

Minutes, October 6

- Roll call
- Call to order – 7:39
- Prayer
- Going through the packet –
 - Budget details (see the packet)
 - Some of EC committee money will go to dissertation boot camp, plus other events
 - Still need to issue spring rebates
 - Might put more into conferences if we get more – currently out
 - But we’re waiting until the budget is finalized, and the university finalizes it
- Treasurer report – can’t get computer to work – will email
- Academic senator
 - Meeting Sept. 17
 - Provost Abela – performance-based budget system
 - The university is in the midst of preparing for reaccreditation
 - Have been slow to implement recommendations from several years ago
 - Good retention last year: 85% Freshman to Sophomore - highest in 17 years
 - Test-optional school – don’t have to send in SAT/ACT scores
 - The goal is that not having students submit test scores will help to serve underprivileged communities – but they also want to get federal funding for serving those students, which they will if the student body is composed of at least 25% of students in those selected demographics
 - Whole new model for the CUA curriculum?
 - No more center for academic success – reallocation of university resources
 - What is a center for excellence? – a place for getting students up to par – students who lack the resources to perform at university level, and this center would help those students
 - Senator Djain – we don’t have the resources for ESL and international students as it is
 - So some concern about whether these centers for excellences will help
 - Separate issue – economically underprivileged communities vs. ESL
 - Also – the centers for excellence don’t yet exist, so hopefully if/when they do, then they’ll help
 - Media studies will change their name to Communications
 - Correspond with similar departments at other universities
- Motion to set time for adjournment – 8:30
 - Passes unanimously – yay
- Treasurer – budget report (attached)
 - Rebate overview – pay into GSA, and GSA pays it back if the senators come to half the meetings per semester
 - Total budget allocation pie chart
 - EC positions and paid GSA positions
 - Rebates from last semester

- Ineligible departments from last semester – didn't send anyone, but they had the option to
- Going through all the departmental (or school) rebates
 - \$20 per member of department, \$350 is minimum rebate
- Rough breakdown, all GSA accounts
- Questions about PR
 - Reduced from \$5000 to \$1000, but Emily wants to leave that as it is, just in case we need it
- No secretary report
- Events (also included, after budget)
 - Kennedy center (Nutcracker and Messiah)
 - Spy Museum
 - There will be an e-mail from Emily or Amanda
 - Also, if you have ideas for events, email Amanda
- Professional Development chair
 - Writing workshop Saturday
 - One coming up in November
- Presentation from Dr. Buracker
 - What is the Metro School?
 - Their own school in 2007, began in 1979 under A&S
 - Average age is 40
 - Last year was their first year participating in the GSA, with grad student senators
 - Feel somewhat separated from the university, since their average age is so much older than the typical undergraduate
 - Dean wants the students to feel more like members of Catholic University
 - Reading a statement from James Dodd, who wasn't able to make it
 - Unique perspective – Fulltime jobs, family commitments, etc.
 - Want a platform to present their concerns
 - Derrick Meyers
 - Interested in student activities, but they feel like their interests are more aligned with those of graduate students
 - Not interested in SGA concerns about housing, etc.
 - Want to be more involved on campus, and they feel like GSA representation would help to keep them informed
 - John Mickey, John Sawyer, and Mike Allen – all okay with it
 - Some kind of fee structure from enrollment services wasn't able to allow Metro School pay the GSA fee instead of the SGA fee this academic year
 - If we accept them into the GSA, they would cease paying the SGA fee, and pay the GSA fee and be able to participate with us
 - Why didn't more Metro School students come to the meeting?
 - Short notice – less than 10 days
 - Most of their classes are in the evening, and if they know ahead of time, they can arrange their schedules accordingly
 - Also, the professors are flexible

