

**GSO Third Regular Business Meeting
November 16, 2011 4:30pm @Inn Complete**

I. Call to Order - Patrick Neary

II. Roll Call - motion to accept sign in sheet as roll call: made, seconded, and accepted

III. Reading and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes - motion to accept minutes from the Second Regular Business Meeting as written: made, seconded, and accepted

IV. Executive Report

a. Open Forum (Melissa Welshans)

- On November 7th, the Open Forum took place in the Maxwell Auditorium; about 20 attended
- Next semester, we plan to have two Open Forum meetings and would like to have them in different locations in order to serve diverse bodies of graduate students by location
- Any suggestions regarding how these meetings should be conducted in the future are welcome

(a1). Email Addresses

- President was told that the GSO was able to have the full list of graduate student emails, but that turned out to be false because of FERPA regulations

b. Employment Language Change

- According to the existing language in graduate student employee contracts, graduate students are currently restricted outright from holding employment outside their fellowships/assistantships, and the university is holding that position.
- A compromise that the GSO is pushing to strike is a change in the language which will specify that exceptions may be able to be made in consultation with one's department.
 - *Question from the floor:* that rule was put into place in order to protect the students (especially in the sciences) from working on two different projects. If "exceptions can be made," would that then open the door for departments to ask students to do so?
 - President takes note and will make sure that this language does not have potentially negative ramifications.

(b1). Law School Halloween Bash

- Reps from the Law School are present
- Over \$400 was raised for the Central Food Bank of New York. Photos were taken with the head of the food bank; this was good publicity for everyone involved.
- The representative from the Law School is pleased with our collaboration and

says the Law School would be happy to work with the GSO on more projects in the future.

c. Department Representatives

- President wants to remind everyone that *we want and need department reps to forward the information that we disseminate* regarding graduate student events and activities.

d. NAGPS Conference (Patrick Neary/Brandon Milonovich)

- National Conference took place in Boulder, CO on the 28th and 29th of October; attending members were able to glean many ideas regarding best practices and how we might improve the current structure of the GSO.
 - Having been established in 1968, we are one of the oldest GSOs in the country and also one of the more established.
- Patrick briefly explains again the benefits and purposes of the NAGPS.
- Last meeting, the senate voted to have our GSO submit a bid to host the regional conference of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. We won that bid and so will host a weekend conference in late April, 2012.
- Brandon Milonovich was elected the Northeast Regional Chair and will be taking the lead in conference planning as well as communicating between and coordinating NAGPS activities of all of the universities in the Northeast Region.
- Next year's national conference will be at Duke.

e. New Agenda System (Patrick Neary)

- We are now projecting the agenda; printed copies have been reduced from 50 or so to 20. We are going to keep working on this new system and are looking into possibly purchasing a projector screen that will work with our location.
- We are also trying to arrange the space at the Inn Complete to better accommodate the most people.

V. Special Committee Reports

VI. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee (Jack Mayernik)

- No Special Programming Requests
- We started doing a 5 year historical review of our financial situation. This will include a detailed analysis of the Special Programming Requests and the Travel Grant Subsidy Program
- Part of the reason for doing this is to leverage this information in order to determine to what extent there is a lack of support at the departmental, college, or university level. Once we have this data compiled and analyzed, we will be able to determine the best course of action in order to ensure that graduate students are receiving the maximum amount of support possible from all invested parties.

b. Travel Subsidy Committee (Roza Vasilyeva)

- Total Funds: \$30,000 - \$5,000 more than last year
- For Fall Travel, we awarded \$10,035
- We received 45 applications and made our decisions by October 31st
- 37 received travel grants from between 175-300 There was one \$50 dollar award and two outstanding awards of \$500.

- Deadline for Winter: February 15
- Goals
 - Have the paper application updated by the end of this semester
 - Have the online application live by the Winter deadline (hopefully)

c. Career Services Liaison (Nicole Nguyen & Ryan Martin)

- Met with Rosanne Ecker of Career Services
 - Liaisons inquired as to whether a second Etiquette Dinner may be offered as the first Etiquette Dinner filled up within 24 hours
 - Roseanne was not hopeful that she would be able to get funding for a second event this academic year; liaisons would like to ask the GSO to help fund such an event
 - President encourages Ryan to find out the numbers for what it would actually cost to put on and the GSO might be able to offer more support; Rosanne also suggested going to corporate sources.

- Liaisons suggest a workshop on networking
 - How do you approach someone and have a meaningful conversation?
 - Roseanne was positive on this issue and thought of someone who we might be able to tap for this (for free). The liaisons will need the senate's input about what kind of things should be covered.
 - *Comment from the floor:* Toastmasters is brought up as a potentially viable option for networking

- Career Services offers a huge wealth of information and assistance to all graduate students.
- 100 videos of faculty giving advice about how to get a job in academia
- Part of our job should be to help keep our constituents informed of all the opportunities Career Services have to offer

- President suggests that Ryan compose an email and send it to the senators as a reminder to them to get their suggestions and input regarding

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Remarks for the Record

- As the GSO has been growing and changing our organization structure, we are finding that some of the things we thought were easy to do have severe ramifications.
- If any of our student organizations are doing any fundraising, that could have implications on our tax status.
- If any student organizations are doing fundraising or money generating activities at all, please contact the GSO in order to find out if you're in compliance with with the tax policies.
 - Ryan Martin: is there a form we could submit that will show the amount raised and then submit the tax owed?
 - President: the graduate school currently has to be more accountable than that and so such activities are prohibited without explicit permission.

X. Announcements

- The Second Year Law Student Class is hoping to hold a dodgeball tournament and would like to have each school have a team.
- Teams up to 10 people; games will be 6 against 6
- No date yet
- Whitman students are raising money for the Special Olympics: football tickets on sale for half price.

a. Committee Chair Lunch Tomorrow at 12:30

- Reminder about lunch tomorrow - if you are a committee chair and can't make the eboard invites you to send someone else from the committee to attend.
- Ryan is coordinating the scheduling of the committee chairs and liaisons

XI. Adjournment - motion to adjourn: made, seconded and passes unanimously

Adjourned at 5:15pm