

## GSA Senate meeting – September 21, 2016

Roll call - 7:32

At quorum

Opening prayer

Swearing in of new officers and new senators

Presentation from Sister Ruth – what campus ministry is doing

- Bible study on Sundays, 1-2 pm, Seton lounge
- Graduate faith community – depends on what we, the grad students, want
- Graduate speaker series – during lunch
  - First one: October 19<sup>th</sup>, on the upcoming election and faithful citizenship
  - November speaker – spirituality and work
- Graduate student mass – Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>
  - And once a month after that
- Adoration on Fridays, after the law school mass
- If there is something you'd like to do or take part in, please let Sister Ruth know.
  - Sister Ruth's e-mail: [harkins@cua.edu](mailto:harkins@cua.edu)
    - Campus extension: 6579
- Tomorrow: CUA on tap, Fr. James Martin, S.J.
  - Caldwell, 7:30

Officer reports

- President – nothing to report
  - Thanks for everything running smoothly 😊
- Vice president
  - Provost, vice-provost, and dean of graduate studies – all came to crabfest, and they thought it was a great event
- Treasurer
  - If you haven't accepted the invite for the nest (your department's nest page), please do so, or let Dominic know
- Academic senator
  - Tech services fee update
    - She met with Raylene (tech services)
    - Fee based on access, not usage
    - She met with the university treasurer, to see if the tech services could be rolled into graduate student scholarships/stipends
      - Probably fall 2017
  - Please talk to Lisa if you have questions, or concerns
- Secretary

Committee Reports

- Events
  - Crabfest a huge success
    - Thanks to the volunteers!
      - 20 volunteers
    - Over 200 people who attended
    - Budget going in: \$17,000
      - Cut food order, based on ticket sales
      - Also made about \$5,000 on ticket sales
    - Ended up costing about \$12,000
      - In the past, it has cost about \$31,000
    - There were games, people seemed to be having a good time
  - Other events – details forthcoming
  - Lots of extra cups – take cups
- Conferences
  - We have money for the spring semester
  - There is no more money for the fall
  - The earlier they apply for spring funding, the better
  - We've helped about 22 people this fall attend conferences
    - About 15 people on the waitlist
  - We helped about 48 people over the summer
  - Lower budget this year, so we're working with less, but we are able to help a few people
  - President comment on conferences:
    - We all pay \$100/year activity fee
      - 40% to departments/schools, and the other 60% is in the general GSA fund, which covers conferences
    - Don't expect money for conferences – we don't want to be using all our money for conferences, since the GSA has more general goals
    - The GSA cannot bear the full burden of support for all grad students attending conferences
    - We are going to update language regarding conference reimbursement through GSA on the webpage
    - We (GSA EC) are also going to split the spring into two periods, Jan.-Feb. and then Mar.-Apr., so that students participating in later conferences will have a better shot at funding
    - Sen. Backes – maybe we could lower the cap, so that the money could be spread a bit further
    - Sen. Molchanov – could we allocate more money to conferences?
      - Pres. – we voted on a tentative budget at the last meeting, but we could vote on a different allocation
    - Sen. Djain – things to keep in mind: department funding is gone, so there is that to keep in mind
    - Sen. Molchanov – issues with reaching people?
      - Eliminate the PR person?

- Pres. – she does do quite a bit, with updating the website, advertising, elections, etc.
  - Pres. – keep in mind: 40% of the money goes to reimbursements to departments, so departments could use that, to fund their own students for conferences
  - Sen. Djain – tricky situation in general, since the budget is limited, and especially limited this year
- Lectures – Mary isn't here
- Professional development – not yet filled
- Parliamentarian
  - Revised Robert's Rules document for the website
  - Submitted to the EC for comments and approval
- Public relations – not here

#### Old Business

- Unionization committee – join the e-mail list, if interested

#### New Business

- Conferences budget discussion – took place in old business
- Question from senate: are we usually at or around quorum? If we barely make it, are there some meetings that we don't make quorum?
  - Yes to both, but it seems that it is usually just one meeting a semester that we don't make quorum
  - Further question: would there be something the senate wanted to do to encourage attendance? Require more meetings for the rebate?
  - We could talk about this more next time, but it seems that the people that come do come, and it's very difficult to make the other people come

#### Announcements

- Fresh-check Event on campus – tomorrow, Sept. 22, from 11-2 p.m.
  - There will be food, and a chance to win a free TV
  - Pryz lawn
- Drama – Bloody Poetry is opening soon, and it would be great for grad students to come
- Mosaic – counseling center, aimed at supporting LGBTQ students on campus, be sending out a flyer soon

Motion to adjourn – adjourn at 8:14 p.m.