

# Graduate Student Association

## Senate Meeting Minutes

### Memorial Union Room 300

3/17/10 12:30-1:30PM

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

**Senators in Attendance:** Shaemus Shepard, Rama K. Kompella, Pilar Gibson, Kyle Scully, Michelle Pelletier, Melissa Williams, Greg Thoelke, Josh Atwood, Alexander Blunt, Trisha Towanda, Eleni Gesch-K, Arthur McDonald, Jonathan Brito, Joseph Brady, Kai Zhang, Becky Greene, Eleni Tsoukatos

**Makeup meeting attendance:** Scott Martin

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:42pm
- II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 2/17/10
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Internal Operations
  - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
    - i. Committee Reports
      1. Graduate Council- merging all CELS PhD degrees into one common PhD in Biology and Environmental Sciences. University moving to a more interdisciplinary ideology. Will only apply to incoming students. Regulations for walking-exceptions have been made for students with internship requirements, all other students still finishing up course work this summer will not be able to walk
      2. Faculty Senate- organizing the academic plan task force. Will open up lines of communication throughout the university.
      3. SBPC- guidelines have been made for setting priorities for the committee
    - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
    - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)- graduate students that attend a conference in the spring but are not registered for the spring semester do not qualify for grant funds. Wording will be adjusted on grant application.
    - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)- announced that she will be stepping down as secretary
    - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)- Absent. Courtney nominated Jack for president on his behalf. Pictures have been updated on the website
    - F. Committees
      - i. GSA
        1. Community Service Committee- Save the Bay, Sat. April 24, 9-11am. There are four different locations we could potentially volunteer at. Eleni will call to get more information and give us an update at the next senate meeting. A request was made to get involved in a 5k run as well.
      - 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 Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (**Kai Zhang**)- meeting cancelled, proposal withdrawn
4. Library Committee (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith and Eleni Tsoukatos**)- meeting was cancelled
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)- absent
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**Greg Thaelke**)- meeting rescheduled to April 9
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 mission statement to present to President Dooley
9. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)- federal grant training program open to students
10. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (**Josh Atwood and Becky Greene**)- no meeting
11. Undergraduate Senate Liaison (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith**)- absent
12. Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee (**Alexander Blunt**)- recommended changes to be made to the student handbook and forwarded them to faculty senate and President Dooley. Student statement and the student life section were edited. Next meeting the Monday after break.

CELS committee- new senators Pilar and Trisha are members of this committee. Looking to set up an orientation for CELS graduate students. Would like to implement good mentorship and more effective communication of degree requirements to students. Creating a website that will include an awards board, place to post housing or if you're looking for a ride, will have a want ad section for equipment/freezer space. Working on getting a coffee cart in CBLS. Tuesday Muse day 4-6pm, a place for graduate students to go and hang out.

#### V. Old Business

- A. Ice Skating- went well, had a great turnout and will host an event again in the future. Next time will charge \$3 for guests.
- B. Trivia night update- Set for Wed., April 14, 7-10pm at Kabuki in Wakefield. 7-8 social hour, 8-10 trivia. Bring music with you. Looking for donated prizes if we don't get many donations there will be a \$50 cash prize to the winner. You will have to pre-register via email if you're planning on playing and it will cost \$5. 5 ppl per team (cannot have more than 2 guests to a team). It will cost \$10 at door if you fail to register beforehand. Pre-registration ends April 6. Food will be provided on a first come first serve basis. Cash bar and full menu available.

- C. Elections for executive board positions- Josh Atwood nominated himself for secretary, Greg Thoelke nominated himself for treasurer, Jack was nominated by Wyatt for President, and Courtney was nominated by Joe for VP
- D. Changing wording in the constitution for student groups (COPPR's) and post docs- Post docs and undergrads allowed to participate at GSA meetings but not allowed to vote. New section added (Section III) under membership. Section VI, new guidelines for graduate student groups to be recognized by GSA. Change wording from needing 15 members to 10 members. 66% of its members must be graduate students to be recognized by the GSA.
- E. Academic Job Panel- tentatively set for Tuesday, April 13 at 12pm in the Memorial Union. Light snacks will be provided

VI. New Business

- A. GAU general membership meeting- Tuesday, April 27, 5pm, U-Club. All assistants are invited. GAU needs stewards!

VII. Announcements- GSA funding deadline, June 1, 2010

VIII. Open Forum

IX. Meeting adjourned at 1:42pm