

# Graduate Student Representative's Report for the Board of Trustees

Executive Committee Meeting, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Melissa Welshans, President of the Graduate Student Organization

The GSO is off to a great start in the 2011-2012 academic year, and in this report I will highlight some of the most exciting endeavors in our own organization as well as activities on campus that affect graduate students.

Last year, Paul reported that our organization would be joining the NAGPS, or the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students. We will be full members beginning with their national conference which, this year, will take place in late October at the University of Colorado at Boulder. With this membership our GSO receives access to a national network of graduate student support. Other universities in this organization include MIT, Penn State, Harvard, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Southern California, Northwestern University, Columbia University and many more. We will be sending our Vice President, Patrick Neary and one other GSO Senator to the national conference in October as well as a few students to the regional conference in the spring.

In addition to joining this useful organization, we are currently working to expand our relationship with SU Law School's Student Bar Association. Currently our GSO only services SU Graduate Students and students at SUNY-ESF. As the year progresses, we will be working with the Law School's SBA on ways in which our organizations can partner. Last year we collaborated on a Halloween fundraising event at the Inn Complete and will be doing the same again this year. We are excited to reach out to this large and dedicated graduate student constituency, and will update the board as our relationship with the Law School evolves this year.

Finally, as many of you know, the GSO is very invested in advocating for the continued improvement and development of our University's libraries. Last year we created our own Library Committee to help graduate students remain aware of the changes that occur to this vital component of our University, and we also have student representatives on the University Senate Library Committee. We are thrilled to attend the October 7<sup>th</sup> Groundbreaking of the new Off-Site Storage Facility near South Campus and look forward to other positive, student centered changes as the University works with our libraries to help them meet the diverse needs of our campus.

Thank you all for your continued support of the GSO and I will continue to update the Board on any of the above as advancements are made.