

GSA Senate meeting
September 7th, 2016

Roll call - at 7:32
Prayer

Officer reports

- President – absent (getting married this weekend)
- VP - introduced himself, more later
- Treasurer - Dominic's presentation about the money
 - We need to approve the budget this meeting.
 - Total budget - \$150,000 (estimated)
 - Rebates for this year: \$60,000 (estimated)
 - General funds available: \$90,000 (estimated)
 - Conference funding has been increased, from last year, proportionally.
 - The conference fund is split up, to try to cover the whole year.
 - Does summer get less than the others? Yes
 - Dominic will get in touch with Paul, about how exactly the money is divided up through the year.
 - Question about crabfest, and its cost - address later
 - Motion to vote on the budget - seconded
 - Budget passes - no opposed, no abstentions
 - Rebates
 - Question about biology's rebate - at the last meeting, and I (Esther) will change that
 - Dominic will send out an email about using the nest and rebate information
- Academic Senator – Lisa
 - Looking into the fee increase for tech services
 - She will be meeting with tech services on Friday, and with the treasurer for the university the next week
 - She'd appreciate input on the dialogue between faculty and graduate students
- Secretary
 - Roll call protocol - Kyle noted that the official procedure is to ask for another roll call, if people walk in
 - Fellowship of Catholic Scholars meeting, here in DC, the weekend of Sept. 23-25. For more info, check out:
http://www.catholicscholars.org/indexConventionMain_response.php?ID=8
- Events – Matthew
 - Crabfest - crabs, fixings, summer BBQ buffet
 - Planning for 300 - last year about 200, although in the past they've planned for about 500
 - Pre-sales end tonight - \$10 for all you can eat crabs
 - Tomorrow it will be \$15, at the door it will be \$20 (non-students and faculty are more)
 - This year's budget is \$17,000; in past years it was \$25,000
 - We'll probably make about \$4000 back in ticket sales
 - Call of volunteers - e-mail Matthew (80hudson@cua.edu) - you'll get a free ticket in and two free beer tickets

- Event on GSA facebook page - buy tickets through eventbrite
 - Sen. Molchanov - is the crab really an essential part of this event?
 - Plus, crab is a Maryland thing, and we're in DC
 - Lisa - at the next meeting, Crab-fest will have happened, and we can evaluate
 - No record of after-event reports, but Matthew will make one
 - Advertising - Facebook, GSA page, senator e-mail, grad student e-mail
 - The polos - wear to crab fest
 - Keep track of attendance, and who is paying what prices
 - No e-mail specifically about crab-fest, but it was mentioned in an Aug. 12th email from Emily
- Other events - ideas for events based on successful events in past years
 - Open to suggestions; open to changing events that are currently held
 - Please share with Matthew - also open to departments or schools co-hostings
- Lectures - not here
- Professional development - open position
 - Coordinates writings workshops, so we need someone in this position to keep those going
- Parlemtarian - Kyle
 - Robert's rules presentation - majority rule, while ensuring fairness and securing our rights
 - As non-elected, he cannot take part in debates, but merely clarify rules
 - Need quorum to vote - 50% voting members
 - Specifics on voting in the constitution and by-laws
 - The confusing thing - motions - just ask Kyle - he's read the 700 page book
 - Seconding the motion does not mean that you accept the motion, merely that you want it debated
 - We don't talk about ideas; we talk about motions.
 - Time limit - 2 minutes (although you can ask to have that extended)
 - A document with a few guidelines on secondary motions - will be sent out shortly
- New proposal, by a senator: an idea to propose to the senate
 - Proposes the establishment of an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of TAs and TFs at the university unionizing
 - Not a ideological statement, but rather a union might be the best way to protect grad student interests in certain situations
 - Cautious, careful, and delicate about this - understand as much as possible about what would be involved before taking any action
 - If the committee thinks there is a better option, this senator is fine with that - just wants what's best for grad students at the university
 - The committee is open to input from other grad students, but it would begin with exploring options and seeing what the senate thinks, since the GSA senators are supposed to represent their departments
 - There have been issues with grad student interests not being protected – talk to the senator who is proposing this for more info
 - Our academic senator is also trying to gather information about issues - positive and negative, so that she can be aware of those situations when they (or similar situations) are addressed in senate meetings

- Announcement - CUA Fresh check day
 - Fair-like event, for dealing with stress and coping with stress
- Motion to adjourn – passes
- Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM