

**Graduate Student Association
Senate Meeting Minutes
Memorial Union Room 300
12/1/10 12:30-1:30PM**

Senators in attendance: Greg Motta, Kenneth Cox, Brian So, Eleni Tsoukatos, Brittany White, Puneet Kumar, Scott Martin, Justin Payne, Lauren D'Ambra, Megan Nelson, Patrick Bowden, Arthur McDonald, Donald Bacoat, Pilar Nelson, Rama Kompella, Ben Young. Executive board members in attendance: Jack Szczepanski, Courtney Schmidt, Josh Atwood, Greg Thielke, Wyatt Furman.

I. Call to Order 12:35pm

II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 11/03/10 *Approved.*

III. Approve Agenda *Approved.*

IV. Internal Operations

A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)

i. Committee Reports

1. Joint Strategic Planning Committee (Nov 22 meeting)

Accreditors came and evaluated the goals from the university's 2007 plans. The results of their evaluation won't be out until next year.

2. Graduate Council (Nov 16 meeting)

Discussing how the new integrative neuroscience program will fit into existing departments, i.e., how the courses will be listed and distributed.

The mathematics department offers one PhD, but students can now enter one of two tracks: Applied Mathematics or Pure Mathematics.

Discussing how many 400 level courses can be taken for graduate credit. Currently they can account for no more than 50% of all credits. The council is rewording the policy to distinguish between regular coursework and research credits.

3. Strategic Budget Planning Council (Nov 23 meeting)

4. Faculty Senate (Nov 18 meeting)

Considering changing the deadline for dropping courses from 9 weeks to 6 weeks. May require additional meetings with your advisor to drop a class. The general consensus of the GSA senate was that the policy should remain as-is (9 weeks).

B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)

C. Treasurer's Report (Greg Thielke)

i. Stipend checks *Stipend checks were handed out.*

Conference reimbursements are being disbursed, as are binding reimbursements.

D. Secretary's Report (Josh Atwood)

Contact Josh if you believe there are any issues with your attendance record that may have prevented you from getting a stipend check.

E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)

The website has been updated with new content.

F. Committees

i. GSA

1. Budget & Finance Committee (Kyle Scully, Puneet Kumar)

Will be streamlining the application process for conference reimbursements.

Want to post abstracts from conference presentations on the website.

Will be changing the wording on the website to better clarify reimbursement policies.

2. Community Service (Shira Hirshberg, Arnab Majumdar, Brittany White)

Will meet over break and plan events for spring/summer.

3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee (Scott Martin)

Met and discussed changes to bylaws regarding the number of senators per department.

ii. University

1. Academic Standards and Calendar (Brittany White)

2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (Alex Blunt)

3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (Robynn Butler)

4. Library Committee (Rosaleen Greene-Smith & Eleni Tsoukatos)

5. Teaching Effectiveness (Lauren D'Ambra)

Creating a faculty survey to assess whether teachers know how to interpret student feedback forms. Looking for ways to get students to fill out the new online feedback form, and for ways to get teachers to utilize the forms.

6. Athletics Advisory Board (Greg Thelke)
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (Justin Payne)
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (Pilar Gibson)
10. Council for Graduate Research (Scott Martin)

Reviewing the strategic plan.

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)

There will be a meeting of the Board of Governors on Dec 6 at CCRI's Knight Campus, for any interested parties.

V. Old Business

- A. Review changes to bylaws *Approved- departments with multiple concentrations may have senators from each concentration, with some restrictions on the number of students within each concentration. See bylaws for full details. The Old/New business sections will be moved ahead of committee reports in future agendas.*

VI. New Business

- A. Future Senate Meeting Dates: January 26, February 23, March 30, April 27 *Meetings will be at 12pm-1pm.*
- B. Upcoming Socials
 - i. Bowling Dec 9, 7-9 pm *Tell your departments!*
 - ii. Winter Formal *Will be either Feb 5 or 12.*
- C. Future senators and Executive Board members *New senators: Brian, Kenneth, and Greg from PT. Let current Exec board members know if you'd be interested in being on the exec board next year.*

VII. Announcements

- A. Get updates via SMS by texting **follow URIGradSchool to 40404** in the United States, or follow **URIGradSchool on Twitter**
- B. Upcoming deadlines for graduation: Feb 11 for nominations, April 22 for final revised theses/dissertations
- C. Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship
- D. Degree name change process for CELS students *CELS students who have already submitted their Program of Study but would like to change the name of their degree to the new CELS doctorate in Biological and Environmental Sciences need to draft a letter requesting the change and have it signed by the student, advisor, and department chair, and then submit the letter to Dean Killingbeck.*

VIII. Open Forum

IX. Adjourn