

**Graduate Student Association  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
Memorial Union Room 300  
1/26/11 12:00-1:00PM**

**Senators/Guests in attendance:** Wyatt Furman, Courtney Schmidt, Kenneth Cox, Vanessa Armstrong, Brittany White, Alex Blunt, Laren D'Ambra, Scott Martin, Brian So, Greg Motta, Shira Hirshburg, Alex Pytka, Devon Swanson, Pat Bowden, Donald Bacoat, Ryan Rettinger, Matt Porter, Ashley Porter, Kyle Scully, Pilar Nelson, Ben Young, Robynn Butler, Arnab Majamdar, Jack Szczepanski, Josh Atwood

I. Call to Order **12:05**

II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 12/1/10 **Approved with addition of Vanessa to attendance**

III. Approve Agenda **Approved**

IV. Internal Operations

A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)

i. Committee Reports

1. Joint Committee on Academic Planning (Dec 15 meeting) **Assessing standards from NEASC accrediting board. Must justify why URI should remain an accredited institution.**

2. Graduate Council (Dec 13 meeting) **Discussing curriculum matters, such as the number of credits that should be offered for specific courses. Issue not yet resolved.**

3. Strategic Budget Planning Council (Dec 14 meeting) **Currently identifying "auxiliaries," i.e., enterprises at URI that can be used to generate income. For example, the Alton Jones campus and Memorial Union can be rented for events. The SBPC is strategizing how to make money with auxiliary enterprises to stem budget cuts. Currently working on the 2013 budget.**

4. Faculty Senate (Dec 16 meeting) **Didn't vote on changing the drop date for courses. Will vote at the February meeting.**

B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)

C. Treasurer's Report (Greg Thaelke) **Budget is doing well, up \$2000 following disbursements for the new semester.**

D. Secretary's Report (Josh Atwood)

E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman) **Info for the semi formal is available on the GSA website.**

V. Old Business

A. Winter Semi-Formal

i. Info **Courtney discussed details of the menu. It sounded delicious. She needs 2-3 volunteers to help with set up/take down, who will receive in exchange for their work a waiver for the price of a ticket. Contact Courtney if interested.**

ii. Ticket waivers for Exec board, volunteers **Motion passed**

VI. New Business

A. Future Senate Meeting Dates: February 23, March 30, April 27

B. Upcoming Socials

i. Ice skating on March 28. Another for April? **Scott suggested "Minute to Win It" as a social option. Will create some details for Courtney to review. Other options: bowling, trivia.**

C. Future senators and Executive Board members: nominations open at March meeting, vote at April meeting **The Chemistry department brought some potential senators. Hello, potential senators! Other departments should consider bringing future senators to our other meetings this semester.**

D. Pharm.D. Program and GSA: are Pharm.D. students graduate students? **No- they pay undergraduate tuition and are classified as undergrads in their department. Kyle will look into the details more. Shira mentioned that Nutrition has roughly 8 interns that may technically qualify as graduate students.**

E. Career Services: services for grad students, potential for new committee? **General support for this idea. Josh will contact Career Services to see if a representative would like to attend our February meeting and discuss what sorts of information/events could be provided specifically for graduate students. Shira said that staff from Career Services are willing to do "house calls:" at the request of a professor, they will visit a lab and discuss resumes, etc, with a group of students.**

VII. Announcements

A. Visiting scholar (Gerontology) coming in early March; school is looking for dinner/activity hosts **Talk to Jack if interested.**

B. Vetlesen Lecture Series: [www.uri.edu/vetlesen](http://www.uri.edu/vetlesen)

C. Upcoming deadlines for graduation: Feb 11 for nominations, April 22 for final revised theses/dissertations

D. Get updates via SMS by texting **follow URIGradSchool to 40404** in the US, or follow **URIGradSchool** on Twitter

VIII. Committees

i. GSA

1. Budget & Finance Committee (Kyle Scully, Puneet Kumar) **Still looking to streamline the submission process using a web form.**
  2. Community Service (Shira Hirshberg, Arnab Majumdar, Brittany White) **Meeting soon**
  3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee (Scott Martin) **Approved changes to bylaws in December**
- ii. University
1. Academic Standards and Calendar (Brittany White) **There will be a new drop period for courses: the first 1-3 weeks of the semester will be open for dropping courses; starting with week #4 a "W" mark will appear on your transcript for dropped courses, signifying a withdrawal.**
  2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (Alex Blunt) **December meeting was cancelled**
  3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (Robynn Butler) **Meeting soon**
  4. Library Committee (Rosaleen Greene-Smith & Eleni Tsoukatos)
  5. Teaching Effectiveness (Lauren D'Ambra) **Handing out a survey to professors to assess their ability to interpret the results of student evaluations**
  6. Athletics Advisory Board (Greg Thoeke)
  7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (Justin Payne)
  8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (Pilar Gibson) **Meeting soon**
  10. Council for Graduate Research (Scott Martin)
  11. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (Josh Atwood & Arnab Mujamdar)
  12. Graduate Council (Jack Szczepanski, Ben Young & Arthur McDonald)
  13. Student Advisory Council to RI Board of Gov for Higher Ed (Pat Bowden) **Discussing LGBT issues on campuses: providing more support, finding ways to reduce hate crimes. If anyone has issues they'd like brought before the board, please contact Pat.**

IX. Open Forum  
X. Adjourn **1:05.**