

Graduate Student Association

Senate Meeting Minutes

Memorial Union Room 300

11/18/09 12:30-1:30PM

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

Senators in Attendance: Karen Stamm, Munirat Adebimpe, Greg Thoeke, Arthur McDonald, Alexander Blunt, Emily Housecamp, Alisha Kutzler, Christine Ott, Puneet Kumar, Megan Nelson, Becky Greene, Eleni Tsoukatos

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 12:32pm
- II. Approved Senate Meeting Minutes from 10/21/09
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Internal Operations
 - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
 - i. Committee Reports
 1. Joint Strategic Planning Committee- have not met
 2. Graduate Council received 96 applications for the mini grants. Changes have begun at Graduate Village as a result of the graduate school forum. There was a good showing at the thesis workshop. Thinking about having it 2x a year-one each semester. Graduate school enrollment has increased (3% masters, 8% PhD, 6% certificate programs). New program in bio-physics informatics has been proposed.
 3. Faculty Senate- proposal to replace the JSPC with the strategic budget planning council.
 - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
 - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)
 - i. Budget Memo- Courtney announced that the GAU is changing their grant application deadlines. GSA will stagger our due dates to Dec 1st and June 1st so we can cross reference with GAU. If GSA finds out student didn't report funding from an outside source student will be disqualified from funding for all future conferences. Carrie will type up changes to the memo and senators will vote on it at the December senate meeting.
 - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)
 - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)- Housing page has been moved to University server. Will be working to revise the housing website so it's more user friendly.
 - F. Committees
 - i. GSA
 1. Community Service Committee
 - a. We NEED volunteers!!!
 - ii. University
 1. Academic Standards and Calendar (**Sarah Murphy**)- absent
 2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (**Josh Oberle**)- absent

3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (**Zai Zhang**)- absent
4. Library Committee (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith and Eleni Tsoukatos**)- no meeting yet, met on 11/23
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)- absent
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**Greg Thielke**)- nothing to report
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (**Josh Oberle**)- absent
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Munirat Adebimpe**)- Trying to get communications started with the new president, design a strategic plan, and meeting within the individual subcommittees to have reports for the next meeting which has not occurred yet
10. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)- nothing to report
11. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (**Josh Atwood and Becky Greene**)- nothing to report

V. Old Business

- A. Bowling Social on Nov. 5, 2009 at Old Mt. Lanes (75 students + guests)- another successful social. Trivia night was suggested as a future social idea. Becky Greene said she would be happy to help organize the event with Courtney. Another social suggestion was ice-skating, \$3 with URI ID, and \$5 to rent skates.
- B. Forum for faculty author Richard McIntyre-pushed back until Monday, December 7, 2008 from 4-6pm at Lippert Hall, Rm 402. Forum entitled, "The Economic Crisis, the Policy Response, and Opportunities for Organizing. GSA and GAU to provide refreshments. Will distribute flyers to senators and send emails to M. Verry and listserv. Announcement to be put on GSA website.
- C. Graduate School Forum-any further discussion? Health insurance- need to be able to opt out of the university insurance, coverage is inadequate for our needs, need plan options. Enrollment services- interaction with students, late fees, tuition waiver not showing up soon enough. Want to organize forums in the future email executive board with any other suggestions.
- D. Tuition rally- Not much to update yet. GAU will be present at all future board of governors meetings. Enlisted help of undergrads. No date has been set.
- E. Academic Job Panel
 - i. Career services do not want to help organize the event. Event rescheduled for Spring. Career services holding a job fair Dec. 9th and is looking for feedback on their web page.

VI. New Business

- A. Wyatt's Stipend- Senate approved to increase Wyatt's stipend from \$285 to \$475 for the Fall 2009 semester.
- B. Winter Semi-Formal, tentatively set Sat. Feb. 6, 2010
 - i. Committee volunteers- Kasey and Tanya
- C. Undergrad Liaison- ran out of time will discuss at next meeting

VII. Announcements

A. Job postings

i. **Ram Tours Assistant**- responsible for attending ALL scheduled weekend and/or weekday day trips as the grad assistant coordinator. Paid position, not an assistantship w/ a tuition waiver, two year commitment.

ii. **Site Manager of the Village Apt. complex**-position available URI graduate students only. Deadline Friday, Nov. 20, 2009. Start date 12/20/09. Send resume and cover letter to Karen Sherman at Karen@uri.edu.

B. "Reviewing NIH Application Changes" workshop. Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, 12-1pm, Memorial Union Atrium 1. RSVP by Dec. 7 to Melissa McCarthy at Melissa@uri.edu

C. Donate your old coats 11/22 at the 13th Annual Buy Nothing Day

VIII. Open Forum

IX. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.