

Meeting minutes, February 10th

Call to order: 7:30

Invocation: Fr. Eric

Set end-time: 8:30 – approved without objection

Approve the meeting minutes for January 27th – approved, with one abstention

- Officer reports:
 - President – budget update
 - Grad student enrollment is down, so our budget will be smaller than what OCA projected for us
 - We'll have to see how much lower
 - Vice president – not here, but her report in new business
 - Treasurer – in new business
 - Academic Senator – here, but nothing to report (no meeting)
 - Secretary – snacks back next week
 - Conferences – spring conference money promised, but there might be a little left, if people don't spend as much as they project
 - Lectures – some money left in lectures, so let people know
 - Parliamentarian – here
 - Is sworn in, by the President
 - Photo-op
 - PR director – if anyone wasn't here last week, put your t-shirt/sweatshirt size on the list, which will be passed around
- Old business
 - Online students
 - Dominic found when the programs started so that we can see what rebates were affected
 - MSPS – started participating in GSA senate Fall 2014, so received a rebate in spring 2015 based on fall 2014 numbers
 - Nursing – began Fall 2013
 - Social service – began summer 2014
 - The numbers from the administration: different from the numbers from the individual schools
 - Most schools – not that much of a change for most, but Social Service will get about \$800
 - Nursing senator – they use rebate money for events for online students, so is there a way to have them pay the fee?
 - Emily will ask Dean Jennings about that
 - Sen. Rieger: Are we able to get specific numbers regarding exactly how much was given to those schools, instead of just asking for some arbitrary figure?
 - Dominic – he'll try to get those numbers
 - President – how far back should we go, and will the senate do anything about it?
 - Put money back into conferences? – Academic Senator

- The proposal from last meeting – rectify the situation by adjusting the spring rebate, to account for the overcompensation in the Fall
- Parliamentarian – money cannot be removed from senator accounts, per GSA constitution
- Academic Senator – responsibility of the senators to keep track of money
 - They should have noticed some access
- President – also, the constitution didn't imagine some egregious mistake by the university like this, in which departments were given thousands more than they should have been
- Sen. Schor – what are the actual figures?
- Treasurer: corrected rebate amounts, for this semester and the fall
 - Metro: \$280
 - Nursing: - \$480
 - Social Service: \$840
- Sen. Keeney – what are people thinking about this situation, to have an open conversation?
- Sen. Djain – money we didn't have originally, but at the same time, there are students who need conference money, so if the money could be returned and help to alleviate the strain on conferences without significant harm to the schools, then it seems like it would be better to get it back
 - Erikk – it seemed, from the numbers last meeting, that it would be significant
 - Dominic – about \$8000 more than we shouldn't have given
 - This money won't be added to conferences – it is just a correction, based on artificially inflated enrollment numbers
- The real money for conferences would have to come from correcting from previous semesters
 - If we don't do the \$8000 correction, then we'll lose money out of the general GSA accounts – less for lectures, conferences next year
- President – break up the discussion, to make it more manageable
 - 1 – have motion to correct for the fall, so it won't impact the overall GSA budget
 - 2 – we'd have to vote an amendment to the constitution, if we wanted to take the money
 - If nursing gives the money willingly, we don't need to amend the constitution
- Motion to correct for the fall 2015 and spring 2015 rebates, in the amounts given above
 - 21 in favor
 - Abstentions – 1
 - Motion passes
- Sen. Keeney – come to an agreement to give the money back, rather than have it in the constitution, so that we don't create a situation where future students could be penalized or suffer

- Do senators want Dominic to try to get past numbers?
 - We could estimate the numbers, and go from there.
 - One problem with that is that online enrollment has doubled in NCSST in the past year.
 - Sen. Clough – rectify this situation by withholding the rebates from this and last semester, but don't go back and take money
 - Sen. Djain – agrees, just go with what has the senate has passed, and keep these things straight from here on out
 - Erik – senators have transferred funds in the past to the GSA general fund when conferences has run out, and that was not when money was inappropriately given
 - We don't have to do anything else, if we just want to leave it at this.
 - Sen. Molchanov – see how many people want to keep discussing this
 - Motion to continue rebate discussion – 9 in favor, 14 opposed, 0 abstention
 - So discussion closed
 - Sen. Keeney – a follow-up: NCSST wants to give the \$840 that they would have gotten back to go back to the general senate fund, so that there will be no ill-will
 - Don't need a vote to transfer money
 - Nursing will also voluntarily give back the -\$480
 - MSPS will also give up the \$240, voluntarily
- Dissertation research fund
 - Sounds like it went really well
 - Any comments about the experience, or how to improve for next year?
 - Sent comments to Jessica
 - Should be gender neutral
 - Have the applicants themselves remove their names
 - If you're going to ask for some kind of software, you need to say why you need *this* piece and not some other software
 - Also, are we buying the software for the student or for the school, if the application is for software
 - So ask for more details about software
 - Increase the word-limit for certain parts of the application – the research project portion
 - The committee wanted to get a good sense of the project, and sometimes the word limit hindered that
 - Someone was accepted in a PhD program, but was still working on his master's at CUA, so he went in with a 10-point discrepancy
 - This is a reimbursement fund, so the winners still need to follow conference reimbursement guidelines
 - Vote to add job duties to conferences, since it is reimbursement
 - Motion – passes
 - Should they be eligible for conference reimbursement?
 - They competed for a competitive grant, and so they should still be eligible.
 - For conferences, you can only get \$600 per year.
 - Not apply retroactively, but make it a motion for next week?

- Motion to table until next meeting
 - Vote to approve the winners – passes – they won!
- Announcements – Lenten adoration in Caldwell chapel
- University of Maryland, grad students networking event
 - April 1st – email Emily if you're interested
- Adjournment – 8:30
 - Passes
- Meeting adjourned, 8:30