Graduate Student Council GSC General Meeting Minutes

Monday February 3, 2014
12:00-1:00 p.m. Waters Hall 137

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Wadian, Amanda Fairbanks, Kavitha Penugonda, Erik Garcia, Lauren Reiter, Lacey Solheid, Jared Nyajol, Bethany Quesnell, Amanda Martens, Amanda Umscheid, Emily Reinhardt, Pavan Manepalli, Caleb Garten, Nick Colsch, Demien Donner, Bethany Grabow, Amy Tichy, Wendy Gorman, Ana Claudia Sant’Anna, Heidi Weil, Sarah Byrd, Neda Dadashzadeh, Charity Clifford, Chandra Lasley, and Michael Reichenberger

Call to Order

1.0 Review and Approval of Agenda

T. Wadian asked the General Council if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented.

Motion #1: Move to approve the meeting agenda as distributed.

Action: Motion approved. No discussion.

2.0 Review and Approval of GSC General Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2013

T. Wadian requested an approval of the General Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2013.

Motion #1: Move to approve the General Meeting Minutes.

Action: Motion approved. No discussion.

3.0 Officer Reports

President: T. Wadian, reported on several activities. Taylor announced that on February 5, 2014 a brown bag workshop for graduate research and teaching assistants on "How to prepare your taxes: Taxes for Smarties" will be held in the Union Room 226 from 12:00-1:00 pm.
There will be another “How to prepare your taxes” event organized by International Student Scholar Services on February 19, 2014. This event will address tax related questions more specific to international students. The tax workshop for international students will be at 2:00 PM in the International Student Center.

T. Wadian announced he is creating a survey that will be administered to graduate students to assess their interest in having a formal evaluation that would include a meeting with his or her advisor at least annually to discuss progress toward their degree and other goals. The majority of the Graduate Council was not supportive of requiring an annual performance reviews that included a meeting with the students. T. Wadian indicated that graduate students had expressed a need for an annual evaluation to ensure they are getting proper mentorship and maintaining degree progress. T. Wadian also announced the executive team will be meeting with President Schulz on February 26, 2014.

President-Elect: A. Fairbanks present but no report

Treasurer: K. Penugonda reported that $30,914.25 of the Presidential allocation has been spent and the current balance is $92,982.27. The foundation account has approximately $3,700 and the Graduate Student Council has spent about $57.00 and made $420.00 in this fiscal year. That does not include the money earned from the fundraising night at Texas Roadhouse.

Secretary: E. Garcia reminded the General Council that he would be sending email notification to update membership information and to please respond to emails to ensure their respective student groups maintain their registration with Graduate Student Council.

Advisor Report:

Dean Shanklin reported the Graduate School has updated their website and is interested in the usability of the updated website. The Graduate School is asking graduate students to volunteer to participate in focus groups to discuss the website and complete tasks to determine ease of navigation of the website. If you would like to volunteer, please contact A. Umschied.

She reported that the information for all fellowship opportunities has been updated, please continue to forward information about fellowship opportunities to your student groups. Specifically, students were encouraged to share the following application deadlines with their colleagues: the Sarachek Fellowship and Travel Award - March 1 2014; the University Distinguished Graduate Faculty Graduate Award - April 1, 2014 the KSURF Doctoral Scholarship - May 1, 2014. Information about the requirements and application procedures for the fellowships and awards can be found on the Graduate School’s website.
She reminded the group that if the group has new officers or advisor to please update the new officer’s information with the Graduate Student Council. Graduation workshops are being scheduled this semester for those students who plan to graduate at the conclusion of the semester. There will be two workshops this semester.

Dean Shanklin reported that on Thursday February 6, 2014, there will be a meeting to discuss tuition and fee deferment program for graduate assistants. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the feasibility of a tuition and fee deferral for graduate assistants. Currently, graduate students are asked to pay tuition before they receive their first check if this is their first semester on a graduate assistantship. The proposal would ask that total tuition be deferred until later in the semester. Dean Shanklin surveyed the interest in supporting a tuition and fee deferral program for graduate assistants that would allow them to pay tuition later in the semester or over a longer period of time without interest. In general, the General Council would like the issue explored.

4.0 Graduate Student Senator Reports

T. Wadian reported on J. Vosalik’s behalf. He reminded graduate students who are interested in running for SGA positions that the deadline is February 14 2014.

5.0 GSC Committee Reports

Allocations: K. Penugonda reported that allocations received 24 applications of which 21 were complete. Approximately $10,000 was allocated for January travel and the average award was ~$500.00.

Research Forums: A. Fairbanks informed the General Council that Capitol Graduate Research Summit is scheduled for February 13th. The previous day, five Master’s students will represent K-State at the Master Research Day that will also be held at the Capitol. On March 26 2014, Kansas Research Forum will be held. Research Forums received a record number of abstracts for Kansas Research Forum.

Student Affairs: L. Reiter reported there will be a Valentine’s Day Graduate Student Social on Feb 13, 2014 in Throckmorton Hall starting at 6:30. Bring a snack and board game.

International Student Affairs: T. Wadian reported on behalf of M. Rai. T. Wadian stated that on February 7 2014 at 5:30 PM in the K-State Ballroom there is an International Buddy event. At the event U.S. students will meet an international student buddy. Once they are paired they will learn about each other’s culture, customs and Manhattan, KS.
**Professional Development:** L. Reiter informed the General Council that the Careers in Academia Panel was successful. About 30 students attended the event. There will be a ‘Post Doc Brown Bag Panel’ March 11, 2014 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Big 12 room in the Union. T. Wadian announced that Dr. Orlando Taylor has been invited to talk about, “How to dissuade prejudice in academia” on March 25, 2014. A tentative time for that event is 3:30-5 PM; a room is still being located, but will have an approximate occupancy of 200. Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 3:30-5 PM, there will be a workshop to learn how to write grants effectively in the Union Room 226.

**Fundraising:** K. Penugonda reported that the Fundraising Committee is registered to attend a fundraising workshop. If you have any ideas to help GSC raise money for the Foundation account please contact K. Penugonda.

**Awards & Recognition:** No report

6.0 Reagan Kays & Cody Kennedy SGA Presidential/VP Candidates

Reagan Kays introduced himself and campaign to the General Council.

1. Your education: Designed to streamline the tutoring process. Getting more tutors to help students.
2. Your passion: Working on web portal titled, ‘OrgSync’ to bring together all of your campus groups in one central location.
3. Your life: Expand the medical amnesty law to K-State students drinking alcohol off campus. This would allow students under the age of 21 to dial 911 to help a student who may have drank too much, without any penalty e.g. minor in possession.

7.0 University-Wide Representatives

**Health Insurance:** J. Nyagol present but no report.

**Union Governing Board:** T. Wadian reported on behalf of K. Grinter. T. Wadian reported there will be a Harry Potter Feast on February 8, 2014 from 7-9:00 PM in the Great Room in Hale Library. Tickets are $12.00 for students and $16.00 for non-students.

**Library:** E. Robson present but no report. T. Wadian reported there will be a workshop February 10, 2014 from 1:30-2:30 in Hale Library room 407, on learning how to use RefWorks.

**Campus Master Plan:** P. Sukthankar absent but no report.

**8020:** T. Wadian reported on K. Grinter’s behalf. T. Wadian reported that 8020 could use volunteers to help represent K-State and the Graduate School at Cats at the Capitol. Transportation will be provided and will leave campus on February 19, 2014 at 7:30 am.
State Affairs: No report.

Women of K-State: K. Penugonda present but no report.

University Sustainability Task Force: E. Garcia reported that the University Sustainability Task force has drafted a document and it is under review by the leadership members in the Task Force.

University Budget Advisory Committee: T. Wadian reported the Committee has met and drafted a checklist of items that need to be included in a budget. The Committee will actively be involved in developing the FY 15 budget.

University Climate Survey Committee: A. Fairbanks reported that the University has started to write questions to include a survey to better understand the social climate on K-State campus. Questions are still being reviewed before the survey is administered to graduate and undergraduate students.

8.0 Summary of Upcoming Events: T. Wadian summarized the upcoming events, and reminded everyone to attend the tax workshop on Wednesday February 5, 2014.

9.0 Adjournment: T. Wadian adjourned the General Council meeting at 12:50 PM.