GSA MINUTES
November 14, 2012

1. Roll Call: Christen Bono, Dana Christensen, Ryann Craig, Allie Dryden, Joe Forte, Erikk Geannikis, David Grothoff, Lea Harrison, Lawrence King, Allison Larkin, John Meinert, John Michey, Michelle Morrison, Peter Furlong, Daniel Petri, Tony Purcell, Brian Rice, Michelle Roth, Michael Stell, Thaddeus Winker, Sean doughty, Ryann Vilbig, Wadad Alsalmi, Carol Anderson, Kiernan McGowan, Nathan Ponzio, Carol Thelen, Meghan Burke, Rebecca Vaccaro, Homer Twigg

2. Approval of Minutes of October 24th
   a. Approved: Unanimous

3. Approval of November 14th Agenda
   a. Approved: Unanimous

4. Invocation- Father Andy
   a. Italian Pastries & Topics! Watch out for programming. If Graduate students need anything, please contact Fr. Andy.
   b. Grecio in December, first week of Advent. There is going to be a live camel.

5. Officer Reports
   a. Academic Senator: We have our next meeting next morning. We haven’t had one since our last meeting.
   b. Secretary:
      i. Behind the Score event is a go! Sign up and come.
   c. Treasurer: We are doing great! We are actually going to be solvent.
   d. Vice president: Where are you?!
   e. President:
      i. Proposal of some funding principles. Not for amendments, not for the by-laws, but only for posting around our site for an abundant clarity concerning what the GSA funds, doesn’t fund and might fund. There should be things to guide judgment—that’s the intent of this. Areas of priority: Professional Development, Fellowship, Cultural Enrichment and operations. Feedback:
         1. Why the ranking?
         2. Are these for GSA funds? Rebate funds? Response: These aren’t “rules,” but some good principles. The plasticity of these categories are why you can’t really legislate them.
         3. There is concern with Graduate Student fellowship because of travelling students. There’s an importance that has to be paid to the time of day.
4. If there are guidelines, that’s a great idea now. But if you write them down, they’ll be laws in the future. We need to reflect on priorities now so they don’t become ossified. Do these priorities reflect our charter?

5. Last year we had a survey about the allocation of funds. The overwhelming response is that graduate students wanted more funding. It’s a great mission statement—but we should be as unrestricted as possible.

6. If we don’t really need it, why are we adopting it?

7. Why call it priorities? Why not just a descriptive letter, something describing “what we do?”

8. If we want something practical, why not just make a list of things we’ve approved and not approved in the past. Response: Hmm.

9. We have to be wary of point #2 making it possible for faculty to invite their friends to lecture (to the graduate students). Something like that is a blatant abuse of our funds because there was no Graduate student demand.

10. [multiple people] Collapse #2 & #3.

   ii. Appointment of Kristen Wright as GSA Rep to student life committee of the Board of Trustees.

   iii. Documenting GSA use of funds? This is impressive. So document it and send it to Joe Forte.

      1. Let’s do it in paragraphs, blog style. Definitely important that this isn’t mandatory.

   iv. Veronica Phair needs help researching area child care centers and making deals. She needs help making surveys.

   v. Spring 2013 Conference: Committee is needed. Co-chairs forthcoming (once they go public)

f. Events Report

   i. We need food at each happy hour.

   ii. Throwing a movie party tomorrow evening. 7:30, Aquinas 201: Glengarry, Glen Ross

   iii. Concert. Contact Homer Twigg to get tickets for you (and a guest should you like)


   v. Thanksgiving Potluck, November 15th. See Joe for details.

   vi. Adam Ruben coming December 7pm. He’s a funny guy. There will be a book signing.

   vii. There’s a thanksgiving dinner – Curly hall – with Fr. Jude. See the website for details.

1. Conferences

   i. So far, we’ve funded 16 students, totalling $8.5k. We have $26k left.

   ii. Options we’re throwing out there:

      1. Maybe we’d increase our funding from $400 to $500. That’ll take place when the by-laws would change to reflect that.

      2. Could leftover funds be used elsewhere?

      3. Discussion: make sure you send Amanda an email if you have opinions about this issue.

         a. Discussion of taxis and other transportation, as well as conference banquets.

         b. Gas fare?

         c. Discussion of academic year limits
h. Lectures
   i. A plea: For those applying, follow the guidelines. The time limits for requesting funds are there so that we can execute these things with some calm.

i. Parliamentarian
   i. I went through the by-laws (again). We need to format them a bit. We are waiting for a small few changes before they go live.

j. Public Relations
   i. We can facebook advertise now.
   ii. We are waiting on the rogue GSA Twitter credentials. In the future, we have to be limited about how we sent out emails. We need to condense all of our events into newsletters.

6. Senator Reports:
   a. Ryann Vilbig: There’s a place in Columbia Heights, the Museum of Unnatural Science. They need tutors for a lot of subjects that we study.

7. Unfinished Business
   a. No unfinished business

8. New Business
   i. Motion to approve Kristen Wright. Motion passes unanimously.
   b. Motion to change the lectures funding. The section in the bylaws about the lectures funding are presented for amendment. See memo in Senate Packet. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Closing Announcements
   a. RYANN VILBIG has been confirmed as the newest events chair. Next meeting we will christen him.

10. Adjournment
    a. Seconded. Passed. Ending time: 9:00