

GSO Fifth Regular Business Meeting January 25, 2012

I. Call to Order

Patrick Neary 4:34pm

II. Roll Call

Motion for sign in sheet to be accepted as roll call made and seconded

III. Reading and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept minutes as written made and accepted

IV. Executive Report

a. Semester Goals (Melissa Welshans)

- i. Crisis Resource Website for grad students - aggregate sources to help deal with personal and academic crises all in one place
- ii. Create accounts that will increase the types of fundraising graduate students can do and develop a student handbook for grad groups regarding how they may use their funds
- iii. Change how student groups are registered (trying to move away from OrgSync)
- iv. Solidify our relationship with the Law School: come up with a limited resource package offered to law students based on reduced student fee. These relationships and their financial ramifications will be ironed out before the budget meeting
- v. Support committees to make sure they have the support they need in order to complete their initiatives

Q: Ryan Martin: *The accounts for student orgs: how far along are we with that?*

A: At the stage where the grad school knows how they will be able to do it; there is a meeting on Monday with President Welshans and Jack

b. Gift Cards

We accidentally breached holiday gift-giving rules, which were more complicated than we originally believed. There is no financial repercussion; please throw your gift cards away.

c. Inn Complete

Monica resigned a few weeks before the beginning of the semester; Matt is the interim manager of the Inn. He graduated from Hospitality Services at SU; worked in food services and catering. The chairs of Inn Complete and Outreach met with Matt to discuss some things we want to update at the Inn. New menu options; new events. When they get ready to hire a new manager, GSO members will be a part of the conversation regarding who gets hired.

V. Special Committee Reports

VI. Standing Committee Reports

a. Outreach (Todd)

- \$4,000 was allocated to Outreach; \$3,000 has been discussed
- Propose \$1,500 for women's basketball with Family Concerns Committee
- \$500 for Poker/Casino Night at the Inn Complete
- \$500 for food and drink for different programming at the Inn Complete
- Still have \$1,000 to allocate

Motion to accept these recommendations is made

Q: Ryan Martin: *What is the purpose of the Outreach Committee?*

A: To organize events for graduate students; to make them aware of the GSO's presence on campus; to educate grads about the resources available to them

Q: *When would the women's basketball game be?*

A: Possibly Feb 25 in the afternoon

Q: *How did you arrive at these three things as helping meet your goals?*

A: Never interacted with women's BB team; we were hoping that they would help with some of the goals in helping to better organize the Family Concerns Committee. The FCC is trying to find out what percentage of the community of grad students are families. Part of the event is to raise awareness about the FCC and to gain momentum in order to help grad students know that the FCC exists and is there.

Q: *How do you define family?*

A: Loose definition, but for these purposes we were thinking more afternoon events, less alcohol, more laid back and suitable for children.

Q: *Are the majority of grad organizations department run?*

A: Yes

Q: *Would there be any interest in having a student fair?*

A: Not a bad idea. People have also discussed a grad student conference.

Motion to allocate carries unanimously

a. Finance Committee (Jack Mayernik)

i. Special Programming Request: MAXPAC DC Networking Trip \$1,668

- MAXPAC does this trip each year, has received funding for 5 years
- Recommended by the finance committee that it be funded in full
- Motion to accept the recommendation is made

- Last year, \$2,780

Motion carries unanimously

- ii. CCR Graduate Circle: Conference taking place in May
 - Budget is still in flux and firm attendance numbers will be confirmed in February. March or April will be the time to take action on this request.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- a. Proposal to Amend the Constitution, as Proposed by the Committee to Examine the Structure, Payment, Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Executive Board

Motion is made and seconded that we accept the constitutional changes as outlined in previous emails and as before us today in hard copy.

- There is some discrepancy about health care.
- Maintaining current contribution levels as part of the pay and pretax deductions may be something that we want to do.
- The way that eboard members were offered health care in the past was a stipend that they could take advantage of if they wanted. The amendment does not prohibit officers from getting health benefits per say. It has not been expressly forbidden.

Q: Isn't it the case that the officers give up their stipend to pursue the job of the President or Comptroller? Wouldn't they need health insurance?

A. With the new payrate, the President & Comptroller will likely not be giving up a stipend to take those jobs.

Q. What was the reason for getting rid of benefits?

A. The positions have been retooled to be more inclusive so that no one position has to work full time. All the duties have been spread out so that a grad student could still maintain their departmental roles, so no one is depending on the GSO for full funding and health care.

Q: Will splitting time between studies and the GSO hurt the GSO? Is it feasible?

Q: Can we still make progress toward our degree with that kind of split?

A: Pat Dawes thinks so and has personal experience holding a part time job and continuing progress on his degree. The eboard is asked what they personally think about the potential for this happening and the consensus is that it is entirely possible if people stick to the duties as they are written

Q: Has the eboard ever had 5 members?

A: We are not sure; some history is given over the last couple years.

Q: Point of Order: shouldn't the money be talked about later?

A: Yes, but the debate is important in case people want to actually change the descriptions as written.

Q: Part of the rationale was to take the salary and benefits from 15 to 10 percent.

A: At the NAGPS, people were very surprised that we pay anyone anything. Most volunteer with some pay.

Further Concerns & Points of Discussion:

- Not sure that this drastic change is creating something so much better.
- One thing that some members of the committee felt was that there are some things that are sliding right now. Our event planning could be better and it needs an eboard member to be in charge.
- 16% of our costs were going to support 4 people. One way to make that more equitable to the GSO and to bring us more in line with national averages is to make these changes.
- We are missing some duties in our current organization. To set that up, creating an extra position on the eboard is essential.
- What message are we sending to the administration in cutting salaries when we should probably be raising them?
- Excluded are masters' students who are here for only a year; this may be addressed by the addition of another eboard position
- The main reason that this structure was set up was not financial. Two main points:
 - a. To get better exposure to the GSO so that there are more grad student community events
 - b. To get more openness and more ability for more grad students to be able to serve on the eboard
- It is worth pointing out that we are debating the positions right now and the pay level proposal is coming up.
- Those two resolutions are ordinary legislation, not constitutional amendments.
- We will further clarify how the pay levels are finalized; ultimately, the pay levels are determined at the Budget Meeting, which is in April.
- The thing that we are voting on is the restructuring of the eboard and the rearranging of duties. Seeing no further debate, a vote will be taken.

Motion passes 28-2

b. Proposal to Create a Bookkeeper

Motion to accept this proposal is made and seconded

Our current Webmaster is appointed by the President; the Bookkeeper would be similar. They will do much of the routine paperwork and split some of the Comptroller duties.

Q: Are the appointments confirmed by the Senate?

A: Yes, that is how it is supposed to work. Unless the Senate votes to

confirm the President's choice, the Bookkeeper does not get paid

Motion passes unanimously

c. Proposal to Recommend Executive Pay Levels

Motion to move this item to Old Business for the next meeting made and seconded

IX. Remarks for the Record

President appreciates people staying through this meeting, which has been longer than usual. This change means good things for the GSO.

X. Announcements

1. There will be another luncheon held for the committee chairs. 3/12 committee chairs have filled it out; please fill it out and send it ASAP.
2. The flier that you have in front of you: Karaoke on Feb 4

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made and seconded 5:46pm