GSA Meeting Minutes  
Date: Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022  
Time: 6 pm -7:20 pm  
Location: Zoom  
Presiding Officer: President (Tomos)

I. Welcome & Introductions  
   A. Began at: 6:02 pm  
   B. Attendance:  
      1. Officers: Justin, Tomos, Marie, Ali, Leah, Caroline, Jen, Felipe, Zeke, Cam  
      2. Reps: Madison, Moira, Elliot, Laurel, Annabelle, Spenser, Heather, Molly, Cameron (for Maggie)  
      3. 3 Public

II. Officer Reports  
   A. President (Tomos)  
      1. New SA senator to find  
         a) Spread the word to get volunteers: get involved with admin and student government at a high level  
      2. Need volunteers for interviews with DEI dean  
      3. Charter Day and Youngkin honorary degree  
         a) How long of a tradition has it been? Since 1960 or so, 12th governor or so for honorary degree  
         b) How much power does the governor have over university policy etc? Quite a lot actually according to meeting with deans, a lot of political appointees (board of visitors, budget approval)  
         c) Revise the policy mid-term so it doesn’t look as politically motivated  
            (1) Checking who else gives the governor honorary degrees  
            (2) Review previous documents (should a faculty committee be in charge of this?)  
         d) Student Assembly mentioned undergrad groups organizing counter protests and space being designated  
      4. Subcommittee for spring conference funding applications  
         a) Ready within a week, recommendations by end of February  
      5. Meeting with COGS: debate about rules for candidacy between DGS and Deans

   B. Vice President (Marie)  
      1. Time to start thinking about positions on GSA next year  
         a) Feel free to reach out to current office holders if you have interest

   C. Treasurer (Jen)
1. **Budget update**
   a) Didn’t spend much last semester
   b) Dept Reps: allocated money per year so consider using if not yet
   c) A lot of social money:
      (1) Use for our own socials
      (2) Use for Journal Club

D. **Senate Representative (Leah)**
1. SA working on campaigns to make sure Health Center continues providing free Plan B and pregnancy tests
   a) Check on procedure for that
2. Coordinates free menstrual products in Swem, Sadler
3. SA Instagram posts more about their program than in emails
4. Passed some budget changes
   a) Formalizes agreement with graduate schools receiving 50% of student activity fees
5. In search of additional senator: having trouble finding graduate senators to begin with (session ends in April), so volunteer for next year essentially
   a) Graduate senators gathered and discussed several dropouts (such as ones from Business school)
   b) High burnout rate in general for these times (graduate students even higher than undergraduates given other responsibilities)
   c) Every Tuesday evening (full SA meeting), 1 hour committee meeting on Sunday afternoons before outside of meeting time activity (such as writing bills, etc)
   d) Recommendations to SA for graduate students:
      (1) 2 hour limit to Tuesday meetings (APPROVED)
         (a) Apparently have trouble following Robert’s Rules of Order and enforcing them leading to long meetings
      (2) Rearrange meeting agenda so important items first (APPROVED)
         (a) 50% of meeting counts as attendance, so easier to plan
      (3) Guarantee Zoom meetings for graduate students
      (4) Committee meetings not count against attendance
   e) Have a lot of power, especially for funding
   f) Long history of advocacy, so faculty generally listen to recommendations
6. Grad council trying to get more control of graduate funding from SA
   a) Messy organizational structure
   b) Richard noted how Graduate Council is not necessarily above GSA, but SA focuses on undergraduate activities
7. Need more communication of SA policies and benefits for graduate students
a) Need to work with institutional knowledge to help this

E. Social Chair (Cam)
1. Good idea to use more funds for JC
2. Movie night? Try for regular timetable, reserve room in ISC
3. Would like other ideas for social events
   a) Trivia nights were popular
   b) Outdoor activities once weather gets better: BBQ, lawn games, beach, hiking, etc
      (1) HGSA has some rec equipment (cornhole, frisbee, soccer balls, etc)

F. Parliamentarian (Zeke)
1. Timetable of elections
   a) Supposed to solicit nominees by Jan 31 (need to change these rules since that hasn’t happened for years)
   b) Need to prepare a form to accept nominations
      (1) Needs short written response
   c) By March should be prepared so can vote in the new officers in April/May
   d) Vice-President nominally in charge of this procedure
      (1) Will get in touch with Zeke

G. Secretary (Justin)
1. Regularize meeting time?
   a) First Wednesday of every month (3/9, 4/6, 5/4) current plan

H. GSAB (Felipe, Ali)
1. Pushing for more funds for JC from them so it frees up GSA money
2. Actual meeting next month

I. Dean’s Advisory Board (Jen, Molly)
1. Dept reps please distribute survey
2. Discussed more open communication, such as town halls
   a) Example topics: Stipend (Cost of Living), Parking issues
      (1) Results of survey can help tailor town hall attendees

J. Journal Club (Caroline, Tim)
1. Extra GSA Funds
   a) At least the “in-person” meeting funds (previously approved)
   b) Professor Round table funds able to be shipped over?
   c) Can SA funds be acquired for pizza or other food?

K. Department Reps

III. Grad Council
A. Planning a spring Grad Bash (end of March/early April, after spring break)
B. Graduate Bell Ringing and reception

IV. DEI Updates
A. Grad Council members trying to connect DEI committees across the graduate schools
B. If you wish to attend generalized meeting, contact Tomos

V. New Business
A. Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award (Marie)
   1. Dean gives out with our input
   2. Nomination process is now open (deadline is Friday 2/11)
   3. Officers and Reps will be added to Blackboard
   4. Discussion board will be organized to record rankings and thoughts
      (Respond on Blackboard by 2/20)
         a) Reference the nomination material
         b) Do not rank/read faculty from own department
   5. Submit 3 recommendations (officially unranked) by beginning of March

VI. Open Floor

VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm