

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: September 5, 2012

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: James Room, Sadler Center

- I. Welcome and Introductions (President)
- II. Dean John Swaddle
 - a. Dean of Graduate Studies wanted to hear about what graduate students are interested in. Dean Swaddle encouraged us to be involved in graduate student life and offered us to invite him to GSA meetings if need be.
 - b. Dean Swaddle will be putting together a panel of students to meet with him every month, one from every department and program.
 - i. This panel will need to run separately from GSA.
 1. Dean will put a call out to Directors of Graduate Studies to get suggestions for students to participate.
- III. Vice President's Report
 - a. Currently working with the Cohen Career Center to put together a Professional Development event related to retirement information and planning. Details forthcoming.
- IV. Secretary's Report
 - a. GSA website will be up-to-date as of end of day tomorrow.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Budget & Reimbursement Policies
 - i. The GSA budget consists of Office of Student Activities funds and Office of Graduate Studies and Research monies.
 1. This year the GSA budget has specific line items funded through OSA: \$1500 for Colloquia funding; \$6,000 for the Graduate Research Symposium; \$400 for the Interdepartmental Lecture event (called Blitz last year); and \$20 for a Welcome Back Party.
 - a. We asked for \$200 in funding for a Graduate Networking Day but did not receive any money for this event.
 2. In the OGSR funds, we have \$313.83 in one-time carry over from the Dean's Fund (a one-time award that will not be continued) and \$791.50 in 2012-2013 allocation from the OGSR. These funds are more flexible and can be used to purchase pizza for monthly meetings, other social events, and to supplement events planned with the OSA money.
 - ii. Reimbursements should be submitted to Ellen Chapman - you can put them in Ellen's campus box in Anthropology (Washington Hall basement).
 1. Ellen will need an original, itemized receipt from the last 30 days and a completed OSA reimbursement form - students can get this from Student Activities and we are also having it added to the GSA website.
 - a. OSA funds *do not* cover sales tax, alcohol, or food that is intended to serve as a meal replacement (so serve 'finger food' at colloquia). Contact Ellen directly with any questions (elchapman01@email.wm.edu).
 - b. Questions for Treasurer
 - i. Ed – What are the various colloquia events and how are they funded?
 1. Details forthcoming.

- ii. Libby - How do we want to check on colloquium funding expenditure in order to make sure it is fair and all departments have access to it?
 - 1. Will revisit this issue at the next meeting.

VI. Social Chair's Report

- a. Goals and expectations from GSA with regard to graduate student life: Each department has its own social network and events.
- b. Small events are often unsuccessful.
 - i. We would like to spark more interaction between departments.
- c. We have less than \$1,000 for events for the whole year.
 - i. We will be looking for inexpensive activities that appeal to a wide variety of people.
 - 1. Department reps are essential for choosing events and publicizing them.
 - 2. Sean proposed that perhaps we should throw one big event - could charge a fee, fee would cover alcohol - or we could do a series of small events like happy hours.
 - a. Sean's email: srkoeb@email.wm.edu - email him with ideas!
 - ii. Swaddle asked if we coordinate with other schools.
 - 1. VIMS has some great social events; Law and Business have more money than us and the word is that their parties are better attended
 - a. We should make sure A&S students know about these events.
 - iii. Rachel suggested that it could be easy/free to organize happy hours without paying for food, to get people to meet together
 - 1. Daniel announced a deal on Tuesdays at Greene Leaf with \$4 pitchers from 4-9 pm.
 - 2. Swaddle suggested movie nights in Commonwealth.
 - 3. COR student asked if there are any community service events. Also suggested organizing intramural sports. Suggested outdoors events, such as renting kayaks from the Rec Center.
 - a. Group discounts at Waller Miller, Grovsnor Park
 - 4. Sean proposed a grad trip of some kind.
 - 5. Daniel proposed a video game night.
 - 6. Swaddle suggested Grad Student Olympics with silly sports, like pushing fire hoses through clothes, egg tossing - this was one of most memorable grad students events when he was grad student. There is widespread support for this idea.
 - 7. Suggestion made for trivia night with groups from various departments.
 - iv. Tuesday happy hours will be arranged going forward.

VII. Student Senate Representative's Report

- a. Janine has asked for a volunteer to serve as an alternate to attend Student Senate meetings. There are 8 meetings per month. Anyone interested in helping should contact Janine directly (jmyorimoto@email.wm.edu).

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report

IX. New Business

- a. Grad Bash: September 7, 2012, Lake Matoaka Amphitheater, 7-10 pm
 - i. Libby will be sending out an announcement. Please forward to people in your department to get the word out.

- ii. Need volunteers to help with the event. Anyone interested in helping should contact Libby (elcook@email.wm.edu).
 - iii. There is a \$5 entry fee.
- b. Representatives' contact information
- c. Goals
 - i. Parking rates for graduate students
 - 1. We will continue to try to get reduced parking rates for graduate students, particularly funded grad students. We hope to get faculty rate for parking passes, which are on a sliding scale.
 - 2. Sean suggested sending out a survey to students in order to gather information and data on how many students buy passes, how much they are willing to pay, how often they park on campus, etc.
 - 3. Ed proposed forming a committee to spearhead this project. Motion seconded and approved.
 - a. Committee: Sean, Laura, Daniel, Katie
 - i. Committee will get information pertaining to last year's effort from Chris Martin.
 - ii. Health insurance
 - 1. We will continue to try to improve aspects of the student health insurance plan.
 - 2. Major concerns include timing of billing, cost of plan, and degree of coverage.
 - a. Ideally, first bill would come *after* students receive their first paycheck.
 - b. Many students think that the plan is too expensive for what they are getting by way of benefits and coverage.
 - c. Many students are concerned that "adult" health matters are not adequately covered by the student insurance plan (e.g. pregnancy—the current plan only covers a single ultrasound).
 - 3. Question raised as to whether or not student insurance could be a benefit for grad students.
 - 4. Student suggested that we could research alternate healthcare plan options and propose those to the College.
 - a. Dean Swaddle offered to be an ally on this effort.
 - b. Committee proposed, seconded, and formed.
 - i. Committee: Ellen, Rachel, Ed (Laura will ask for someone to participate from History Dept.)
 - 5. Sean announced that the Olde Town Medical Center provides services at little or no cost.
 - a. Proposed that we add information about these services to the GSA website.
 - iii. Workshops
 - 1. Mary Shillings from the Cohen Career Center will be working with us to organize workshops. See Vice President's report above.
 - 2. Dean Swaddle announced that the Cohen Career Center is looking for a student in the Sciences to work 10 hours a week. They will pay \$10/hour. Students interested in this opportunity should contact the Cohen Center.

- X. Committees
 - a. Travel Fund (Fall, Spring, Summer)
 - b. Blitz 2013 (Spring)
 - c. We will arrange committees at the October GSA meeting.
 - i. Committees are generally a one-time commitment, especially for Travel Fund review.

- XI. Other Business
 - a. Ed proposed forming a committee, along the lines of a “Graduate Employment Committee,” which would research and disseminate information about funding and assistantships in the various grad departments.
 - i. This will be fleshed out and re-addressed at the October meeting. Anyone interested in this in the meantime should contact Ed directly (ephunt@email.wm.edu).

- XII. Announcements
 - a. GSA Meetings: October 3, November 14
 - b. Office of Graduate Studies Research Grant deadline: October 5
 - c. GSA Conference Travel Fund deadline: October 26
 - d. Raft Debate: November 7
 - e. Registration to see the Dalai Lama ends tomorrow. Tickets are free and are allocated by lottery system.