Graduate Student Senate  
Senate Meeting  
Thursday September 20 2012  
Campus Center 917

Minutes

Present:

Officers: Hongmei Sun, Robin Anderson.
GSS Staff: Ghazah Abbasi, Matt Ferrari, Adina Giannelli, Srinivas Lankala.
Others: Jen Healy (Student Trustee), David Vaillancourt (Associate Dean of Students), Charles DiMare (Student Legal Services Office).

- Call to Order: 12.00 PM.
- Welcome and Introductions
- The new Senator Handbook was passed around.
- Hongmei Sun presented updates from the summer.
  - During the summer, the Senate does not meet, so the officers act for the senate.
  - GSS organized orientation sessions for new students and social events such as the party at the ABC, Trivia Night and a family event with the Office of Family Resources.
  - Staff and officers worked with the Graduate School to present GSS at grad school orientations.
- Robin introduced Jen Healy (Student Trustee) and said GSS had contributed $500 towards the cost of sending students to the United States Students Association National Congress.
  - Jen spoke more about the USSA conference.
- Hongmei introduced new staff and officers
  - Hongmei, Robin, Ghazah, Adina, Matt and Srinivas introduced their work for the year.
- Hongmei spoke about the issues from last year and said most of those will be continued this year, such as graduate housing and healthcare issues. She said the the Graduate Dean has set up a Graduate Housing Task Force, where graduate students have 4 seats.
- Robin spoke about Graduate Student Organizations, setting up a GSO through Campus Pulse and OWL training.
- Hongmei explained the new Senator election procedure
  - Faune Albert asked why there was a deadline for election of new Senators.
Hongmei replied that Senators can be elected even after the deadline, but it was just to encourage elections as early in the year as possible so they can serve their full term.

- Jen Healy introduced herself and the trustee position and promised to work together with the GSS and raise graduate student issues to a greater extent than previous student trustees.
- Chuck diMare spoke about the Trustee Policy on University Governance (the ‘Wellman Document’), the history of the Board of Trustees and their delegation of University governance to the Faculty Senate, GSS and SGA.
  - Matt asked about the possibility of student trustees being graduate students.
  - David Vaillancourt clarified that the BOT doesn’t differentiate between graduate and undergraduate students.
  - Chuck said that there have been efforts to increase voting members among student trustees.
  - David explained that there was some controversy last year about the Wellman document.
  - Hongmei clarified that this had a lot do with the vote of no confidence by the GSS in university officials last year regarding housing for graduate students.
- Committee formations: Hongmei explained the need for committees in GSS, and called for nominations to the Childcare committee and the Finance committee
  - Robin explained what the Finance committee does and called for nominations.
  - Hongmei explained the Elections committee and called for nominations.
  - Hongmei suggested that the committees should function with current members until new nominations since there is urgent work for the Childcare and Finance committees.
  - Anders proposed that the committees should function with current members, Sara seconded.
  - 10 in favor, 0 opposed, no abstentions. So moved.
- Hongmei presented an update from Anna Strowe, graduate student representative on the Graduate Council.
- Robin moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Ghazah seconded.
  - 10 in favor, 0 opposed, no abstentions. So moved.
- Hongmei reminded the Senators about the deadline for childcare applications and a GWN volunteer event.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 1.05 pm.