

Graduate Student Association

Senate Meeting Minutes

Memorial Union Room 300

2/17/10 12:30-1:30PM

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

Senators in Attendance: Kyle Scully, Shiva Hirshburg, Ben Young, Megan Nelson, Michelle Pelletier, Melissa Williams, Greg Thelke, Josh Atwood, Alexander Blunt, Emily Housecamp, Alisha Kutzler, Christine Ott, Jonathan Brito, Muni Adebimpe, Patrick Bowden, Joseph Brady, Kai Zhang, Scott Martin, Becky Greene, Eleni Tsoukatos

Makeup meeting attendance:

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:35pm
- II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 1/27/10
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Internal Operations
 - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
 - i. Committee Reports
 1. Graduate Council- nothing to report
 2. Faculty Senate- nothing to report
 3. SBPC- working on the budget for 2012. President Dooley will be at the next meeting on Feb. 24. All students are welcome to attend and speak at these meetings.
 - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
 - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)- We received our check from the University for the spring semester. The check amount was \$16,793.04 which was a little less than last spring semesters check \$18,154.08. The revenue from the winter semi formal was \$1,955.00 and we spent \$5,266.49 (included food, venue, DJ, flowers, tickets). Total cost was \$3,311.49.
 - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)
 - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)- a photo section has been added to the website
 - F. Committees
 - i. GSA
 1. Community Service Committee- Muni suggested donating some man hours to the Jonnycake Center. Jonathan Brito volunteered to give the center a call. URI hosting a fundraising event for Haiti, donate \$5. Looking to get involved with the South County Habitat for a possible spring community service event.
 - 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 (**Kai Zhang**)- no meeting yet

4. Library Committee (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith and Eleni Tsoukatos**)- no meeting yet
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)- absent
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**Greg Thaelke**)- no meeting yet
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (**Josh Oberle**)- absent
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Munirat Adebimpe**)- still reviewing the strategic plan to present to Pres. Dooley
9. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)- no update
10. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (**Josh Atwood and Becky Greene**)- no meeting
11. Undergraduate Senate Liaison (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith**)- absent

V. Old Business

- A. Semi-formal, sold out- may have been a little understaffed otherwise no complaints the night was a success!
- B. Approve the wording change in the constitution for officers and senators enrolled in continuing registration credit- wording changed to, "All students enrolled in a full-time, part-time program, or continuous registration leading to a graduate degree at URI are members of the GSA."
- C. Trivia night update- tentative date set, Wed., April 14, 7-10pm at Kabuki in Wakefield. Looking to keep the budget at \$1000. Venue and sound system are free we will only have to pay for food. Five people per team the cost will be \$5 if you register in advance, late registration \$8 at door.
- D. Ice skating at Boss Arena? Bowling?- We are looking to sponsor a public skate night during the week or weekend at Boss Arena. If we can't get that to work for next month the default will be bowling at Old Mt. Lanes. Newport Stone tours could be a possible social/fundraising event. It was suggested we try the Onassis farm or Jamestown for our next summer social.
- E. Elections for executive board positions and senator replacements- the election committee will be forming soon. Still looking for people interested in getting involved and running for executive board positions. Carrie and Jessica will be stepping down after this year, although all positions are available. If interested see executive board members. Also, if this is your last year as a senator please try to find someone to replace you.
- F. Post docs as reps?- Decided that post docs can attend senate meetings but they will not be able to vote or receive a stipend. If Post docs choose to attend social events they will have to pay the guest price, no discounts.

VI. New Business

- A. Need representation on the (LOOC) Learning Outcomes and Oversight Committee. Any volunteers?- Realized that we already have a representative accounted for on this committee, Josh Oberle.

- B. University Conduct Board representative?- reviews university policies and student conduct. Committee is for undergraduates and graduate students. Anyone interested has to apply, see Jack for more information.
 - C. COPPRs needs approval from GSA- Faculty constitution says that graduate organizations need to be approved by the GSA. We decided to table the discussion and vote to recognize pharmacy's new graduate association at the next meeting.
 - D. RI graduate student softball tournament or 5k run. Would anybody be interested?- Senators seemed interested. Still waiting to hear more details.
 - E. GSA listserv- Jack wanted to get feedback from the senators on the usefulness of the listerv.
- VII. Announcements- the deadline for abstract submission for the interdisciplinary conference hosted by the English department has been extended to March 1. Rick McIntyre will be hosting another talk next week in the Sheppard's building on the Providence campus.
- VIII. Open Forum
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm