Graduate Student Council
Minutes
Monday March 1, 2010 @ 12:00pm
Waters 137

Call to Order - At 12:00pm, Kara Dillard called the meeting to order
Groups Present: 22
Groups Absent: 9

1. Approval of consent items – A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously

2. A motion was made to support the principles of community document. It was seconded and passes unanimously with no discussion.

3. Meeting with President Schulz – Dillard noted that the forum with President Schulz had been a success and asked who had seen the forum and for feedback. Some positive feedback was given. Dr. Shanklin said that Schulz would be willing to do it again. Dillard suggested doing this in the fall. Finally, Dillard noted that Schulz will talk at the May GSC meeting.

4. Review of GSC Surveys – Dillard noted that the preliminary results were in the agenda and had been tallied, and that this represented about half of the total surveys. She pointed out that tuition waivers and health insurance were brought up many times. Dillard noted that the complete survey would be presented soon. Kara Ross noted that the results of the professional development survey were used in the scheduling of the current seminar series.

5. Open Discussion – Pertaining to the questions posed to the groups in the agenda, Megan Strain noted that the Psychology department only requires TAs to take training, and that it is optional for other students. She noted that students are sometimes not happy with the training, and gave the example of the information being presented not pertaining to them. Strain further noted that her department was clearer about the departmental expectations of graduate students compared to the Graduate School’s (GS) expectations. Finally, Strain noted that the faculty should be more aware of the GS expectations. Other representatives suggested having specific teaching for tutoring/private teaching assignments, or that their departments simply sent them to the general GS training. Dillard asked if the TA training was helpful. One representative noted that it might be geared too much toward international students. Other representatives said that the training was too basic and that they didn’t get much out of it. Another representative suggested giving different types of training to those TAs teaching classes and those simply assisting and grading papers. Finally, one representative stated that the GRA training was geared specifically toward laboratory work and could be broadened.

6. Officer Reports - President Dillard noted that she met with the Writing Center on campus, and that they want to make themselves more accessible to graduate students without charge, and that GSC will continue to build this relationship. She also noted that the officers will attend the Board of Regents (BOR) meeting to tell the BOR how important graduate students are. Dillard also noted that the Alumni Association has created two new grants specifically for graduate students, and that she sent an email about it a few
days ago. Finally, Dillard noted that officer elections are approaching and that nominations were open.

President-elect Megan Miller had no report. Treasurer Steven Bellinger will put together budgets for the coming year. Secretary Mohler reminded groups that elect new members to re-register with GSC.

7. Advisor Reports –
Dr. Shanklin noted the upcoming ETDR seminar on March 25, and that the Saracheck award application is due today. She also noted that a list of available scholarships is available online through KSOL. Finally, she noted that the National Science Foundation will offer more fellowships this year than in the past.

8. Graduate Student Senator Reports –
Senator Edward Chesney noted that elections will be tomorrow and Wednesday. He also noted that the SGA passes a 20% increase in athletic funding and increased the Union’s funding. George Weston raised a concern regarding a conflict of interest concerning a bill that had been found to be unconstitutional and yet continues to circulate. Dillard noted that the number of people running for seats was the highest in years, and encourage everyone to vote.

9. Committee Reports –
Bellinger, chair of the Allocations Committee noted that the spring travel period had more applications than any previous travel period. He also noted that some of the funding from Schulz had been spent, and that he will try to continue to get funding to people on the wait list.

Srikanth Renikunta, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, was not present.

Megan Strain, chair of the Ice Cream Social Committee, will have sign-up sheets for helpers at the meeting next month.

Kara Ross, chair of the Professional Development Committee, noted that two workshops had been held so far, and that another grant writing workshop will be held March 30.

Miller, chair of the KRF Committee, noted that the event is being tentatively rescheduled for March 12 in the Leadership Studies building, and that she hopes to have final work within days. Dillard noted that the CGRS representative had been chosen, and that they will present their research on March 25 in Topeka.

Courtney George, chair of the Health Insurance Committee, noted that a 7.4% increase in premiums that would not include club sports and meningitis would be voted on by the Business Council on its way up the ladder to the BOR. She also noted that she will propose a resolution to allow GAs to buy discounted health insurance, which would only include 41 students. She hopes this would get to the BOR by their March meeting.

10. GSC University Rep. Reports –
The Union Governing Board: Chartwells had no report.
The International Graduate Student Affairs Committee had no report

11. Announcements – Dillard announced the items posted on the agenda
A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:44pm.