GSA Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Nov 17, 2021  
7 pm - Zoom, McGlothlin-Street Hall 020

I. Welcome & Introductions
   A. Began at 7:06 pm
   B. Attendance: Marie, Justin, Leah, Jen, Cam, Felipe, Caroline, Molly, Annabelle, Spenser, Moira, Laurel, Heather, Elizabeth, Madison, Victoria, Kevin, Elliot
   C. 2 members of public

II. Officer Reports
   A. President (Tomos)
      1. No updates
   B. Vice President (Marie)
      1. Not many admin meetings
      2. Career center getting a graduate student focused counselor
   C. Treasurer (Jen)
      1. Food at GSA meetings requested
   D. Senate Representative (Leah)
      1. COGS Update
      a) 2 meetings since last GSA meetings
      b) First meeting: mostly about feed for Dean Velleca
         (1) Key takeaways: DGS interested in sustainable graduate curriculum (like faculty numbers to keep teaching classes)
            (a) Recruiting graduate students? No funding from above dept level
            (b) Visibility of graduate studies (external and internal): lack of it hurts W&M reputation
            (c) Intellectual community
            (d) Funding science graduate students between grants
            (e) Transparency about funding: half of faculty research grants goes to university
            (f) Dean Torczon wants more science PhD programs, but depts concerned about being thinly spread and unable to support
            (g) Certificate program in public humanities (MA?), geared towards professionals->generate revenue?
            (h) Graduate student morale concerns: isolation, lack of concern by general university
               (i) Feedback sent to Dean Torczon and Dean Velleca
            (i) More meetings about enhanced career counseling and prep for graduate students
c) Second Meeting
   (1) Standardizing checkpoint for PhD candidacy
   (2) Concern when applying for grants in some fields

d) SA Update
   (1) JC talk about counterspeech group appreciated by reps from SA
       (a) Experiences with DEI looked for in job applications, so good way to get involved
   (2) SA feedback form will be sent out for circulation
       (a) https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVY21n-ewIoSZgvt3TkPQsSzjp4_fLKdDL3xYVrTQUH4Z-w/viewform
   (3) Decolonizing humanities project: faculty in modern languages
       (a) Workshop series for faculty and graduate students
       (b) Decolonizing methodologies

E. Social Chair (Cam)
   1. Social planned at Brickhouse in two weeks, two options:
      a) During week (Tuesday), “rent out” upper balcony
      b) If on Friday/Saturday, squeeze into side area
   2. After exams: get catered food at outdoor brewery (like Billsburg)
   3. Committee/suggestions reach out for more ideas
      a) Bowling
      b) More outdoor spaces
         (1) Ice skating
         (2) Bonfire in new patio area

F. Parliamentarian (Zeke)

G. Secretary (Justin)
   1. Officer Profile Surveys
      a) Please fill out if not done yet
      b) Feel free to send any feedback about how it is being done
   2. Website
      a) Platform being retired
      b) Need volunteers to help design and build website in new platform, have all files already
         (1) Moira interested

H. GSAB (Felipe, Ali)
   1. Next GRS is not until 2023, should hear more about it in the future
   2. Need more institutional memory about it

I. Journal Club (Caroline, Tim)
   1. Extra Funding Request
      a) Need money: either cut events or limit alcohol purchases
   2. GSAB: Gale Wertz asked about expanding JC reach
a) Alumni join via Zoom
   (1) More formal?
   (2) Changes dynamic of presentation: leads to a more structured event
   (3) Occasional events: great networking opportunity, so maybe once a month, so presenters sign up ahead of time

J. Department Reps
1. Concerns about new insurance:
   a) Taxed as income as part of stipend
   b) Basically school needs to stop committing tax fraud
2. Lack of communication between departments and students
   a) Clarity about funding
      (1) Delayed information, talk to other master’s programs
      (2) Talk to Workers Union since they are pushing for these things as well
   b) First years not informed about paperwork
   c) Solutions: Pressure DGS to keep updated, Grad Student communication, Administrator to give reminders

III. DEI Updates
A. No updates

IV. New Business
A. Report on the Dean’s Advisory Council (Jen)
1. New title of Dean: research and graduate studies
   a) Claim higher commitment to graduate studies, but research is first as we are a research university
   b) New dean spends 50% of time on graduate work, but new assistant for logistical work (previously Dean Torczon spend ~75% of time on graduate work)
2. New assistantships for graduate students, work with OGSR and be liaison with GSA
3. Handbook created/available with most of the answers to common questions/concerns
4. Need more feedback prepared when going into meetings
   a) Set up a google form for continuous feedback
      (1) Email or posters in departments
   b) Open google doc (colored/comment access for responses)
   c) Blackboard site?

V. Open Floor
A. SA having trouble retaining graduate senators, unclear why
1. Two meetings a week (one on Sunday), very little pertinent to graduate students
2. Period of time dedicated to graduate students
3. Less passive time?
4. Less interest in Zoom options limits students who aren’t on campus or live in Williamsburg

VI. Meeting Ends at 8:12 pm