

Graduate Student Association Meeting Agenda

Date: October 10, 2019

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: McGlothlin Street Hall, Room 020

Presiding Officer: Nick Belluzzo (president)

I. Welcome & Introductions

A. Began meeting at 4:07pm

B. 20 people present

1. Officers: all present

2. Department representatives:

a) Biology sent a proxy (Huntley)

b) Applied Science still hasn't sent a rep. They will be reached out to so a rep can be present at future meetings

c) Public Policy has no rep because their program is ending; they will be contacted to see if they would still like to attend

d) All other reps present

3. Additional guests: 4, including HGSA and PGSA members

II. Guest speaker: Dean Torczon

A. 2019-20 Strategic planning at W&M

1. Many changes occurring at WM, but feedback from students needed

a) WM forums exist & online portals to submit comments

b) We, as reps, need to push our fellow students to participate so we get noticed and are cared for (Hand-outs provided to each department)

c) Click [here](#) for more info & [here](#) for feedback forms

2. If certain phrases/words come up commonly, these topics get focused on -- therefore it is important to focus on these phrases in comments

3. GSAB vision mission value statement-- posted [here](#) to say what they are interested in improving

B. Health care insurance premiums

1. Deans and Provost put in Planning Budget Requests (request money for a certain purpose in future years)

a) This request is to cover health insurance premium for ALL full-time PhDs (not MS -- they plan to address these students in the future, if all does well with the PhDs)

b) Will have a funding decision by April 2020

c) Future directions: How many students opt out of health insurance?

C. Amorous relationship policy

1. Although graduate students were part of the conversation at points, we were left out in some recent discussions. In order to address this, Dean

Torczon asks that we create a committee to address some of these issues in upcoming months

III. Officer Reports

A. President (Nick)

1. Thanks for filling in last meeting (to Richard) and looking forward to working with us and breaking down divides between departments

B. Vice President (Richard)

C. Treasurer (Casey)

1. Physics Department request for funds (\$200 for BBQ); vote required
 - a) Physics department has departmental yearly social on November 9th
 - b) Approved -- taken from departmental budget
2. Confirm approval of money for Coffee and Bagels event this coming Wednesday (October 16th) ~\$125
3. Student Assembly stipulates what we may spend money on, but it is vague on unallowable items (other than no alcohol or fridges)
4. Details for departmental distribution of funds:
 - a) Portion of money gets given to each department at the end of each year
 - (1) Can we distribute these department funds earlier in the year to allow departments more chances to use it during the year?
 - b) Where to pull money from when departments request additional funds for specific purposes?
 - (1) Take from department allowances?
 - c) Casey will get more information on these topics and share this at the next meeting; this will be used to make more final decisions

D. Senate Representative (Holly)

1. Dean of Faculty A&S search
 - a) Represent us on and off campus to find money, etc. for A&S graduate programs, therefore we need feedback regarding what we want from this new Dean
 - (1) Do they recognize the value of graduate students in the teaching positions at this school?
 - (a) What do they think of unionization?
 - (2) Position on Amorous relationship policy
 - (3) Position on structural reforms of grad programs & how serious are they?
 - (a) Concrete examples of things they have done at previous institutions
 - (4) Click [here](#) to give your input -- share this with your fellow students in your department
2. Senate report

- a) Plenty of money available for events (especially if also involve undergraduates)
 - b) Bills working on: standing committee with WM police to allow students to know their rights in regards to campus rules
 - (1) Just passed: subsidized Plan B for \$5 from health center
 - c) Amorous relationship policy -- need more grads involved; [contact Holly](#) if you are interested
 - (1) See notes from conversation with the Dean for more info
 - E. Social Chair (Tomos)
 - 1. Halloween GSA event
 - a) Could be hosted at physics grad house
 - b) Discussed which week to do this
 - (1) One day in the range of Oct 25-27 OR Nov 1-3
 - (2) Suggested Fridays (to cater to commuting students)
 - F. Parliamentarian (Ryan)
 - 1. Require Journal Club (co)-chair to attend GSA meetings?
 - a) Journal club executive(s) need to network with the social chair and treasurer, so it is important for them to be present at meetings
 - (1) We will vote on this next time
 - G. Secretary (Jessica)
 - 1. Board member & representative templates
 - a) By the end of 2019, we would like to compile a folder of information for each position in GSA. This would include a list of responsibilities, contacts, logins, etc., as well as templates for things like budgets & minutes.
 - (1) More information will be distributed to the reps and board shortly by the secretary (Jessica)
- IV. GSAB Report (Casey & Tomos)
 - A. GSAB Meeting Report
 - 1. Voted to replace grad commons furniture
 - 2. Voted to increase Journal club budget
 - 3. Looking to expand GSAB mentoring program
 - 4. New Provost seems super excited about helping us with the things that are important to graduate students (appears more proactive than past Provost)
 - 5. Seemed worried that many alumni would not suggest the grad programs here to incoming students--wake-up call to the administration
 - a) Will try to get GSA access to the word cloud & survey results related to graduate students, so we can discuss these issues
- V. Old Business
 - A. Changes to the Consensual Amorous Relationships Policy
 - 1. Faculty assembly made changes but didn't include grad voices, so Dean Torczon pushed for the committee (see Dean's notes & Senate report)

- a) Need Committee to work with Faculty assembly to address this...we will discuss this further in upcoming meetings
- 2. Faulted A&S GSA for not communicating with other schools (Business, Education, and Law), when other schools did not address these issues themselves

VI. New Business

A. University-Wide Committee Vacancies

- 1. Available: Student conduct & Honors appeals
 - a) Need volunteers to fill these

B. Physical activities for graduate students: sports

- 1. Some play in intramural leagues (ex: floor hockey at VIMS)
- 2. People expressed interest in having grad specific team(s) grad students can play on
 - a) Sports cycle throughout year: listings often available on RecCenter website
 - b) Often late at night, which would be difficult for commuting students
 - c) Jasper will research details of possibilities & we will see about general interest across departments
- 3. Or other physical events like group hikes, etc.

C. Tailgate Funding Request

- 1. Went from 8 people last year to close to 200 people this year, which means there is not enough money to comfortably host this event (free to students) AND Grad Bash (would have to increase the cost of this event)
 - a) Other schools are, or are currently discussing, contributing (ex: Business, Law, etc.)
 - b) We don't have specific funds for this, so we have to find money from various other parts of the budget -- this would be a special request and is NOT to set a precedent for future requests
 - c) Several argued that this is a good thing to fund because it allows students to socialize with other schools
- 2. Voted to discuss this again, then approve/disapprove in the next meeting

VII. Open Floor

A. N/A

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm