MINUTES
The Graduate Student Association
The Catholic University of America
Senate Meeting - Regular
October 19, 2011 – 7:30 pm –McGivney 014

Members present:

Carol Anderson  Allie Dryden  Bridget Ledford  Brian Rice
Fr. Charles Benoit  Jennifer Froetschel  James Lewis  Patrick Six
Angelique Brown  Peter Furlong  Pablo Martinez  Rodney Still, Jr.
William Buracker  Thad Garrett  John Mickey  Jufang Tseng
Chloe Canton  Erikk Geannikis  Megan Mooney  Edmund Walsh
Joshua Canzona  Amber Hanson  Ryan Norris  Jonathan Zappala
Elizabeth de Mahy  Margot Lamson  Nathan Ponzio

I. Meeting was called to order by President James Lewis at 7:35 pm.

II. Roll was called by Thad Garrett, Secretary.

III. Minutes from October 5 and Agenda approved.

IV. Prayer was offered by Joshua Canzona.

V. Officer Reports

a. Academic Senator (no report)

b. Secretary
   i. Gave overview of survey results. Reported that 12.5% of graduate student population responded.
   ii. Asked that appointment forms be turned in as soon as possible.

c. Treasurer
   i. Regular budget report; Balances as follows:
      
      | Description        | Balance     |
      |--------------------|-------------|
      | GSA Senate         | $29,164.00  |
      | Executive Committee| ($2,552.11) |
      | Events             | ($394.56)   |
      | Lectures           | $17,725.50  |
      | Conferences        | $10,774.25  |
      | Public Relations   | $3,833.68   |
d. Vice President (office vacant)

e. President
   i. Reported that a Strategic Plan Town Hall Meeting would be held Tuesday, November 1 at 5pm in the Pryzbyla Great Room.
   ii. Reported that the next GSA open forum would be led by Tony Chiappetta, Director of Career Services, at the November 2 meeting.
   iii. Remembrance Day National Roll Call Event will be held November 11. There is a signup sheet for those interested in participating.
   iv. Announced that he has been asked to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Governors.
   v. Reported that four candidates had come forth for the office of vice president. Two had been interviewed, and a decision had been made. The announcement would be made at the conclusion of the meeting.
   vi. Briefly described the proposed budget amendment.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Conferences
   i. Reported that guidelines had been drafted and were ready for a senate vote regarding the distribution of the emergency conference funds.

b. Lectures
   i. Reported that revised guidelines and procedures had been drafted and will be posted to the website soon.

c. Parliamentarian
   i. Reported that the constitution is currently undergoing heavy editing to eliminate confusion and redundancy.
   ii. Reported that procedures for amendment, referendum, and bylaw editing will be added.
   iii. Consideration being given to departmental student groups and finding agreement between the various constitutions.

d. Public Relations
   i. Updates have been made to the website, including committee reports.

e. Social
   i. Reminded senate of available tickets for upcoming events.

VII. Senator Reports (See president’s page for strategic plans.)
VIII. Old Business
   a. Senators that had responded with a “pass” during the previous meeting’s call for conference fund donations were offered another opportunity to donate. Of those, Canon Law pledged $1,000 and English indicated a possible pledge in the future.

   b. Peter Furlong moved and Brian Rice seconded to approve the emergency conference guidelines.
      i. Jonathan Zappala moved to amend and Lawrence King seconded that we not begin accepting applications until December 1 to allow the word to permeate so that all may be prepared to submit. Amendment passed.
      ii. Erikk Geanniks moved to amend and Lawrence King seconded that a restriction be included that a student may only receive one award, regardless of amount. Amendment passed.
      iii. Lawrence King moved to amend and Peter Furlong seconded that students that received funding in years past be ineligible for these funds. Amendment failed.
      iv. Fr. Charles Benoit moved to amend and Lawrence King seconded that applications from students that received funding in years past be held until December 15 to allow first-time applicants to get priority. If funds remain, repeat applicants will then be considered. Amendment passed.
      v. Motion passed.

IX. New Business
   a. Joshua Canzona moved and Amber Hanson seconded to approve the Budget Amendment. Motion passed.

   b. Joshua Canzona moved and Megan Mooney that the resolution regarding the university’s recent decision to discontinue student dependent health coverage be approved.
      i. Erikk Geannikis moved to amend and Lawrence King seconded that the phrase “concerning social justice and the dignity of life” be removed. Amendment failed.
      ii. Fr. Charles Benoit moved to amend and Elizabeth de Mahy seconded that “Catholic values” be changed to “Catholic teaching.” Amendment passed.
      iii. Fr. Charles Benoit moved to amend and Amber Hanson seconded that a sentence be added that indicates that the President and the Board of Trustees are the recipients of the resolution. Amendment failed.
      iv. Motion passed.

   c. James Lewis appointed Joshua Canzona to the office of Vice President. William Buracker moved to confirm and John Mickey seconded. Confirmation passed by acclamation.

   d. James Lewis appointed Vernice Grajeda to the office of Treasurer. Peter Furlong moved to confirm and Lawrence King seconded. Confirmation passed by acclamation.
e. Amber Hanson moved and John Mickey seconded that a referendum be administered to approve a $5/semester increase to the student activity fee, thus raising the fee from $40 to $45. Motion passed.

X. Closing Announcements
   a. James Lewis asked that senators who did not submit a strategic plan for their department do so as soon possible.

XI. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm. Next regular Senate meeting will be held in McGivney 014 on November 2, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Thad E. Garrett
Secretary