MINUTES
The Graduate Student Association
The Catholic University of America
Senate Meeting - Regular
September 21, 2011 – 7:30 pm – Keane Auditorium, McGivney Hall

Members present:

Carol Anderson          Allie Dryden          Bridget Ledford          Carter Rawson
Fr. Charles Benoit      Jennifer Froetschel  James Lewis            Brian Rice
Rachel Berquist         Peter Furlong        Phillip Melton         Patrick Rooney
Marcel Brown            Thad Garrett         John Mickey            Whitney Sheppard
Chloe Canton            Nadia Gomez          Megan Mooney           Donald Sifuentes
Joshua Canzona          Jennifer Gullickson  Louise Mundstock         Rodney Still, Jr.
Ryann Craig             Amber Hanson         Ryan Norris            Jufang Tseng
Elizabeth De Mahy       Mimsi Janis          Nathan Ponzio          Edmund Walsh
Philip De Mahy           Margot Lamson        Daniel Petri           Jonathan Zappala

I. Meeting was called to order by President James Lewis at 7:31 pm.

II. Roll was called by Secretary, Thad Garrett.

III. Minutes from September 7 and Agenda approved.

IV. Prayer was offered by Senator Jonathan Zappala.

V. An informal orientation was given by Vice President Marcel Brown for new senators. Topics covered included the duties of a senator, appropriate use of departmental rebates, and the role of GSA in the University.

VI. Officer Reports

a. Academic Senator (No Report)

b. Secretary
   i. Announced that half of the appointment forms had been received. Requested that the rest be turned by the next Senate meeting.

c. Treasurer
   i. Request put in to move $4000 from executive committee account to conferences.
   ii. $3960 earned at Crabfest according to Steve Kreider.
iii. Met with Christine Sportes and Laurie Borman to discuss creating a website listing alternative student health insurance resources since students lost dependent coverage. Learned the following:
   1. GSA and Human Resources will work together on such a website.
   2. A website will be announced in 2 weeks.
   3. There is no chance of regaining dependent coverage in near future.
   4. Decisions on this were made by the university president and trustees.

d. Vice President
   i. Reported on progress of CU of Cameroon project.
   ii. Reported on meeting with Provost.

e. President
   i. Announced the appointees to the ad hoc committee for revising the bylaws: Jonathan Zappala and Donald Sifuentes will work with John Mickey, parliamentarian.
   ii. Reported on results of meetings with Fr. Andy of campus ministries, Dean Greene, and Dean Sawyer.
   iii. Announced that Elizabeth de Mahy has been appointed to organize the annual Graduate Student retreat.
   iv. Announced that Philip de Mahy has been appointed to organize this year’s GSA interdisciplinary conference.
   v. Announced that Thad Garrett would be in charge of creating and administering a survey for graduate students.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Conferences
   i. Explained that 13 applications with requests totaling roughly $6,000 for conference reimbursements were pending due to the budget shortage.

b. Lectures
   i. Reported that four applications are pending while the conference budget is addressed.
   ii. Announced that a workshop will be held in the evening on October 6 regarding the process for inviting a lecturer to campus.

c. Parliamentarian
   i. Reported that the ad hoc committee will begin work on the revision of the bylaws.

d. Public Relations (No report)

e. Social
   i. Gave financial summary of Crabfest. (see attached)

VIII. Senator Reports

a. Canon Law – Funds have been put forward for the improvement of classroom technology.
b. Nursing – Started work with Miriam’s Kitchen and are collecting socks and antifungal cream for the foot clinic.

c. NCSSS – working on having Sister Marilyn from Sister of Mercies come to the university in December; distributed money for conferences; had Alta gracias come to campus; monthly Happy Hours.

d. Drama – A clinic will be given by actress Naomi Jacobson.

e. Greek/Latin – has started a TF/TA observation program.

f. Physics – Several students attended Crabfest and enjoyed the event.

g. Politics – Hosted a graduate student reception; created a group e-mail; dealing with facility issues for off-campus program; rethinking brown bag lunch series.

h. SLIS – Celebrating centennial this year; have been indefinitely displaced from Marist Hall due to earthquake damage.

i. Psychology – Was able to procure toner cartridges from CPIT for new printers.

j. Philosophy – Planning on annual picnic event; continuing lecture series.

k. History – Will be hosting colloquium in near future.

l. Modern Languages – Planning a trip to Costa Rica.

m. TRS – Hosted a first-year orientation.

IX. Old Business (none to report)

X. New Business

a. Marcel Brown moved that, contingent upon a unanimous vote from the senate, that each department contribute 50% of their current rebate fund balance to the conference budget. Peter Furlong seconded.

i. Amber Hanson moved to amend that these funds be used to reimburse only lectures held in the continental US. Patrick Rooney seconded. Amendment failed.

ii. Motion failed.

b. Amber Hanson moved to commit to a committee of the whole to discuss options for solving for the conference budget dilemma. Patrick Rooney seconded.

c. The result of the committee of the whole was a motion to transfer up to $10,000 from the Lectures fund to the Conferences fund for only those current conference requests submitted to the Conferences Chair. The GSA Secretary shall research peer institutions and report back to the Senate on what GSA fees are paid by graduate students. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

XI. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm. Next regular Senate meeting will be held in McGivney 014 on October 5, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Thad E. Garrett
Secretary