MINUTES
The Graduate Student Association
The Catholic University of America
Senate Meeting - Regular
February 9, 2011 – 7:30 pm – Pryzbyla 331

Members present:

Josh Abbotoy Philip Demahy Kristina Murfin Blythe Shepard
Mostafa Ardakani Allie Dryden Ryan Norris Kia Smith
Angelique Brown Joseph Forte Dcn. Jim Pearce Anneliese Striz
Marcel Brown Blythe Fox Dan Pierson Megan Treacy
Carla Burns Thad Garrett Carter Rawson Edmund Walsh
Chloe Canton Jennifer Gullickson Brian Rice Kostas Xiromeritis
Josh Canzona Leigh Montejo Patrick Rooney Jonathan Zappala
Ann Davis Louise Mundstock Fr. Jim Sabak Mary Zito

I. Meeting was called to order by President Marcel Brown at 7:40 pm.

II. Roll was called by Secretary Thad Garrett.

III. Prayer was offered by Dcn. Jim Pearce.

IV. Minutes were not yet available from previous meeting due to change in office.

V. Officer Reports

a. President
   i. Explanation of forthcoming Motion to Approve Funding Priorities
   ii. Explanation of forthcoming Motion to Approve Elections Schedule
   iii. Recommendation to members to consider nominating grad students for Cardinal Medal for Fortitude
   iv. Explanation of forthcoming Motion to nominate Nelly Lambert, Events Manager, for new “Sheen Medal for Excellence”
   v. Notice that a meeting will occur the morning of February 10 with Dr. Brennan, Provost of the University, regarding GSA sponsorship of lectures as well as the association in general

b. Events Manager (given by President in her absence)
   i. Kreeger Outing cancelled until further notice
   ii. A $200 general limit has been placed on drinks before/after events
   iii. A Happy Hour at Argonauts has been slotted for May 10th
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iv. No additional allocations needed for events

c. Vice President
   i. Encouraged members to participate in Relay for Life (April 1 and 2). Graduate student team has been created.
   ii. Ministry series “Evenings of Recollection” tabled due to current communication with Office of Campus Ministries
   iii. Requested for assistance with “Faith Informing Scholarship” conference. Submitted papers disseminated for review along with rubrics.

d. Treasurer (given by President in his absence)
   i. Budget Update (see attached)

e. Secretary
   i. Reminded that new senators or alternates must submit Appointment Forms in order for meeting attendance to count towards rebate and to be able to vote.
   ii. Notified the Senate that a request had been received from Mostafa Ardakani, President of the Iranian Student Association, for $300 in order to participate in International Week. The Executive Committee will need to gather some more information from Mostafa before a decision is made.

f. Lectures Chair
   i. Announced that three new lectures were approved—2 through MBS and 1 through TRS.
   ii. Reported on expenses to date.

g. Conferences Chair
   i. Budget Update (see attached)

h. Academic Senators (See Attached)
   i. Dean Zabora made a motion to approve the January graduates from various schools.
   ii. Christine Peterson, Associate VP of Human Resources, introduced a new hiring policy in which background checks will be run on all faculty and staff applicants.
   iii. President Garvey thanked the Senate for Inauguration, March for Life, and CUA Patronal Feast.
   iv. There was a 9% melt in graduate student enrollment – now at 2,345.
   v. Reported on ongoing “town hall meetings” held by Strategic Planning Committee. Encouraged graduate students to attend the remaining meetings.

VI. There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business
a. Motion to approve Spring 2011 Funding Priorities (see attached)
   i. Joe Forte moved and Dcn. Jim Pearce seconded that allocations to Conferences be raised by $28,000 for a total of $56,000 for AY 2010-2011. Motion Passed.
   ii. Joe Forte moved and Kostas Xiromeritis seconded that allocations to Lectures be reduced as needed at the discretion of the lectures chair. Motion Passed.
   iii. Joe Forte moved and Mary Zito seconded that an allocation of $3,000 be made to cover the reception and banquet for presenters for the upcoming “Faith Informing Scholarship” conference. Motion Passed.
   iv. Joe Forte moved and Mary Zito seconded that an allocation of $8,000 be made for the Spring Retreat. Motion Passed with 1 abstention.
   v. With amendment, Joe Forte moved and Kostas Xiromeritis seconded that up to $4,000 be allocated for the installation of an entertainment system for Pryz 103 as a joint effort with SFAB (which will cover 50% of the final cost) on the condition that GSA be given priority to use the room and that proper measures be taken to ensure the security of the equipment. Motion and amendment passed, each with 1 abstention.
   vi. Joe Forte moved and Mary Zito seconded that no more than $1,500 be allocated for the publication of Crux in an amount equal to the average calculated on the basis of graduate student submissions and acceptances. Concern was expressed over the choice of mathematic formula. Motion Failed with 2 abstentions.
   vii. Joe Forte moved and Annaliese Striz seconded that up to $35,000 be allocated for the “Lounge Act” (including improvements to Pryz 105-B/C, Gowan, Marist, Caldwell, and O’Boyle; see attached itemized budget). Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

b. Motion to Approve Spring 2011 Elections Schedule (see attached)
   i. Joe Forte moved and Kostas Xiromeritis seconded that the Spring 2011 Elections Schedule be approved. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

c. Motion to nominate Nelly Lambert for Sheen Medal for Excellence
   i. Joe Forte moved and Josh Abbottoy moved that Nelly Lambert be nominated for the Sheen Medal of Excellence. Motion passed.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm. Next regular Senate meeting will be held at same location and time on February 23, 2011.

Thad E. Garrett
Secretary