- How would the GSA's goal of fostering careers in academia fit in with what the Metro School undergraduate students hope to get out of GSA participation?
 - They probably wouldn't be too involved with conferences, lectures, etc.
 - The rebate money would help the students in the Metro School host professional development events that they want
 - Graduate student population and the undergrad population would work together to host events
- Why isn't the Metro school providing the funding for professional development?
 - Money
 - Restructuring going on now
- Estimate of grad students
- You have to be at least 21 to be an undergrad (average is 40)
 - So we wouldn't need to worry about the typical undergrad concerns influencing the GSA
- Joseph Duncan – wants to be involved and represent the school
 - Most of the students feel that way
- Motion to vote on the budget
 - 18 in favor – it passes
- Swing club
 - Emily emailed her, never heard back
 - Maybe they rescinded request for money? – We don't know.
- Dissertation scholarship fund
 - Overview
 - Selection committee – voluntary basis for students and professors
 - After seeing how difficult it is to get volunteers from professors, maybe it could be difficult to get professors to volunteer?
 - Trial and error process
 - But since the involvement from faculty is voluntary, do we want to approach professors?
 - The department selected can opt out, if they know that they can't get volunteers
 - The idea is to guarantee that a department isn't reviewing its own applications
 - How are people different departments going to be able to tell what research in a particular department is worth doing?
 - This is a standing concern
 - The importance of research to the relevant field – the letter from the advisor should address this
 - Two letters?
 - But if we have these, maybe we don't need faculty revision of the applications
- 8:30 – motion to extend the meeting 5 minutes
 - Passes, with four opposed
- Email in concerns with the proposal, or pass the dissertation scholarship as is
 - Jessica's concerns
 - What if too many departments opt out?

- Hopefully, if grad students are the ones who are considering applications, then they will be more willing to participate
- Motion to strike professors from the selections process
 - Passes
 - Faculty stuck from the selection committee in the proposal
- Motion to vote on the dissertation proposal
 - One opposed, no abstentions
 - Vote passes – dissertation proposal plan approved
 - We will work with these guidelines, and see how it goes
 - Again, process open to emendation and adjustment next year, and so forth, but this at least gives us a starting point
- Motion to table the issue for this week, and have the lottery next week
 - Passes unanimously
- Think about whether or not you want your department to opt-out
- Motion to adjourn – 8:38
 - Passes unopposed

Budget rebate report, from Treasurer:

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT						
Spring 2015						
		Full-time	Part-time	Total	Rebate	
Architecture and Planning		72	28	100	\$2,000.00	INELIGIBLE
Arts and Sciences						
	Anthropology	1	2	3	\$350.00	
	Biology	27	35	62	\$1,240.00	
	Chemistry		3	3	\$350.00	
	Comparative Literature			0	\$350.00	INELIGIBLE
	Drama	4	21	25	\$500.00	
	Education	6	35	41	\$820.00	INELIGIBLE
	English	9	42	51	\$1,020.00	
	Greek and Latin	5	18	23	\$460.00	
	History	8	23	31	\$620.00	
	Joint Programs	1	1	2	\$350.00	depends on

						department
	Library and Information Science	9	98	107	\$2,140.00	
	Modern Languages	3	5	8	\$350.00	INELIGIBLE
	Physics	4	27	31	\$620.00	
	Politics	20	45	65	\$1,300.00	
	Psychology	28	46	74	\$1,480.00	
	Semitics	9	19	28	\$560.00	
	Sociology	3	1	4	\$350.00	INELIGIBLE
	Non-degree		8	8	\$350.00	depends on department
Total Arts and Sciences		137	429	566		
Business and Economics		48	17	65	\$1,300.00	INELIGIBLE
Canon Law		33	42	75	\$1,500.00	INELIGIBLE
Engineering						
	Biomedical Engineering	6	18	24		
	Civil Engineering	9	24	33		
	Electrical Engin. & Comp. Sci.	11	46	57		
	Engineering Management	27	12	39		
	Materials Science	6	2	8		
	Mechanical Engineering	15	18	33		
Total Engineering		74	120	194	\$3,880.00	
Law		262	180	442	\$8,840.00	INELIGIBLE
Metropolitan		27	227	254	\$5,080.00	
Music		33	82	115	\$2,300.00	
Nursing		20	189	209	\$4,180.00	
Philosophy		57	85	142	\$2,840.00	
Theology and Religious Studies		148	200	348	\$6,960.00	
Social Service		169	303	472	\$9,440.00	
Joint Programs						
	Joint Graduate	2		2	\$350.00	depends on department
	Joint Law	2	1	3	\$350.00	depends on department

Joint Program Total		4	1	5		
Inter-School Programs						
	Early Christian Studies	2	5	7	\$350.00	
	Medieval and Byzantine Studies	6	3	9	\$350.00	
Total Inter-School Programs		8	8	16		
TOTAL		1,092	1,911	3,003		

Upcoming Events:

GSA Events

Fall 2015

October

The International Spy Museum

October 24th @ 2pm

November

Happy Hour

TBA

Caps Game

TBA

The Nutcracker @ Kennedy Center

November 28th @ 7pm

December

Happy Hour

TBA

Messiah @ Kennedy Center

December 18th @ 8pm