MINUTES
The Graduate Student Association
The Catholic University of America
Senate Meeting - Regular
January 18, 2012 – 7:00 pm – Pryzbyla 327

Members present:

Emily Alianello     Elizabeth de Mahy     Lawrence King     Nathan Ponzio
Carol Anderson      Allie Dryden         Margot Lamson      Brian Rice
Fr. Charles Benoit  Peter Furlong       James Lewis        Donald Sifuentes
Angelique Brown    Thad Garrett         Pablo Martinez      Carol Thelen
William Buracker    Erikk Geannikis      Megan Mooney        Jufang Tseng
Joshua Canzona     Vernice Grajeda       Louise Mundstock    Edmund Walsh
Ryann Craig         Amber Hanson         Ryan Norris

I. Meeting was called to order by President James Lewis at 7:04 pm.

II. Roll was called by Thad Garrett, Secretary.

III. Minutes from November 16 and Agenda approved.

IV. Prayer was offered by Joshua Canzona.

V. Officer Reports

a. Academic Senator
   i. Announced that due to a low number of paper submissions for the spring conference, the deadline has been extended to February 5.
   ii. Passed out flyers to encourage submissions for conference.

b. Secretary
   i. No outstanding appointment forms.

b. Treasurer
   i. Regular budget report; Balances as follows:
      GSA Senate             ($13,812.02)
      Executive Committee    ($4,638)
      Events                 ($1,350.44)
      Lectures               $9,855.72
      Conferences            $12,977.59
      Public Relations       $1,333.68
d. Vice President
   i. Investigating possibility of installing additional bike racks on campus.
   ii. Plans to introduce motion to create an ad-hoc committee on women’s issues.

e. President
   i. Update on upcoming open forums.
   ii. Gave invitation for all graduate students to participate in the upcoming March for Life.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Conferences
   i. Two additional promissory notes were awarded since written report, bringing total available funds down to $7,904.09.

b. Social
   i. Reminder of two remaining events.

c. Lectures
   i. Reported additional application since written report for a total of four pending applications.

d. Parliamentarian (given by Secretary in absence)
   i. Presented draft of revised Constitution.

e. Public Relations
   i. Presented draft of election rules.

VII. Senator Reports

a. Greek/Latin – Planning to create a survey to determine interest in G/L courses.
b. Physics – Glad to report a new graduate student!
c. History – Planning a lounge improvement project.
d. NCSSS – Held a meeting to plan semester projects.
e. Philosophy – Planned three lectures and the annual spring conference.
f. Music – Planned a Pre-Lenten get together. Also considering funding graduate student recital receptions.
g. Nursing – New senator: Carol Thelen will be taking Megan Mooney’s spot. Planning March for Life, Thank-You Reception; Mariam’s Kitchen, and the ongoing Sock Drive.
h. TRS – Has authorized $1,000 donation to Conference Fund.

i. Mod Lang – Held end of semester get together.

VIII. New Business

a. Peter Furlong moved and Ryan Norris seconded that the election rules be approved. Motion passed.

b. Brian Rice moved and Allie Dryden seconded that the revised Constitution be approved.
   i. Allie Dryden moved to table the motion due to a desire among the Senate to spend more time reviewing the changes.
   ii. Brian Rice withdrew the original motion.

c. Brian Rice moved and Joshua Canzona seconded that the Constitution be approved in sections at a time. Motion passed.

d. Brian Rice moved and William Buracker seconded that the Senate approve the Preamble of the Constitution. Motion passed.

e. Lawrence King moved and Brian Rice seconded that the Senate approve Article I of the Constitution.
   i. Lawrence King moved to amend and Erikk Geannikis seconded that Section 2.A regarding the Activity Fee be removed. Amendment passed.
   ii. Amber Hanson moved and Nathan Ponzio seconded to table the motion until all senators were able to review the document.
      1. After discussion, Amber Hanson withdrew the motion to table.
   iii. Donald Sifuentes called the motion to question.
   iv. Motion Passed with amendment.

f. Lawrence King moved and Erikk Geannikis seconded that the Senate delay further motions regarding the revised Constitution until all senators have had the opportunity to review the changes. Motion passed. (Senators may contact John Mickey, Parliamentarian, with questions or concerns at 56mickey@cardinalmail.cua.edu.)

g. Joshua Canzona moved and William Buracker seconded that an ad-hoc committee on women’s issues be created to discuss concerns related to breastfeeding-friendly spaces on campus, sexual harassment awareness, and other issues it deems pertinent. Motion passed.
   i. Joshua Canzona offered to chair the committee until a permanent chair is appointed. (Senators may contact Joshua Canzona at 70canzona@cardinalmail.cua.edu if interested in serving on the committee. Anyone interested in chairing the committee may contact James Lewis at 22lewis@cardinalmail.cua.edu.)
IX. Closing Announcements

a. Amber Hanson, on behalf of her fellow NCSSS senators, expressed an uncertainty of University policies regarding the recognition and financial support of LGBT student groups. Joshua Canzona offered to open a dialogue between the NCSSS senators and Steve Kreider, GSA Adviser and Program Coordinator for the Office of Campus Activities, to learn about the University’s policies on this topic. Amber noted that depending on the outcome of this conversation, the GSA may want to consider forming a committee to investigate LGBT interests and concerns among graduate students.

X. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm. Next regular Senate meeting will be held in Pryzbyla 327 on February 1, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Thad E. Garrett
Secretary