

## Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: November 04, 2015

Time: 7:15 pm

Location: Sadler Center James Room

Presiding Officer: Menuka Ban, President

Meeting called to order at 7:18 pm by the President

Menuka Ban encourage more A&S graduate students to submit application to the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) The EAC reviews all student organization's annual budget requests and makes a recommendation on funding based on each groups' submitted budgets and EAC presentations. The EAC is comprised of 6 undergraduate and 4 graduate representatives. The application is at [forms.wm.edu/17682](https://forms.wm.edu/17682). Deadline is November 11. Jeremy proposed to send this information to all departments.

Andrew reported that GSA gets 480 dollars for symposium and 87 dollars for round table. He is not sure if the graduate students are contributing to the SA or it is largely paid by the undergraduate tuition. If the graduate students are contributing, the GSA should request more funding from SA.

Menuka suggested GSA to have activities other than graduate research symposium and round table. Since at the end of November, Andrew has to go to the finance workshop, GSA needs to propose activities and decide the budget right away. Manuka requests a committee to brainstorm ideas. Returning students who have a better idea of what needs to be improved are preferred. Andrew volunteered to chair the committee.

Katie Baugh and the committee updated on constitution amendment. Below are recaps of the major amendments and discussions. Detailed amendments will be emailed to all GSA members

- Removed the additional information for officers from the end of the constitution and created an appendix for clarity and privacy
- Changed the role of the vice president to serve as elections coordinator and an associate justice of the honor council to serve as deputy elections coordinator. Will elucidate additionally that this change can help the vice president be aware of the election process. Menuka asked if we want someone from GSA instead of from the honor council to serve as deputy elections coordinator. Will thought it is helpful to invite someone outside GSA to keep the process open and transparent. Katie added that she wanted to establish this procedure as norm and pass it to the next chief of justice
- If multiple representatives from the same department are elected then they must deliberate and decide who will step down. The same applies for if the vice president and president are from the same program
- No more than three officer positions may be filled by the same department or program. But how do we solve the issue of over-representation? Katie proposed a new election process in which all candidate will go into a candidate pool instead of assigning to different officer positions. For example, if four public policy students have the highest votes, the one with the lowest votes will be substituted by the student who has the 5<sup>th</sup> high vote. If that student is also from public policy department, the same process is repeated until there is no over-representation. After that, the candidates will assign the positions among themselves. Jeremy

disagreed with this process. He thought it pre-disqualify students based on their department. Adrienna commented that not all students from other department want to have the positions, so this process might not be practical. Will and Jeremy added that the positions should go to students who have more passion. John disagreed with over-representation because he thought diversity of GSA is very important. This problem cannot be resolved. Official voting will take place next meeting

- Should the student board representative attend all meetings or just the ones before and after the board meetings? Will thought the representative should attend all the meetings to help them be aware of what GSA is up to. Luran agreed and further suggested that they should not have voting right. GSA decided at the end that the student board representatives should come to all the meetings, but they do not share voting right

Jeremy and the committee updated on GSA Supplemental Conference Travel Funding. The committee reviewed the applications (~30 applications). The voting result will be submitted to OGSR, and OGSR will deal with the ties. About 15 students will get the funding. Menuka suggested to post the final result on GSA website.

John reminded that the Grad Student Tailgate is on Saturday, November 14, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. GSA reserved a space in Alumni house. The ticket is 5 dollars, which includes two beers and free food. Significant others are welcome.

GSAB did not show up in this meeting. Menuka will keep contacting them.

Sean and Andrew proposed to establish Journal Club. Every week the club will provide food and beer and a student will give 20 min presentation about research or journal articles. Sean will send out survey to all departments to see if people are interested.

#### Other announcement

- Next meeting is on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 7:15 PM, Sadler Center James Room
- SA Programming, Events, and Policies Survey  
What Can SA Do For You? Please take some time to answer a brief survey on Student Assembly programming, events, and policies. The results will be gathered through the end of the semester and will help SA address the interests and concerns of students.  
[https://wmsurveys.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_6g87ivQNp65tV0p](https://wmsurveys.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6g87ivQNp65tV0p)