

GSA Senate Meeting 9-9-15 – Minutes, taken by VP (Jessica Deal)

I. Call to Order at 7:32 pm.

A. Roll Call

II. Invocation at around 7:40 pm.

III. Officer Reports

A. **President**

i. Budget Report

Budget report: pretty much same numbers as last year.

Exec: 32,000

Public Relations: 3,000

Conferences: 40,000

Lectures: 27,000

Events: 38,000

Rebates: 40,000

ii. Dissertation Research Scholarship

Mentioned and tabled until new business.

B. **Vice President**

New graduate student orientation was a success.

C. **Treasurer**

D. **Academic Senator (not present)**

E. **Secretary (not present)**

IV. Committee Reports

A. Events Chair

- Crabfest is Friday, Sept. 11th from 5-9. Ticket prices were raised this year slightly. Budget for CF is 25,000. Spent 31,000, need to bring in 6,000 for

revenue. With raised ticket prices, it's possible that we'll bring in the revenue needed to make of the difference.

- To discuss in the future: do we need to increase the budget every year? Possibly GSA could do away with providing crabs? Going over the budget is something that we need to discuss for next year; the bylaws stipulate that we can't go over 25,000. Aramark raised their prices this year – 2,000 increase.

B. Conferences Chair (not present, but update via email)

- Used 20,000 of budget (new fiscal year begins May 1st, covers summer conferences). Not as many requests for fall semester; 1/3 of the budget will be fall, spring, and summer; chair has capped the fall for this year.
- 5,000 has been promised to grad students for the fall.

C. Lectures Chair

- Consider hosting a lecture; policies online

D. Professional Development Chair

- Coordinating with alumni relations, writing center, center for academic success; will host lunch pedagogy workshop in the fall/spring and an all-day job conference in the spring; hosting the dissertation boot camp.
- Call for panel submissions for job conference in spring.

E. Parliamentarian

- Presentation of the basics of Robert's Rules.

** Interim: Motion to adjourn at 8:30. Seconded and approved unanimously.*

F. Public Relations Chair

N/A, as a new chair has not been hired yet.

V. New Business

A. Dissertation Scholarship Fund

Add to bylaws in the domain of VP instead of Academic Senator. President noted that the duties of the VP are amorphous and the VP works 8 hrs a week rather than 4. President suggested that the Senate move the scholarship fund to duties of VP.

The fund is based on a merit system, with 80 points as the highest score; awards will roughly be between 1,000 – 3,000 dollars. This year we'll take a conservative approach since the fund is new. Only 3 awards at 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000. We will probably present the awards in the springtime for summer. Perhaps have some kind of presentation that the winners of the scholarship give of their research findings in the fall in order to see how well the program worked. We can assess the program post this evaluation.

Motion to move duties of the fund to VP. Seconded. Discussion commenced.

Motion to bring to a vote. Seconded. Passed unanimously – move dissertation research fund to duties of VP in bylaws.

B. Metro School undergrads want to be included in GSA (and would, presumably, pay the activity fee). Non-traditional aged students

- These students would pay activity fee; possibly more interested in social aspects of GSA.

- Tabled until more information about the number of students is given, what they want from GSA, why they aren't being served by SGA, etc.

C. Capital Fest – grad students must pay \$10

Undergraduates in charge of concert contacted Emily to see if GSA wanted to contribute monetarily to the event; most GSA senators did not know what the event was or that grad students were even attending in the first place.

Tabled until more information is received regarding the nature of the event.

D. CUA's Swing Club is asking GSA for money:

- i. They claim that about half of participants in the club are grad students (the president gave me names when I asked)
- ii. Her letter to me answering some questions: We are seeking a contribution to cover half of our membership to The Jam Cellar, a local swing dance organization. The membership includes discounts on dances and lessons, administrative assistance in running the club, teacher training in order to help the club become self-sustaining, participation in exclusive Jam Cellar events (such as future collegiate competitions), and general connection with and support from the regional swing dance community. Benefits will be available to all CUA students. Half of the membership cost is \$500; we are asking the undergraduate SGA to cover the other half. In order to help offset this cost, members of the Swing Dance Club will pay \$15 in dues

each semester, which would be paid back to the GSA and SGA Treasury Board, split equally.

- Discussion of proposal: Have we ever given money to other clubs? Have given money to an undergrad journal. Can we make a decision about funding the group without knowing how many grad students are benefiting from and participating in the swing club?
- Motion passed to follow up with the swing club to ask clarifying questions. How many graduate members? Is giving 500 worth it for the number of graduate students involved?

Motion to adjourn at around 8:15. Seconded; passed unanimously.