

**Graduate Student Association**  
**Senate Meeting Agenda**  
**Memorial Union Room 300**  
**10/21/09 12:30-1:30PM**

**Executive Board Members in Attendance:** Jack Szczepanski, Courtney Schmidt, Jessica Piesz, Carrie Byron

**Senators in Attendance:** Allyson Esposito, Amanda Leighton, Karen Stamm, Kai Zhang, Munirat Adebimpe, Greg Thielke, Eleni Gesch-Karamanlidis, Arthur McDonald, Sarah Murphy, Alexander Blunt, Rosaleen Green-Smith, Emily Housecamp, Joshua Oberle, Joseph Brady, Patrick Bowden, Ben Young

**Makeup meeting senator attendance:** Becky Greene, Joe Boreman, Eleni Tsoukatos, and Rama Kompella

- I. Called to Order at 12:40pm
- II. Senate meeting minutes approved from 9/23/09
- III. Agenda Approved
- IV. Introduction of Officers and Senators
- V. Internal Operations
  - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
    - i. Graduate council will begin evaluating the graduate programs offered at the university, announced mini grants that will be offered through the graduate school, up to \$1,000 will be awarded for each student
    - ii. Faculty senate announced \$40,000 in mini grants will be available to graduate students to help fund research, travel, lab supplies etc.
  - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
  - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)
    - i. We received our check from the university. Carrie asked senators for suggestions on how to allocate funds between socials, conference, theses binding, stipends, and office supplies. Carrie proposed to the senate that GSA cover 50% of gross cost instead of 50% of net costs for conference reimbursement. Suggestions made by senators were to set deadlines for applications, have the GSA pay the net costs but pay for more than one conference per student per year. Concern is that by increasing the amount of funds allocated we may run out of money and not be able to cover the costs of all our applicants. Carrie is going to review GSA spending over the past couple years and put together a proposal for the budget with figures to present to the senate. The discussion was tabled until the next senate meeting after 10 minutes. The finance committee will meet soon.
  - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)
    - i. Asked the senators if they had any trouble signing up to our listserv. Told them to expect advertisements for socials through the graduate school listserv because we can get to the whole student body that way. Will need to expect larger turnouts at events.
  - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)

- i. Wyatt has moved the GSA web page from his server to the school's server.  
Will be adding links to the website soon.

#### F. Committees

##### i. GSA

1. Budget and Finance Committee
  - a. If anyone is interested in joining the finance committee email Jess.
2. Community Service Committee
  - a. GSA would like to do a service event once a month. Some ideas were: a food drive, donations to the animal shelter, Welcome house is always looking for manual labor during the Christmas holiday to make dinners.
3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee
  - a. We are looking to upload the updated constitution onto the GSA website

##### ii. University

1. Academic Standards and Calendar (**Sarah Murphy**)- Still need the contact name for this committee.
2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (**appointed Josh Oberle**)
3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (**Zai Zhang**)-nothing to report
4. Library Committee (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith and Eleni Tsoukatos appointed**)-no meeting has been scheduled
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)-meets 10/26
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**appointed Greg Thielke**)-meets 10/29
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (**appointed Josh Oberle**)
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Munirat Adebimpe**)-committee will be meeting with Pres. Dooley to discuss the issues women encounter on campus
10. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)-mini grants discussed
11. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board- (**appointed Josh Atwood and Becky Greene**)-will meet as needed
12. Graduate Council-**Jack Szczepanski (appointed Becky Greene)**-minutes announced during the president's report

#### VI. Old Business

- A. Bowling Social on Oct. 6, 2009 at Old Mt. Lanes
  - i. We had a great turnout-around 100 ppl. Needed to order more food, will need to reserve for more people in the future.
- B. Formatting Workshop for Thesis/Dissertation Submission has been changed to Tues., Nov. 10, 2009, 2:30-4pm, Memorial Union Atrium 1
- C. Outcome of Graduate School Forum

- i. Could have been more organized. Many administrators left early, need to be more concise in the future so we don't lose the attention of our listeners. It looks like our concerns were taken into account and some issues will be worked out sooner than later. In the interest of time we cut this discussion short, but we will make time at the next meeting.

#### D. Academic Job Panel

- i. Email Jack with professors, times that work best for them, and any other suggestions as soon as possible.

### VII. New Business

#### A. Upcoming Events

- i. GSA to organize a forum for faculty author Richard McIntyre-“Are Worker's Rights Human Rights?”
  - 1. We voted to help organize and advertise this forum. We asked Alex to put together a flyer, we'll make copies to give to senators to post around their departments, find out what date works for the professor, and see about scheduling a room.
- ii. Bowling? New suggestions?
  - 1. We agreed to host another social at Old Mt. Lanes for Thurs., Nov. 5 from 6-9pm (~100ppl). Suggestions for new socials: informal potluck, board game/trivia night w/ a cash prize for winners, wiffleball tournament, host an event where people can come together and sing or dance
- iii. Budget and frequency of social events
  - 1. After last months turnout at the bowling ally, we will have to increase the amount budgeted for social events. This may affect the frequency or locations of social events in the future.

#### B. Career Services is Looking for Feedback

- i. What types of programs are graduate students looking for? Senators should email Courtney with ideas for career services. It was also suggested that career services help us to organize the academic job panel.

#### C. Concerned with 10% Tuition Increase

- ii. Contact with undergrad senate, student affairs
  - 1. Would like to organize a demonstration against the 10% tuition increase. Want to keep the message simple. Will ask the senators to spread the word once a date is set. Will be joining forces with the undergraduate senate. Would like to have t-shirts made.

### VIII. Announcements

- A. GAU Oktoberfest, Oct. 22, 2009, 5-7:30pm, U-Club (free dinner to GA/TA's)
- B. Indian Student Association (ISA) to host Diwali celebration, Sat., Nov. 7, 2009, 5pm, Memorial Union Ballroom
- C. Off Campus Housing Fair, Oct. 22, 2009, 11-2pm, Memorial Union Ballroom (free pizza)

D. Wine Tasting Event, Sat. Nov. 7, 2009, 6-9pm, \$20pp, Shennecossett Yacht Club, 1010 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT. Proceeds go to the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern CT.

IX. Open Forum

A. Transportation forum Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

X. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.