Graduate Student Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, November 29, 2016

I. Call to Order—12:07pm (missing a lot of Senators today)

II. Adoption of agenda—approved

III. Approval of minutes—approved

IV. Officers report

4.1 President’s report
   4.1.1 Attendance, sending a proxy
   - Missing more than 2 meetings is discouraged per the by laws; you should not
     miss more than 2 meetings as a Senator (there are only 4-5 meetings per
     semester and dates were posted at start of school year).
   - According to by-laws, if you cannot you should nominate a proxy to come to the
     meetings in your stead at least 24 hours prior to Senate meeting. Remember
     you can call in to meetings, but you should contact Desira Bailey beforehand
     (cc Vanessa Molden).
   - The bigger issue is having no representative from your department.
   - Alisha will send out a reminder email to Senators.

V. Standing committee reports

5.1 Symposium committee
   - Stephanie & Hunter: meeting with Dr. Cannon Dec 13 @ 1:30pm. $12k budget
     for last year, willing to fund approx. 80% of last year’s budget.
   - Rankings will be changed from 0-5 to 0-10.
   - Abstracts will be available within the next week & sent out to everyone.

5.2 Social committee
   - Jobina is stepping down from chair duties because of a job offer for next
     semester. Jess Whatley has stepped into the position.
   - Need to add one member to Social committee. Contact Alisha if you are
     interested—she will also send an email to all Senators.
   - Jess Whatley (new chair head): proposal for Graduate School newsletter. Would
     require contributions about what’s happening in each department.
   - Wanted a “mixer” focused on interconnectivity between departments. Would be
     presented as a social event with a workshop emphasis.
-Dr. Coats: Vanessa will look for an online facilitator already on-staff.
-Vanessa: maybe a “speed dating” approach would be effective, being used already in business/networking environments.
-Corey Bradberry: would it be possible to connect newsletter to Student Printz? Possible Grad Senate coordinator working with an editor/writer on staff?
-Willie Tubbs: has worked with SP in the past. SP is usually undergraduate, but would likely be willing to help. Cam Benelli (spelling?) would be a good contact.
-Brian Golden: is it possible to get a “let your hair down” event for the Senate? Would be nice to have “adult fun” (read: not “adult” fun) without undergraduate presence.

5.3 Bylaws committee
-Willie Tubbs (committee head): trying to clarify existing by-laws to reflect reality of what we are doing. Currently engaged with rules concerning Vice President becoming President.
-Existing by-laws with notes will be sent ahead of time and discussed at next meeting.
-Per by laws, if you miss 2 meetings you will be removed and your Graduate Supervisor will be contacted.

VI. New business

6.1 Change in meeting location next semester
-Spring location will be Cochran Center, allowing for larger space & more grad students to sit in
-Pizza will no longer be supplied on a regular basis, though there may be surprises in the future.

6.2 Discussion of how to get more graduate students involved in Senate
-Graduate coordinators for each department?
-Newsletter?
-Vanessa: a lot of grad students are unaware of the Senate’s existence! We’re looking for non-Senate members who are interested in helping out.
-Hunter C: Committee members (& Senators) are stretched thin due to the size of the event

6.3 Ideas for fundraising for the symposium
-Alisha: just in case we need additional funding
-Newk’s & Glory Bound are best restaurant options (give total % rather than Chik-Fil-A who limits it to those who mention the name)
-Kevin Bryant: no reason to be afraid of profit-shares with name mentioning, debate team does 8-10 a year. Could station someone outside to give handouts, etc. Debate team raises about $2k/year on this model.
-Corey: Partners for the Arts may be willing to contribute to the Arts categories (Corey & Brian will reach out to specific professors in their department)
-Dexter Dean: still working on T-Shirt negotiations
-Facilities and food are the most expensive ticket items
-Hunter C: food was near $11/person for 2-300 people last year
-Vanessa plans to contact iTech re: electronic version of Symposium program
-Kevin B: is there letterhead, or a way to convince sponsors to donate? Are donations tax-deductible?
-Dr. Coats: Grad school has a foundation account, will look into options

VII. Announcements

7.1 Next meeting: Thursday, January 26
   Location: TBA (Alisha will email)—invite non-Senate members to attend!

7.2 Vivian is expecting! However, she will be stepping down as Vice President and we will need someone to move into that role.

VIII. Q&A with the Dean—skipped for today

IX. Adjournment—12:55pm