GSA MINUTES

November 28, 2012

1. Roll Call: Dana Christensen, Mary DeBroeck, Joe Forte, David Grothoff, John Meinert, John Mickey, Michelle Morrison, Rev. Newton, Daniel Petri, Brian Rice, Michelle Roth, Michael Stell, Homer Twigg, Thaddeus Winker, Sean Moberg, Sean Doughty, Ryann Vilbig, Carol Anderson, Nathan Ponzio, Carol Thelen, Meghan Burke, Erick Abrahamson

2. Approval of Minutes of November 14th
   a. Approved: Unanimous

3. Approval of November 28th Agenda
   a. Approved: Unanimous

4. Officer Reports
   a. Academic Senator: The bulk of the Nov 15th meeting concerned a proposal to create a school of Business and Economics. Dr. Brennan and others presented data about papers being delivered concerning this subject, as well as the desire to create the school (moving it from Department status). Also, the importance of the global economy and ethical theory. Strong focus on dignity of the human person. Extended discussion; proposal was approved by senate (the last step in the process before it goes before the board of trustees). If all goes as planned, the department will be changed to a school. Prof. Kaplan received emeritus status.
   b. Secretary: The Kennedy Center was a hit. Be on the lookout for future kennedy center events.
   c. Treasurer: $57k left. We are going into next semester fine budget-wise.
   d. Vice president: Where are you?!
   e. President:
      i. Report on CUA Alumni Association Board of Governors meeting
         1. Ad Hoc Committee on Student Life wants to increase engagement by having an alumni presence at key moments in undergrad life: Odyssey Day, Luaupalozza & Orientation Extended. What suggestions can we provide about increasing engagement among grad students?
         2. Most schools have rates like us (7-8%). HC, ND are at 50%. We want to be at 10%  
            a. Comment: There are movements within TRS to get an alumni list to keep them in the loop. Does CUA as a whole have something like this? It would be perfect for announcing
lectures to alums. Joe: perhaps a contact person based on school would be perfect.

b. Comment: There are surely local alums that we should keep in the loop about local events. Can we get a list of these from Kyra Lyons?

c. Comment: What we need is a list of non-cua emails of alums. Many simply stop checking their email after they move on from university life.

d. Comment: Some of our alumni have done important things. Can we get them to come and give lectures?

3. Ad-Hoc Committee update: It doesn’t look like the housing committee is doing much at the moment for graduate students.

4. VP Search update: Position description altered to reflect new role for VP in planning spring conference. We have co-chairs (Eleanor Lambert and Dan Petri), so the VP does not need to do this anymore. Hopefully, this will increase the number of applications we receive.

5. Meeting of the Student Life and Academic Affairs coming up. Final draft of funding principles document forthcoming.

6. Meeting times for next semester not finalized yet. Look for an email.

f. Conferences
   i. We have a lot of money left for conferences! We will be talking about possible adjustments. As it is, the $400 limit is going to go up to $500 next semester. We are going to propose to increase that a little more, based on what’s left.

g. Events
   i. Adam Ruben December 7th. Food, libations and comedy.
   ii. Keep an eye out for Ryan’s exciting events
   iii. See the events page on the website for more details

h. Lectures
   i. Nothing to report.

i. Parliamentarian
   i. Finished formatting by-laws. Will be sent out with the minutes.
   ii. Thinking about a new senator orientation for Robert’s rules, etc.
      1. Comment: Our proceedings are a little too ad-hoc. A good knowing of Robert’s Rules is nice.

j. Public Relations
   i. Nothing to report.

k. Senator Reports:
   i. NCSSS: The NCSSS Master’s Student Association. Catered two luncheons. Two brown bag forums. This week, we host the Alhearn Lecture on Social Work Spirituality. MSA will wrap up for the year on 12/4 with our Annual Christmas party, and we are co-hosting a Holiday Toys drive.

5. Unfinished Business
   a. No unfinished business

   a. Swearing in of Ryan Vilbig as Events Chair
   b. Accounts Payable that they can no longer accept bank statements as proof of payment. Receipts are required for all reimbursements. Furthermore as a reminder when applicable original receipts are required. This would apply to any physical
receipt provided by a vendor (cash register receipts for example). However, things like online orders and faxed receipts obviously are always copies so those are fine.

c. Motion to amend the Conference Funding Guidelines. See senate packet for details concerning the amendment.
   i. Comment: Is it $50/conference or $50/calendar year?
   ii. Comment: Not certain that we should spend money on the banquets. It’s good for networking, but do we want to fund everything and all things that all students want?
   iii. Comment: Why are we stopping at taxi fare? Why can’t we deal with gas money as well? Response: Amanda is still looking into this.
   iv. Comment: The rationale for raising conference funding is right. But are they not going because they can’t enough in the first place? Also, we’re talking about almost doubling our cap from $400 to $700. Taxi fare isn’t bad, but doing all of these measures together might tip the scale.
   v. In Psychology, posters cost ~$100. So the $50 as it is written might be more confusing.
   vi. There should be a big focus on this because this is often the moment where students go from school to having a job. Maybe we can say the cap is $600; Banquets, Taxi, etc. are eligible. That way we can “back off”
   vii. Can we have the $50 separated out simply for those who are attending a conference, but not presenting at it? As written, there is no distinction between presenters and attenders.
   viii. We can’t eliminate 65% as it eliminates the incentive not to waste money. Also, it encourages the department/school to kick in and help, rather than GSA footing the whole bill
   ix. Presenting at a conference is important for your professional development; attending might not be. Are we talking about paying attenders to “just get dinner”?
   x. Senators who have specific ideas should propose them as amendments.
   xi. PROPOSAL: Eliminate point 3; Cap amount should be $500 up, no holds barred.
      1. Without second, motion fails.
   xii. If we keep the $50 for the banquet, we can’t discriminate between attenders and presenters.
   xiii. We should encourage people to present as much as we should encourage them to attend. Being there is professional development as it is.
   xiv. Not every school is the same. In Canon Law, for example, there is no presenting at conferences until you are lettered and published. This legislation needs a proviso for schools such as this.
   xv. Every school demands its own funding policy based on the nature of the school.
   xvi. We also need more information about gas reimbursements.
   xvii. Can we give the conferences chair some discretion
   xviii. PROPOSAL: $50 is per conference, not the total amount afforded each student.
      1. Motion is seconded.
      2. All in favor: 15
      3. Opposed: 1
      4. Motion passes
   xix. Have Amanda run some numbers: 75% is proposed for amendment point #3
      1. Favor 11
2. Opposed: 4
3. Motion passes
   xx. Motion to table this discussion for our next meeting.
   1. Passed unanimously.

7. Closing Announcements
   a. We should close with a benediction
   b. Rev. Newton appointed chair to ad-hoc committee for Prayer and Contemplation

8. Adjournment
   a. Seconded. Passed. Ending time: 8:45