

**Graduate Student Association
Senate Meeting Agenda
Memorial Union Room 300
10/12/11 11:00-12:00PM**

Senators in attendance: Noel Burgess, Sarah Potrikus, Beazley Kanost, Puneet Kumar, Ashley Porter, Ben Young, Matthew Preiss, Courtney Schmidt, Katherine Boden, Matt Lotti, Jack Szczepanski, Scott Martin, Kyle Scully, Becky Greene, Kenneth Cox

I. Call to Order **11:09**

II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from 9/14/11 **Approved**

III. Approve Agenda **Approved**

IV. Internal Operations

A. President's Report (Scott Martin)

i. Committee Reports

1. Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JackSzczepanski)

Mostly international issues, nothing that applies to us

2. Graduate Council

Tabled, Discuss later on in the meeting

3. Strategic Budget Planning Council

Went over specific figures of the projected 2013 budget. If curious talk to Scott.

4. Faculty Senate

Biggest concern is creating a culture of community. Try to do this through outreach with things like

Maternity leave for adjunct faculty , more businesses, faculty and adjunct social events with families invited and around campus that can be open more frequently for students.

B. Vice President's Report (Kyle Scully)

PhD movie was a spectacular event, we had a good showing

The GSO may be also showing this at the Bay campus, we will let you know when it may be screened

i. October Social

1. Costume Bowling, Thursday, October 27 at Old Mountain Lanes

730-930pm, Free food and bowling (being cosponsored by grad school)

Awards for scariest, funniest, most creative and best group costume

ii. November Social

1. Trivia

Hockey took over skating rink

We will be doing trivia event

Monday or Tuesday, November 14th or 15th at Charlie O's Tavern

Upstairs (Real nice) and we will be giving out very grad school oriented prizes.

Community Service needs to get much more involved

C. Treasurer's Report (Becky Greene)

Please pick up stipend from last year if you have not already

D. Secretary's Report (Kenneth Cox)

Sign in on the sheet and let fellow senators know about make-up meeting

E. Webmaster's Report (Rouba Youssef)

Facebook, twitter, up online

V. Old Business

A. Graduate School is sending out a questionnaire, being sent out soon

Sent and done

B. Faculty Senate Library Committee looking for graduate student volunteer

Katherine Boden

C. Rideshare possibility for Graduate Village

No longer being pursued

VI. New Business

A. Future Senate Meeting Dates

i. November 9th, 2011 and December 7th, 2011

11am start time

The following are two questions from Grad Council that we want senate opinion on

B. Should the grad school allow co-major professors, so allow students to have two major advisers?

This is already unofficially happening in the sciences, people just need to make sure that both professors are held accountable

Every grad student is supposed to have a committee anyways, may be more than one person, seems superfluous. Two actual advisors, possibly butting heads, could impact student negatively. Equal authority would make things harder in most cases.

Dean Zawia agrees with students getting caught in the middle, but some faculty members believe that they can work together to help the student.

Example Situation: A student has advisor going on sabbatical, bring in a second person to lead them. Some professors take back seats to you, it would be good to be able to bring on a second person.

Question that was brought up: Did the issue about counting students in departments get dealt with last year?

It may be possible to create an appeal process to change advisor as your best interest. Case by case basis? Faculty and dean feel like they are bombarded with things already, case by case basis may be even more time consuming.

We may need a 3rd party that is neutral to give us this option

There needs to be like an academic appeals type situation that will allow us the option

The topic was split between faculty on whether it was a good idea.

More focus needs to be put on what a co-major advisor is?

General Opinion:

The majority liked having the option of 2 major advisors, but there must be more thought put into the process of allowing two advisors and the control of problems that could arise by having two advisors, maybe by having a defined 3rd party. The student justify why they are requesting two advisors and show that two advisors would be helpful to their program of studies. There must also need to be protocol if the two advisors believe the students are at different stages. Greater specification regarding these appointments must be done first before implementing such a change.

C. Should adjunct faculty be allowed to serve as major professors?

Several students were supportive of allowing adjunct faculty to serve as major advisor, but there were several concerns. First: would adjunct faculty be around for the entire duration of a grad student's program? Second: Most adjunct faculty members are not going to know about all the rules at the specific university and there is concern about their institutional allegiance. Third: would responsibilities of adjunct faculty outside the university detract from their ability to guide students? Would these responsibilities take priority over students?

It may be good to have an adjunct faculty member as a co-major advisor, especially if they are in the business. It makes sense for Co, but not for solo major advisor.

General Opinion:

Adjunct faculty that are approved should be allowed to be Co-Major Advisors

D. Assign Committee Representatives

i. GSA

1. Budget & Finance Committee (Puneet Kumar?)
2. Community Service (Shira Hirshberg?, Arnab Majumdar? & Brittany White?)

ii. University

1. Academic Standards and Calendar (Brittany White?)
2. Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual (**Ashley Porter**)
3. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars (Robynn Butler?)
4. Athletics Advisory Board (**Devin Swanson???**)
5. President's Commission on the Status of Women at URI (**Sarah Potrikus**)
6. Council for Research (**Matthew Preiss**)
7. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board (Becky Greene & _____)
8. Student Advisory Council to RI Board of Gov for Higher Ed (Scott Martin & **Noel Burgess**)
9. Career Services Liaison (**Matt Lotti**)
10. Equity Council (**Beazley Kanost**)

A little detail on what they are should be sent out

VII. Announcements

A. GSA Website www.uri.edu/gsa

B. New Honors Colloquium Lectures, Tuesday nights

C. Get updates via SMS by texting **follow URIGradSchool to 40404** in the US, or follow **URIGradSchool** on **Twitter**

VIII. Committees

i. GSA

1. Bylaws and Constitution Committee (Scott Martin)

ii. University

1. Library Committee (Katherine Boden)
2. Teaching Effectiveness (Lauren D'Ambra)
3. Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee (Justin Payne)
4. Graduate Council (Scott Martin, Noel Burgess & Katherine Boden)
5. Technology Innovation Committee (RoubaYouseff)

IX. Open Forum

October 30, Deadline for Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards

X. Adjourn **12:12**