

GSA Senate Meeting
19 October 2015

Roll call (7:31)

Prayer

Motion to approve of meeting minutes from meetings on Sept. 7th, Sept. 21st, and October 5th:
Passes: minutes approved

- Officer reports
 - President: delay until next meeting
 - VP – not here (visiting family)
 - Treasurer – nothing to report
 - Academic senator – updates
 - Update from Career services – they are interested in helping grad students, and are better at one-on-one meetings/needs
 - They are willing to have events for graduate students, if we let them know what we'd like
 - This would be a reason to have a professional development chair
 - The undergrads have a career peer advising program – students that go to the career center to tell them what they're (career center) is doing well, what they'd like to see
 - Secretary – nothing to report
 - Events
 - Hike was great
 - Pumpkin carving next week
 - Writing workshop November 5th – still a few open spots, so RSVP if you'd like to come
 - Parliamentarian – not here
 - PR chair – not here (class)

Committee reports

- Library committee
 - Letter in the packet for today
 - Delivered to the provost today
 - Thanks to Sen. Tell for taking the initiative and drafting the letter
- Exploratory committee on unionization
 - Committee not yet formed
 - Various students met with various leaders from the SEIU yesterday
 - They (SEIU) have a frequently asked questions sheet, which can be made available to other graduate students
 - Next step for CUA grad students:
 - Continue researching possible solutions to grad student issues
 - Alternative solutions within the university itself

- Alternative unions
 - Look into what the SEIU reps said
 - SEIU is working with the adjuncts at the university as well
 - Be meeting with students at AU soon, who have recently unionized with SEIU
 - The grad students at other DC universities are unionized, at least at the private schools
 - Prime focus: better channels of communications, and just checking to see if unionization could be a good option
 - Unionization: need 30% of the grad students (employees)
 - 465 TA/TF/stipends – need 30% of these people for SCIU to take the sheets to the university, and then there would be a vote for unionization
- Motion to form a special committee:
 - Committee name: Exploratory Committee on Unionization
 - Committee: Sen. Djain, Sen. Molchanov, Sen. Tell, and observers (Academic senator, any other GSA members are welcome)
 - Motion passes

New business

- Proposed amendment to the constitution: would require 2/3 attendance to receive departmental/school rebate (currently it is at 50% attendance requirement)
 - Table until the EC elections – we would need the whole student body to vote

Announcements

- Dissertation award recipients coming to present on their research

Motion to adjourn – passes

Meeting adjourned at 8:23