

Graduate Student Association

Senate Meeting Minutes

Memorial Union Room 300

9/23/09 12:30-1:30PM

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

Senators in Attendance: Amanda Leighton, Andrew Horton, Karen Stamm, Josh Atwood, Kai Zhang, Becky Greene, Munirat Adebimpe, Greg Thielke, Eleni Tsoukatos, Riley O'Neill, Alisha Kutzler, Sarah Murphy, Alexander Blunt, Rosaleen Green-Smith

Makeup meeting: Allyson Esposito

- I. Called to Order at 12:33 p.m.
- II. Senate Meeting Minutes Approved from 4/22/09
- III. Agenda Approved
- IV. Introduction of Officers and Senators
- V. Internal Operations
 - A. President's Report (Jack Szczepanski)
 - i. Committee Reports
 1. Joint Strategic Planning Committee
 - a. No meeting time currently set-nothing to report
 2. Graduate Council
 - a. Interim Dean, Nasser Zawia discussed his plans for the graduate school
 3. Faculty Senate
 - a. Meeting on Sept. 24, 2009
 - B. Vice President's Report (Courtney Schmidt)
 - i. Graduate Assistant United (GAU) is looking for TA's and RA's to become stewards
 - C. Treasurer's Report (Carrie Byron)
 - i. Budget Update: We receive approx. \$30,000 a year from the university to fund social events and conference reimbursement/binding. 52% of those funds go towards socials, 42% to conference reimbursement/binding, and the remaining to office supplies, bills, and senator/officer stipends. Last year 44% was spent on socials and 28% on conference reimbursement/binding. Carrie proposed that at a future meeting we discuss allocating more of the budget towards professional development.
 - D. Secretary's Report (Jessica Piesz)
 - E. Webmaster's Report (Wyatt Furman)
 - i. Check GSA's website to find info on funding, senate meeting agendas/minutes, socials, and housing rentals. Sign-up to our LISTSERV to get info on upcoming social events. You can find directions at our website www.uri.edu/gsa, go to the 'contact us' tab.

F. Committees

i. GSA

1. Budget and Finance Committee (**Becky Greene and Jack Szczepanski**)
2. Community Service Committee (**Courtney Schmidt**)
 - a. Blanket Drive for Homeless Veterans, 10-2pm, Sept.29-Oct.1, 2009, Memorial Union. Organized by URI Supports Student Veterans Committee. Donate new or gently used blankets.
3. Bylaws and Constitution Committee (**Jack Szczepanski**)

ii. University

It is important that the GSA have representation on these committees! These meetings should not take up too much of your time (generally 1 hour once a month). Your responsibility will be to report back information from these meetings to the GSA at the next senate meeting. Please consider volunteering. Jack will ask for volunteers again at the next meeting.

1. Academic Standards and Calendar (**Sarah Murphy**)
2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (**no volunteer**)
3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (**Zai Zhang**)
 - a. Honors Colloquium: America Post Racial, examining race in the new millennium
4. Library Committee (**Eleni will look into it**)
5. Teaching Effectiveness (**Sarah Murphy**)
6. Athletics Advisory Board (**Jack Szczepanski, temporarily**)
7. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (**no volunteer**)
8. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Munirat Adebimpe**)
10. Council for Graduate Research (**Marcy Thompson**)
11. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board- 2 appointees
12. Graduate Council-**Jack Szczepanski** and 1- 2 other senators (**no volunteers**)

VI. Old Business

- A. Beach Party (6/30/09)
 - i. Went very well, will repeat in the future, DJ made the evening great!
- B. Orientation and BBQ (9/8/09)
 - i. Great turnout, talked with many new graduate students about the GSA
- C. Sunset Cruise (9/18/09)
 - i. Senators voted and approved the GSA paying for Jack and Jess's boat cruise ticket. Cruise was a success. We did not run out of food and the DJ was great. Southland was 30 min late again-not sure if we will book with them in the future.

VII. New Business

- A. Future Senate Meeting Dates (always at 12:30-1:30pm, Rm 300, Memorial Union)

i. Oct. 21st, Nov. 18th, Dec. 9th

B. Upcoming Socials

i. Bowling, Old Mt. Lanes, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009. Spread the word throughout your departments. Had to change bowling to Monday, Oct. 5, 2009. Tuesdays are league nights.

ii. No suggestions were made for future socials. Will ask everyone for ideas at next meeting.

C. Graduate School Forum, Tues., Oct. 20, 2009. It is important we have as many graduate students attend as possible!

D. Formatting Workshop for Thesis/Dissertation Submission, Thurs. Oct. 8, 2009 2:30-4pm, Memorial Union Atrium 1. Date has been changed to Tues. Nov. 10, 2:30-4pm.

E. Round Table Discussion on Academic Career tentatively set for November. Ask Profs around your department if they would be interested in participating.

F. Career Services would like to stop in during a senate meeting and talk about the services they provide to graduate students.

VIII. Announcements

A. GAU Oktoberfest, Oct. 22, 2009, 5-7:30pm, U-Club. Asked senators to take flyers and hang them in their departments.

B. "A Renewed Vision of Graduate Education at URI," Tues., Oct. 20, 2009, 2-4:30pm, Memorial Union Ballroom. Need graduate students to attend. It is your opportunity to voice any questions and/or concerns you may have with the graduate school on topics like housing, academics, and financial support.

C. Graduate Directors/Staff Forum, 9/22/09 (Jessica). Graduate school website has been updated. In the future students will be able to submit forms for graduation, POS, and their theses electronically. Plans have been put into place to revive the graduate school.

IX. Open Forum

A. Physical Therapy announced the "Swing into Motion Golf Tournament" (18 holes of golf, cart, dinner, and prizes, \$120 per person, \$80 for students). Money they raise will go towards professional development/conferences.

B. Jack mentioned Diversity week starting 10/5 and that there are apartments available in graduate village if anyone is looking for a place to live.

X. Adjourn at 1:31 p.m.