

**Graduate Student Association  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
Memorial Union Room 300  
4/27/11 12:00-1:00PM**

**Senators in attendance:** Alexander Blunt, Arnab Majumdar, Shira Hirshberg, Brittany White, Lauren D'Ambra, Kyle Scully, Scott Martin, Vanessa Armstrong, Rebekah Greene, Kenneth Cox, Ben Young, Brian So, Greg Motta, Rama Kompella, Donald Bacoat, Jack Szczepanski, Courtney Schmidt, Josh Atwood, Greg Thaelke.

I. Call to Order **12:09**

II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 3/30/11 **Approved**

III. Approve Agenda **Approved**

IV. Internal Operations

A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)

i. Committee Reports

1. Joint Committee on Academic Planning

**Still discussing accreditation. Meeting tomorrow.**

2. Graduate Council

**Discussed arrangement of committees for masters and doctoral students. Created a cartoon and clarified descriptions of committee requirements.**

**Established a minimum English language skill for admission (Pearson test)**

**Discussed approvals of theses. There is now an option where students may be passed with the condition that certain committee members (other than the major professor) will need to approve the revisions.**

3. Strategic Budget Planning Council

**In the process of comparing our expenditures to those of other universities.**

4. Faculty Senate

**Discussed the drop date. Motion passed: there is now a four week drop period, after which any dropped classes will be noted on the transcript with a "W," presumably for "Withdrawal."**

B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)

C. Treasurer's Report (Greg Thaelke)

**Reviewed expenses. Has reimbursement requests coming in. We still have approx. \$35k surplus.**

D. Secretary's Report (Josh Atwood)

**Senators who will not be returning should find replacements for the 2011-12 academic year. Two future senators joined us today: Julia Hyman (NRS) and Caroline Killian (Pharmacy)**

E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)

**i. Commencement information is online**

**ii. Met with Rouba Youssef and marketing representatives regarding GSA website**

**a. Calendars will be exportable**

**b. Website should be updated with highlights and news releases, news feeds from social media**

**c. Brochure-type information regarding benefits of GSA**

V. Old Business

A. GSA volleyball team

B. Elections for executive board positions

i. Past President **Approved**

ii. Nominations from the floor

iii. Vote

**President: Scott Martin**

**VP: Kyle Scully**

**Secretary: Kenneth Cox**

**Treasurer: Rebekah Greene**

**Webmaster: Rouba Youssef**

**Past President: Jack Szczepanski**

C. Minute to Win It social

**Considered a success. May do it again in the future. Roughly 25 people attended.**

D. Coming up: summer social

**Kyle, Shira, and Greg Motta will work on this.**

VI. New Business

A. Learn to Surf Day

**May 14, up to 30 people.**

- B. Graduate School is sending out a questionnaire
- C. Faculty Senate Library Committee looking for graduate student volunteer
- D. URI online-only catalog

**Will is be broken down into sections with jump links?**

**Will there be archives of old courses and program requirements, in case program reqs change over time?**

- E. Rideshare possibility for Graduate Village

**The Undergraduate Senate has created a rideshare with Hertz (their service is called Connect). We would like to have a rideshare at Grad Village and may look into this in the future.**

#### VII. Announcements

- A. Commencement information **On the website**

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

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

**Campus Cleanup, May 5. Refreshments provided**

3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee (Scott Martin)

**Looked at GSA election rules: any student may be nominated.**

##### ii. University

1. Academic Standards and Calendar (Brittany White)
2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (Alex Blunt)

**Changing language in university manual, but nothing substantive for graduate students.**

**Discussed issues regarding academic outcomes.**

3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (Robynn Butler)
4. Library Committee (Rosaleen Greene-Smith & Eleni Tsoukatos)
5. Teaching Effectiveness (Lauren D'Ambra)

**Finished the faculty survey to determine whether or not faculty members understand how to modify their teaching styles based on student feedback.**

6. Athletics Advisory Board (Greg Thielke)
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)

**A new intellectual property policy is in place regarding monetary payments for IP use.**

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)
14. Career Services Liaison (Kyle Scully)

**There are upcoming workshops for cover letters and resumes, check the Career Services website.**

#### IX. Open Forum

X. Adjourn **1:00**