

Minutes, October 21

- Invocation
- Roll call – 7:32
- Motion – meeting time to end at 8:30
 - Seconded, and passes
- Officer reports
 - Events chair
 - International Spy Museum – open for guests
 - No takers yet, so email Amanda and she'll give you ticket info
 - For Messiah and Nutcracker, email Amanda
 - 10 Nutcracker, 20 Messiah
 - Only request tickets for one or the other, not both
 - Let her know your priority
 - Other events in the works
 - Working on getting Caps game and happy hours paid for
 - Who are the Caps playing?
 - E-mail her if you have a preference
 - Conferences chair
 - Funding done for fall semester
 - Wait list
 - Spring semester – need to send in promissory note
 - Fiscal year ends April 30th
 - Professional development chair
 - Writing workshop went well – max. participation
 - Next one: Nov. 13th
 - Registration opens Nov. 1
 - Parliamentary
 - Changes to by-laws updated
 - VP to assume responsibility of scholarship fund
- Old Business
 - MSPS membership in GSA
 - Sen. Djain – from a community point of view, we should allow them in
 - Sen. Schor – doesn't see it that way
 - If their goal is funds for social events, they can fundraise for that
 - Listserv for inclusion in social events, and they can pay?
 - Sen. Djain – they don't want to go to undergraduate events, and the money that they would want to fund social and professional development events, it would be reimbursement
 - VP Jessica – most of our social events take place on weekends, so they could probably participate in those
 - Sen. Vater – do we have quorum?
- Quorum – what is quorum?
 - 50%? Or 2/3rd?
 - We need to address this in the by-laws.

- Matt will check old records
- Return to Old business
 - MSPS vote
 - Motion to table the MSPS vote until next meeting
 - Seconded, passed
 - Dissertation scholarship lottery
 - 8 graduate students on the committee
 - Applications due about Dec. 8, and about a month/two months to review, and then let them know by end of Feb. so that people can make summer plans accordingly
 - “great line for a resume” – can we make an official title?
 - Senators can choose to serve on the committee, but they can also pass the responsibility on to their department, if they are too busy
 - Departments: Engineering, music, anthropology, Greek and Latin (accepted!), philosophy (accepted!), psychology (accepted!), history (accepted!), Library and Information Science (accepted!)
 - Jessica will contact the departments that weren’t present
- New Business – CUA grad student meet-up group (Mr. Matthews from Greek and Latin)
 - Jessica reading through the proposal Mr. Matthews sent in to the EC committee
 - We can’t vote this meeting (quorum issues)
 - But is there a need for this kind of forum?
 - Can the need be filled by the Nest, or Facebook?
 - Sen. Djain – it’s difficult to deal with web programs at CUA, so it would be better to use systems already in place
 - Topaz hasn’t been updated since 2005
 - Sen. Poulos – big events can be intimidating, and smaller groups and interactions are more enjoyable
 - Sen. Clough – it would give students a chance to branch out
 - LIS is a tight-knit group, so with interdepartmental communication, they could meet students from other departments
 - Sen. Keeney – wonders about the implementation
 - How will this be better than a Facebook group? Will there be stigma associated with some kind of a social events group?
 - Small-groups are individual orientated, so it is better for individuals to organize them
 - Sen. Schor – how to limit the number?
 - Sen. Matthews reply – in working out the details, he thinks people will end up being excluded, naturally
 - Questions regarding Facebook’s limitations
 - A separate group will give people an opportunity to fend for themselves, with the safe setting of the university
 - Sen. Schor – what about the “exceedingly lonely” person who gets rejected?
 - Sen. Matthews – that will happen, but maybe the group will split into two

- Sen. Vater – addresses a situation that we do find, given how far graduate students live from campus, but if large scale centralized events won't solve the problem, how will a large-scale centralized website solve the problem?
- Sen. Matthews – senators let people know, and suggest it
- Sen. Clough – what stops this from being a message board situation, when we're just opening up general communication? Why is it for meet-up, or housing?
- Sen. Matthews – it isn't. It's an opportunity to communicate between departments, and for people to meet in some sense before meeting in person.
- Sen. Djain – School of Arts and Sciences – those students feel particularly isolated
 - Best way to fix that would be to have joint-events with several departments
 - Also – you cannot program on the university website
- Sec. Hudson – comments
 - There are already “areas” for discussion, group meet-up
 - What about an orientation extended program?
- Pro. Development chair – how to get people to use the forums we already have
 - Increase awareness
 - Why would people use a new system?
- Sen. Matthews – agrees that we need more education, awareness
 - Also making sure new people know about events
 - Reaching out to new people
- Sen. Keeney – there are off-campus housing resources, including one's managed by CUA
- Sen. Djain – coordinating off-campus housing can be a real pain (real experience)
 - Ended up getting help from his department
- Sen. Ruger – senators don't know what is available
 - The Nest orientation?
- Introducing the new PR director
 - He's learning Topaz, updating the GSA page on the school website
 - All the senators should be up there
 - Addressing previous concerns – maybe communication is a problem?
 - Like the Nest, like the GSA page
 - Help each other out
- Motion to table the web-forum discussion
 - Seconded, and approved
- The alcohol issue . . .
 - Some indignation
- Motion to adjourn
 - Seconded, and passes
- Adjourn 8:32