what will happen to the funds

(3) There is currently a spending freeze, so if we decide to allocate this money to something, it would not be purchased until late summer

b) Discuss money allocation

- (1) The ad screen in Grad Commons is not allowed due to library regulations
 - (a) This may be something we can discuss with the library for the future
 - (2) General consensus is to not use this money until the next school year unless it is used to support Grad students who are struggling during the closures
 - c) Plans for 2020-21 Journal Club
 - (1) If anyone knows anyone interested in running it or volunteering, we still need people!
 - (a) 1 or 2 people can run Journal Club
 - (b) Holly knows one person who may be interested & will have them reach out
 - (2) Journal Club constitution amendment: new “Eco Rep” position under the JC portion of the constitution. This person would help with compost and waste removal, as well as thinking of new innovative ways to reduce JC waste.
 - 4. Senate Representative (Holly)
 - a) Based a bill to add flashing crosswalk by Richmond Hall
 - b) Working to decrease discrimination due to COVID-19 against students of asian background
 - c) Student assembly virtual meeting at 7pm EST tonight
 - (1) Will be discussing a bill related to worker’s union
 - (2) This will be an open forum if anybody wants to argue for/against this bill
 - (3) Zoom link: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/267947128>
 - (4) Resolution Google Doc link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PJ06QHR1y1SISzExTCJSwgSiSn15I5SNGOZfgFVSLWo/edit?usp=sharing>
 - 5. Social Chair (Tomos)
 - a) Plans to attend upcoming virtual Journal Club to gauge interest in other virtual socials
 - 6. Parliamentarian (Ryan)
 - 7. Secretary (Jessica)
 - a) If you haven’t already, please write up notes on your position to pass to whoever takes over your position next year.
 - (1) Important contact information, documents, templates, login information, current projects, etc.
 - (2) Either upload directly to GSA drive or email to Jessica (jrburns01@email.wm.edu)
- B. GSAB Report (Casey & Tomos)
 - 1. Nothing new since last meeting

C. Old Business

D. New Business

1. Implemented institutional Pass/Fail
2. Pushed for professors to have regular office hours & be more responsive to emails, but this seemed to be opposed by many faculty

E. Open Floor

1. Grad Council sent out survey about student concerns & requests
 - a) Also have a blog about current events and issues:
<http://gradcouncil.blogs.wm.edu/>
 - (1) This includes items like volunteer opportunities, commencement, rebates/refunds, local support, advocacy, etc.
2. As of now, there seems to be no school-wide consensus on how to deal with deadlines for research, etc. due to COVID-19 closures
 - a) Some departments suggest talking with your professors for a case by case basis, but the professors also seem to feel they shouldn't break the normal requirements
 - b) It may help to have a grace period or some other extension to allow Graduate students to make up for lost time.
 - c) A guidance sheet from the administration on how to address these issues would be a good start for addressing these research (and potentially degree) delays
3. GSA conference & grant funding is currently on standby due to university regulations
 - a) Some of this money could have been used by students for purposes other than travel (paying for equipment, lab work, etc.)
 - b) President (Nick) will look into what will happen to that money

III. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm