MINUTES
The Graduate Student Association
The Catholic University of America
Senate Meeting - Regular
October 5, 2011 – 7:30 pm –McGivney 014

Members present:

Carol Anderson  Peter Furlong  Phillip Melton  Brian Rice
Angelique Brown  Thad Garrett  John Mickey  Patrick Rooney
Marcel Brown  Jennifer Gullickson  Megan Mooney  Jufang Tseng
William Buracker  Mimsi Janis  Louise Mundstock  Edmund Walsh
Joshua Canzona  Margot Lamson  Ryan Norris  Jonathan Zappala
Ryann Craig  James Lewis  Nathan Ponzio  Guests:
Elizabeth de Mahy  Denny Macko  Daniel Petri  Patrick Corcoran
Allie Dryden  Pablo Martinez  Carter Rawson  Fr. Andy Santamauro

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

II. Roll was called by Secretary, Thad Garrett.

III. Minutes from September 21 and Agenda approved.

IV. Prayer was offered by Fr. Andy Santamauro.

V. Fr. Andy spoke to the senate on behalf of Campus Ministries. He explained how Campus Ministries is available for graduate students and their families, and how he would like to get us more involved with service projects. (For more information, please e-mail santamauro@cua.edu)

VI. Officer Reports

a. Academic Senator
   i. Elizabeth de Mahy has met with Campus Ministries regarding the spring retreat. Plans have begun and input is welcome.
   ii. Philip de Mahy has begun preliminary plans for the second annual conference. The hope is to appeal to students of schools outside of Arts and Science.

b. Secretary
   i. Highlighted trends of early graduate student survey results.
ii. Gave summary of research on the activity fees and use of those funds at peer institutions.

iii. Reminded Senators to turn in appointment forms as soon as possible.

c. Treasurer
   i. Regular budget report; Balances as follows:
      
      |                           | Balance     |
      |---------------------------|-------------|
      | GSA Senate                | $1,900      |
      | Executive Committee       | $9,427.90   |
      | Events                    | $0          |
      | Lectures                  | $17,217.85  |
      | Conferences               | $0          |
      | Public Relations          | $3,833.68   |

   ii. Announced that some money will become available at the end of the semester that had been set aside as a cushion for officer payroll.

d. Vice President
   i. Reported on progress of CU of Cameroon project.
   ii. Announced that last items for Lounge Improvement Act had been delivered, though due to Marist’s indefinite closure, one refrigerator will be temporarily stored by Facilities.

e. President
   i. Announced that an invitation had been sent to the Student Bar Association to attend the presentation by Fr. Andy. No response had been received by that point.
   ii. Announced plans to bring representatives from Career Services and the International Programs offices to meetings for future open forums.
   iii. Announced that Thad Garrett had been assigned to work with Peter Furlong on the conference guidelines.
   iv. Asked senators to be ready to report on use of rebate funds by next meeting and create strategic plans that will be incorporated in the overall GSA strategic plan.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Conferences
   i. Announced that all pending applications had been resolved and that the conference committee will remain closed indefinitely.

b. Lectures
   i. Regular update.

c. Parliamentarian (No report)

d. Public Relations
i. Senators and officers were asked to “Like” the GSA’s Facebook page.

e. Social
   i. Gave summary of recent events and reminded senators of available tickets for upcoming events.

VIII. Old Business (none to report)

IX. New Business

   a. Joshua Canzona moved that the ad hoc committee addressing the loss of dependent coverage with student health insurance draft a list of resolutions that will include an expression of thanks to Human Resources; disappointment with the administration for making this choice; and an appeal to extend coverage to the end of the academic year. Meghan Mooney seconded. Motion Passed.

   b. Marcel Brown moved that each senator present, through a roll call, pledge either a percentage or exact dollar amount of their current rebate funds to contribute to the conference budget. Prior to the roll being called, each senator could review their account balance and confer with fellow senators if present. Any senator unwilling to pledge an amount at the moment could abstain and pledge later. Ryan Norris Seconded. Motion passed.
      i. The results of the roll call were as follows:
         Carol Anderson, on behalf of History, pledged 5% ($175).
         Pablo Martinez, on behalf of Modern languages, pledged 10% ($205).
         Phillip Melton, on behalf of Philosophy, pledged $2,000.
         Ryan Norris, on behalf of Physics, pledged 25% ($651).
         Daniel Petri, on behalf of Politics, pledged $2,122.51.
         Brian Rice, on behalf of Music, pledged $1,000.
         TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED: $6,153.51.

   c. Daniel Petri moved that senators be required to create a plan that will use at least one third of their remaining budgets. Any department that fails to do so by the next meeting would be required to return half of their current balance to the general fund. No second. Motion failed.

X. Closing Announcements

   a. Marcel Brown announced that he would be resigning as Vice President effective immediately. He recommended Joshua Canzona be appointed in his place. James Lewis announced that letters of intent would be accepted from the entire student body.

   b. Senators were asked to e-mail their departments encouraging them to complete the survey and also to ask for input on use of departmental rebate funds. REMINDER: Survey closes October 15 at 11:59 p.m.
XI. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm. Next regular Senate meeting will be held in McGivney 014 on October 19, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Thad E. Garrett
Secretary