Call to Order - At 12:05pm, Kara Dillard called the meeting to order
Groups Present: 20
Groups Absent: 11

1. Approval of agenda and minutes – A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously

2. Manpreet Rai gave a presentation about the International Student Shopping Shuttle and asked for volunteer drivers

3. Doug Shane and Brandon West, candidates for student body president and vice president introduced themselves to the group and noted several issues they would handle if elected, including where tuition money is going, how students feel (according to an online poll), and campus security. They also asked for the support of the group. The candidates were asked to further expand their concerns about where tuition was going, and they did so by saying that they wanted “penny-by-penny” accountability. They were also asked about tuition waivers for GRAs and GAs, to which they replied that they would not be uninterested in the topic, but needed to look into it further. Finally, they were asked about keeping security levels on campus high through education, rather than just self defense training. They were receptive to the idea.

4. Approval of 2 Student Senators – Dillard noted that the Executive Committee would like to nominate Courtney George pending approval by the leadership committee, and that the other position would be elected in the next meeting. George then introduced herself and some of her views. George Weston moved to hold the election immediately without the nomination going to the Leadership Committee. A concern was raised that George had not been at KSU long enough to serve in SGA. Other discussion stated that her service on the same association at Emporia State University qualified her to serve at KSU. Dillard gave reasons why the Executive Committee thought she was a good candidate. Weston’s motion was seconded, and passes unanimously.

5. Meeting with President Schulz – Dillard talked about the online forum with president Schulz from 5-6pm on Feb. 15. Rhett Mohler added that a survey of graduate students was sent out to get an idea for the concerns of the graduate students. He also noted that the form had a place to ask questions of Schulz at the forum in absentia.

6. Big XII Conference meeting – Dillard noted that a conference of graduate student leaders from the Big XII schools will be held in Stillwater, OK in order to get ideas and make comparisons

7. Open Discussion – Pertaining to the questions posed in the agenda, Shonda Anderson, GSC representative for the Ag. Econ. group noted that they had a strong sense of group community,
and that though they were very diverse, the fact that they occupied one officer together led to this sense of community. She went on to say that her group had get-togethers in Aggieville, including pub crawls, had good communication between faculty and students, had good attendance by faculty at events. Furthermore, she suggested that getting international students more involved included understanding their needs and doing activities they are interested in, as well as being proactive in getting them to attend. Finally, she noted that the Ag. Econ. group has an elected position to plan parties and social events. Another suggestion by another representative was to hold functions related to the international student’s interests and holidays, in this case the Chinese New Year. Another representative suggested having a pot luck, volleyball, and poker night, and noted that they have a required Friday seminar which can serve as a launching point for further student interaction.

8. Officer Reports - President Dillard noted that she had been asked by President Kirk Schulz to serve on a research infrastructure committee, where she will bring up the assistantship issues that had been previously identified. She also noted that the Alumni Association will give two new graduate student awards, and that the call for nominations will go out next month.

President-elect Megan Miller met with a focus group about mass transit for the city of Manhattan.

Treasurer Steven Bellinger did not have the financial report ready because the accountant had been sick, but that it was nearly done. He also noted that travel grants were due today.

Secretary Mohler reported that 5 groups needed to re-register, and that he would send them the link to do so.

9. Advisor Reports –
Dr. Lease had no report

10. Graduate Student Senator Reports –
Senator Weston said that a resolution supporting Graduate Research Assistant tuition waivers had been drafted. He also said that the expected SGA to resolve the election issue this week. Finally, he noted that getting SGA travel funds is better done to streamline the process when larger groups of people are traveling. Dillard talked about the possible elimination of the graduate student senator seats, and reported that she will send a letter saying it is not acceptable.

11. Committee Reports –
Bellinger, chair of the Allocations Committee, had no report.
Srikanth Renikutna, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, said that he will compile the results of the survey.
Megan Strain, chair of the Ice Cream Social Committee, was not present, so Dillard noted the date and time (see announcements).
Kara Ross, chair of the Professional Development Committee, noted that a workshop will be held on February 16 about grant writing, and that it was already full. Also, she noted that one will be held on February 23 concerning employment.
Miller, chair of the KRF Committee, noted that the event is next Thursday, Feb. 11, and the emails to the presenters will be sent out today. She also asked the group leaders to send reminders to their groups.

George, chair of the Health Insurance Committee, will attend a meeting on Wednesday, were she will discuss lowering the enrollment requirement from 6 to 3 hours. She was asked if dental insurance had been discussed at a meeting, and said that it had not.

12. GSC University Rep. Reports –
The Union Governing Board: Chartwells has been renewed as the caterer to the Union, and that a Wendy’s might come to the Union.
The International Graduate Student Affairs Committee had no report

13. Announcements – Dillard announced the items posted on the agenda

Dillard was asked about the GSC’s position on allowing KSU minors for majors gained at other schools, and she indicated that GSC had not formed an opinion on the matter

Ross noted that she would compile the results of the Professional Development seminar survey and add a synopsis to the GSC website

Weston brought up the possibility of GSC endorsing a specific candidate for student body president and vice president, and noted that if so, Shane and West were the only candidates who expressed interest in speaking with GSC.

Dillard adjourned the meeting at 1:12pm