

Graduate Student Association

Senate Meeting Minutes

Memorial Union Room 300

4/21/10 12:30-1:30PM

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

Senators in Attendance: Emily Housecamp, Megan Nelson, Kyle Scully, Josh Atwood, Ben Young, Scott Martin, Munirat Adebimpe, Greg Thoelke, Eleni Tsoukatos, Patrick Bowden, Joe Brady, Sarah Murphy, Alexander Blunt, Rosaleen Green-Smith, Melissa Williams, Michelle Pelletier, Pilar Gibson, Eleni Gesch-K., Rama Kompella, Jonathan Brito, Josh Oberle

Makeup meeting: Wyatt Furman, Trisha Towanda

- I. Called to order at 12:36pm
- II. Approved Senate Meeting Minutes from 3/17/10
- III. Approved Agenda
- IV. Internal Operations
 - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
 - i. Committee Reports
 1. Graduate Council- approved proposal by Marine Affairs Dept. to add a non-thesis option to Masters of Arts. Modify mathematics PhD program, tabled for further discussion. Graduate manual review section 11.20. All core committee members need to sign off on theses and dissertations in order to get approval from the graduate school.
 2. Faculty Senate- talked about presidents inauguration
 3. SBPC- looked over last year's budget and incoming undergraduate student numbers. Set priorities based on improving enrollment at undergraduate level.
 - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
 - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)
 - i. Stipend checks- Kabuki social was under budget. There are 19-20 requests for conference reimbursement.
 - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)
 - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)
 - i. Redirected the link for the GAU website from the old website to the new one
 - F. Committees
 - i. GSA
 - ii. Community Service Committee
 1. Save the Bay, Sat. April 24, 9-11am. Wear blue or URI shirt. Openings at GSO, Bristol, and Barrington. Animal rescue league thanks us for our past donation.
 - iii. University
 1. Academic Standards and Calendar (**Sarah Murphy**)- emergency meeting b/c floods. Worked on proposal to extend the semester.

2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (**Josh Oberle**)- no meeting
3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (**Kai Zhang**)- absent
4. Library Committee (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith and Eleni Tsoukatos**)- no meeting
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)- IDEA forms, professors think the questions are too general for adequate feedback. Looking to specialize the questions and make them more structured for each department.
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**Greg Thaelke**)- budget and final schedule for athletics discussed
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (**Josh Oberle**)- standardization of assessment standards discussed, Friday they will vote on policy 3
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Munirat Adebimpe**)- Pilar Gibson will replace Muni on this committee
9. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)- we need a senator replacement for this committee
10. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (**Josh Atwood and Becky Greene**)- no meeting
11. Undergraduate Senate Liaison (**Rosaleen Greene-Smith**)- no meeting
12. Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee (**Alexander Blunt**)- looking at student handbook and the rules in regards to alcohol in the dorms, nothing is changing in the handbook on this issue

V. Old Business

- A. Trivia night- we had 8 teams and a total of 50 ppl who participated. Will repeat this event in the fall. Next time there will be more general knowledge questions and less time between rounds. The food was great.
- B. Academic Job Panel cancellation- graduate school didn't send out email advertising the event in time will try again next semester. Suggestion was made to have a tentative sign-up sheet and flyers next year advertising the event.
- C. Softball postponement- rain cancellation. Jack will report back when it's rescheduled
- D. Elections- Jack S. stays as president, Courtney S. stays as Vice President, Wyatt F. stays on as Webmaster, Greg T. is our new treasurer, and Josh A. is our new secretary
- E. Approve wording change in constitution for student groups (COPPR's) and post docs- wording change was approved by senate

VI. New Business

- A. Summer social events?- won't know our financial status until after the grants are paid out. Learn to surf day was brought up by Jack as a possible event. Another suggestion, Newport Storm Brewery, \$5.00 person starts at 5pm.

VII. Announcements

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

VIII. Open Forum

- IX. Meeting Adjourned 1:35pm