Graduate Student Association  
January 23, 2013  
Senate Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting was called to order and attendance was taken.
2. Motion to accept the minutes from the November 28 meeting. Motion passed unan.
3. Motion to accept the agenda for the January 23 meeting. Motion passed unan.
4. New Senators were sworn in.
5. Admissions Presentation and Discussion – led by Andy Woodall, Dir. Of Admissions.
   -Talked to the GSA Senate about the role of current graduate students in the process of enrollment.
   New Initiatives:
   -Orientation – this year, the GSA is going to be given the responsibility to plan and carry out the Happy Hour event.
   -Campus tours – include a have coffee with a current student as possibility; most of the grad students had contact with admin and/or professor during but not before the admission process. Less of them had interaction with these same after the first contact;
   -3 possible ways to be involved:
     -Coffee with the potential student
     -Make phone calls to admitted students – potentially two to three afternoons
       (A suggestion was made to have some connection be made for housing)
     -Provide tours - this would require more training; ideally this would be more focused on each school;
   -Asked for anyone who is interested in helping out to take his card and contact him
6. Officer Reports:
   Academic Senators –
   -Michael Stell gave the report for the meetings on December 13, 2012 and January 17, 2012.
   Major issues from the December 13 meeting: the new School of Business and Economics was approved by the BOT. Two new degree programs were approved by the Academic Senate. A new evaluation instrument for professorial evaluation was approved by the Academic Senate. The new instrument will be sent to professors before the start of the new semester.
   Major issues from the January 17 meeting: the University is facing a 5 million dollar deficit for the coming FY, due mostly to declining enrollment in the Law school. Enrollment numbers for the Spring semester look better than one year ago.
   -Peter Furlong gave the report for the recent BOT Academic Affairs Committee Meeting – the committee took up the resolution regarding the creation of a new School of Business and Economics. This was approved and passed onto the full board.
Discussion of how this new program will fund itself and they are projecting that this new school will have to hire some new faculty programs; they are hoping that there will be opportunities for naming rights funding for chairs and for the school itself. They are really specializing in unique areas that are not be addressed. There are future plans for an MBA, but for now, there is a lot of focus on specialized degrees.

**Treasurer** – changes in the executive committee, events, lectures and conferences areas. Rebates have not been taken out yet.
- Rebates money should be processed by February. Every represented department will be receiving their full amount!
- Numbers for the Spring semester will be more definite at the March meeting.
- Question was asked about the timing of the rebates – timing of the rebates is determined by the timing of getting the enrollment numbers and the attendance of the senators at the GSA meetings;

**President**
- Follow-up on the letter that was sent by the GSA to President Garvey. P.G. informed that his cabinet had been meeting about the letter since it was received in Oct. Our gay/lesbian students should be treasured; he said that faculty/staff could do the safe zone stickers, but it is not going to be instituted institutionally. He left it open to use whatever phraseology that we would like; PG said he uses gay/lesbian, but people can use others. He is not going to dictate. Father Jude was also involved in the discussion. Dean Mack also said that any form of discrimination should be reported immediately. Some of the undergrad student leaders where there said that somethings were happening in the dorms that were not being reported. It seemed to them that there was no really any training or education as to what is harassment.
- Questions were asked about this report:
  - Going to be a university statement from the President and others
- Interdisciplinary conference: we need more committee members to help organize and plan;
  - This is a great opportunity for graduate students to put on their CV. If you are interested, please e-mail Joe Forte.
  - Date of the conference: TBD (hoping for earlier in the month of April)
  - Don’t put it on the 13th – there is an event with the theological schools planned with the Washington Theological Consortium;

- GSA Child Care Committee – not going to be a day care center on campus; there is a need for more committee members to help; There is an effort to have a more organized collection of information. Let Joe know if you are interested in helping.
-Library survey – discussion among the other Senators;

7. Committee Reports:

-Events:
  -Music concerts this coming weekend sponsored by the School of Music
  -Happy Hour – Feb 1 @ Fire Station: 3 to 6 PM
  -Museum Day – Air and Space/Lunch/Natural History/IMAX; will need to register for this event;
  -Working on a hike; Washington Capitals game; DC United event;
  -Budget is in good shape for the Spring;

-Conferences:

-Parliamentarian – presentation on Robert’s Rules of Order;
  -This is part of a larger orientation that will be for new senators which will be implemented for the next AY.

-Public Relations:
  -Report on BOT Student Life Committee Meeting

Senator Reports:
  -None

8. Unfinished Business: Conferences Legislation: Motion to table until next meeting; Passed unan.

9. New Business: Confirmation hearing on VP Candidate Daiva MacKenzie. It is difficult to find candidates who can join the Senate during the mid-year. Joe shared that he is actively job searching, and he might have to leave. He also shared that Homer Twigg is leaving CUA so we also have the secretary position open.
  -Question to Daiva – any ideas on how to incorporate the MSPS into the total GSA experience; a great opportunity to network with the greater GSA community; getting students to pay GSA fees and have more opportunities for MSPS to bring in lecturers and sponsor conferences.

  -Discussion: Joe had invited the EC into his decision making process. He reminded the Senate that the decision to present her is his decision and the senate approves.
Motion was made to approve Daiva MacKenzie for the position of Vice President. Motion was seconded.

Discussion:
- Question was asked what the EC objections were – lack of GSA experience;
- Question of whether MSPS are part of the GSA; the official reading is that as long as they have paid their fee, then they are part of the GSA.
- Question: is this person going to fill this position for the rest of the AY.
- Joe said that Daiva is going to pay the fee; and will be
- Question: which position is the greater priority; Joe said that VP is the greater priority;

Question was called: For: 19; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2; Motion passed.

Announcements:

Motion to adjourn. Motion passed unan.

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael J. Stell
Academic Senator, Acting Secretary