

Graduate Student Association Meeting Agenda

Date: November 07, 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 4:06 pm
 - B. 20 people present
 1. Officers: all present
 2. Department representatives:
 - a) Applied Science — no rep
 - b) Public Policy — no rep; need to contact MacBeth
 - c) All other reps present
 3. Additional guests: 5, including Grad Council President
- II. Officer Reports
 - A. President (Nick)
 - B. Vice President (Richard)
 - C. Treasurer (Casey)
 1. Updated budget
 - a) ~ \$330 left in budget for A&S socials
 2. Proposal of department funding amounts
 - a) 349 A&S students currently enrolled, but not all pay activity fees/tuition
 - b) \$250 flat rate per department, plus additional \$11.96 per student over 30 people currently enrolled (per department)
 - c) COR and CompSci to be combined
 - d) Overall GSA board & reps agree that distributing the departmental funds earlier in the year will allow students to make better use of it
 - e) Departments who do not send a rep are not guaranteed this funding — we will give final notice to these departments
 - (1) **Voted** to distribute funds to departments currently active in GSA; if inactive departments send reps in the future, they can petition for some departmental funds for the Spring semester — **Approved**
 - D. Senate Representative (Holly)
 1. Mental Health Task Force — Proposed to have the Counseling center hire 2 extra people to cover the need — This would raise the Activity fees by \$45/person

- 2. Free STI testing (urine test only — will not cover blood tests) at WM Health Center
 - E. Social Chair (Tomos)
 - 1. Last social of the semester
 - a) Last Fall 2019 Coffee & Bagels this month
 - b) Planning another social at a local Bar/Restaurant such as Precarious in December (maybe the 6th or 7th?)
 - F. Parliamentarian (Ryan)
 - G. Secretary (Jessica)
- III. GSAB Report (Casey & Tomos)
- IV. Old Business
 - A. GSA donation to Grad Bash/Tailgate funds (*vote required*)
 - 1. Grad Council is asking for \$200 to help cover unexpected costs of
 - 2. Business & Law provided funding; VIMS provided items, like the grill
 - 3. Moved to take \$125 from Applied Science's departmental budget (since they haven't responded to our requests for a rep) + \$75 from our social budget to provide this money — **Approved**
 - B. Grad-Faculty Amorous Relationships Policy
 - 1. Graduate student body Task Force now has a contact to the faculty assembly, but worry that they will vote on this faster than graduate students can provide feedback. Therefore we will collect unofficial feedback (not a formal survey)
 - a) Holly will send an email to GSA about what kind of information we need from our departments
 - 2. Grad Council / the Task Force are addressing the previous lack of communication from other graduate schools on this topic by reaching out to them for feedback
 - C. COGS update
 - 1. Recent meeting — Nothing new to report
- V. New Business
 - A. Virginia Graduate Student Association Summit Recap
 - 1. Deans of state universities and some GSA members meet to discuss graduate issues
 - a) Other schools seem to be having similar issues that
 - b) Looking to increase connectivity between university GSAs at upcoming meeting (April 19-20, 2020)
 - B. Changes to Continuing Enrollment
 - 1. Voted to grade non-class-taking students (GRAD 999 students) instead of automatically being marked as complete; Communication with advisors will be required— in effect next spring
 - C. W&M Workers' Union (WMWU) overview & initiatives -- Led by Jasper
 - 1. Working on broadening base to include undergraduate, staff, non-tenure faculty, etc.

2. 3 major requests (these will make programs more lucrative for incoming students too):
 - a) Living wage required for staff and grad students
 - b) Healthcare (dental, health, and vision for all grad students)
 - c) Affordable & accessible parking
3. Graduate worker specific:
 - a) Guaranteed 6 yrs of funding
 - b) Getting paid on time
4. Meet every Wednesday at 6pm in Blair Hall (for those interested), plus occasional meetings with Dean Torczon
5. Looking to add a Union Representative to GSA
6. Question raised about whether graduate students are considered workers by the university given that we receive payroll, but that money is also considered a stipend
7. Higher union density in our graduate section of union than many UC systems in less than 2 weeks

VI. Open Floor

- A. Grants, taxes, etc. unclear to incoming students; HGSA looking to host a workshop on this in the future; this will be discussed more at future meetings

VII. Meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm