

Graduate Student Representative's Report for the Board of Trustees

Executive Committee Meeting, December 8, 2011

Melissa Welshans, President of the Graduate Student Organization

As we move toward the end of the semester, we are happy to report many successful endeavors from Fall 2011.

First, as I mentioned in our October Report, we held a Halloween fundraiser with the Law School Student Bar Association at the Inn Complete on October 28th. At that fundraiser we raised \$400 for the Food Bank of Central New York, an amount that will allow the Food Bank to provide over 1,000 meals to residents of CNY. We hope to partner with the law school on future events and will continue to inform the board as our relationship grows with students in the SU College of Law.

Additionally, as I mentioned at the full Board meeting in November, our GSO won a bid to host the regional conference for the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS). In April 2012, we will host roughly 50 students from at least 7 different institutions in the Northeast region. The conference will last 3 days, and during that time we will hold seminars on issues related to students governance as well as showcase Syracuse's strengths to our visitors. It is a great way for us to connect our university to our peer institutions, and we hope in the future to be able to host the National Conference.

We also recently awarded Travel Grant funds to students who applied for travel during the Fall 2011 Semester. We granted \$10,000 and received almost 50 applications from PhD, masters and professional students across the University. As the program continues to grow, we are examining the data we have received to evaluate the overall availability of travel funds for Graduate Students at SU so that we may plan for the future of this program.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the GSO, and we hope to have many more exciting successes to report for Spring 2012.