Graduate Student Council  
December 03, 2007  
Sunflower Room, Student Union

I. Call to Order  
• President Kershner called meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda  
• A motion to approve the agenda passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from November  
• A motion to approve minutes of November 05, 2007 Graduate Student Council meeting passed.

IV. Officer Reports  
A. President – Kellan Kershner  
   • SGA request for the next three years is still in Student Senate. Currently, the budget request is $21,000 annually for the next three years.  
   • Announced that speakers for the February and March meetings are Dr. Carol Shanklin, Interim Dean of Graduate School who will give a presentation on Graduate Certificate Programs and Provost Nellis who will provide his vision of graduate education at K-State, respectively.

B. President-Elect – Shiva Garimella  
   • Discussed his involvement as a member of the Interim Part-time Assistant/Associate Dean Search Committee. The committee has selected five candidates to interview; two of whom (Dr. Kevin Lease from Dept. of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering and Dr. Mustaque Hossain from Dept. of Civil Engineering) were interviewed the week of November 30th.  
   • Encouraged graduate student participation in interview sessions with candidates for the position. Accordingly, e-mails will be sent to leaders of Graduate Groups on campus as a reminder once the interviews are scheduled.

C. Treasurer – Kara Ross  
   • President Kershner presented the treasurer's report.  
   • SGA FY08 Travel Grant Funds  
     • Spent $5850  
     • Allocated $4850  
     • Available $7300  
   • SGA FY08 Operating Funds  
     • Spent $5934  
     • Allocated $0  
     • Unallocated $1940.66  
   • KSU Foundation Funds $835.09

D. Secretary – Pradeep Malreddy  
   • Membership  
     • There are 31 graduate student groups currently registered with GSC.  
     • Requested to keep the registrations current and that a representative be attending the monthly meetings of GSC.  
     • The Research Forum webpage is updated.
V. Guest Speakers

- Jennifer Gehrt, LASER Project Director, Brian Arthaud-Day, iSIS Trainer and Aimee Hagedorn, LASER Communications and Training Coordinator were present to talk about iSIS, the new student information system.
- The new system was started in June 2007 with admissions of undergraduate students and will be fully implemented by Fall 2008. Graduate admission began in November.
- Presented the new features of iSIS like Student Center. Students will be able to find specific courses and other registration details without leaving the webpage.
- The social security numbers will not be used anymore as a student ID.
- Online tutorials and other helpful materials will be made available in the spring semester.
- iSIS will totally replace KATS in a phased manner beginning Spring 2008. However, it does not replace K-State Online.
- iSIS also provides useful tools for faculty like online rosters, online grading, etc.
- Question #1: Does iSIS feature DARS? Answer: Yes, iSIS will have a DARS report and degree progress. Also, it has 'Market Place' where students can buy athletic tickets.
- Question #2: Can one see the unofficial transcript? Answer: No, it is not yet set up, but is a feature of the iSIS that will be available to students.
- Question #3: Is there a smooth transition between class search and the results of search and does it log-off after certain time? Answer: Yes, there is a smooth transition and the search will be within the application. With KATS, there is a 5 minute time-out but with iSIS there will be 15 minute time-out.
- Question #4: Is there an option for Program of Study? Answer: Dr. Shanklin informed that POS will not be available online but that there will be a section called 'Milestones' that will indicate whether POS has been submitted and will list all the members of Supervisory committee.
- Question #5: How long does one have access to iSIS once the student graduates? Answer: Aimee Hagedorn answered that the options of having access to iSIS and other such features will be listed elsewhere on KSU website.

VI. Advisor Report

- Dr. Carol Shanklin, Acting Dean, Graduate School
  - Announced that Fall 2008 Commencement is on Friday, Dec 7, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Bramlage Coliseum. She encouraged the students in attendance to support their colleagues who are graduating this semester. There are 66 doctoral students and 160 master's students who will be participating in the commencement ceremony. Dr. Karen Ann Halbrook, the former president of The Ohio State University is the commencement speaker. Dr. Shanklin requested 2-3 volunteers to assist in commencement from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  - Reminded that an 'Incomplete' from Spring semester will be automatically converted to an 'F' grade, if a change in grade is not processed by December 18th. A student can requests an extension of the 'I' from the professor who taught the course. The instructor has to submit a written request for an extension that includes the course number, reference number and section number of the course(s) to the Registrar’s Office for the extension. She encouraged the representatives to remind their fellow graduate student of the Incomplete policy.
She also noted that every department will receive a list of all the outstanding 'I's and it is up to the department head to check with instructors/course directors to make sure that an extension is needed or not and they document it, which is later send to the Registrar's Office. But if it does not happen at the departmental level, then it is the responsibility of the student that the 'Incomplete' has been taken care of. There is a deadline of this week to submit forms for any such extension.

**VII. Graduate Student Senator Reports**

No report. Graduate senators present at the meeting were Sanjayan Satychthanantham, Sandeep Rana and George Weston.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

- **Professional Development Seminar Committee, Chair: Empty**
  - President Kershner requested volunteers to serve on this committee.
  - The topic for the next professional development seminar is academic interviewing on January 31, 2008. A flyer will be sent out through GSC-L listserv.

- **Ice-cream Social Committee, Chair: Natalie Brown**
  - No Report.

- **GRA/GTA/GA Affairs Committee, Chair: Pradeep Malreddy**
  - The two member committee met with Dr. Shanklin on Nov. 30 to discuss the progress about the GTA survey. The committee will meet again this Wednesday, Dec 5, 2007 to get training from Michael Hinkin on the Axio Survey system.
  - Requested for volunteers to participate in the committee.

- **Research Forum Committee, Chair: Shiva Garimella**
  - The documents about the Research Forum are posted online at GSC website under Announcements. Fliers will be sent out to all the departments about the Research Forum.
  - Requested for more volunteers and encouraged students to show full support through their participation.
  - The next meeting is on December 18, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in Fairchild Hall. Encouraged students to participate in the meeting.
  - Informed of the change in the application form for submitting abstracts online this year. The online application form now accepts abstracts in a Word format to accommodate the special symbols and other formatting like scripts.

- **International Student Affairs Committee, Chair: Sanmitra Barman**
  - The committee had a meeting on Dec. 2, 2007 and it comprises Sanmitra Barman and Habel Kurion. The committee decided to work on four issues for the coming semester. They are:
    1. To work on the huge difference of the graduate student's stipend and the cost of living in the new Jardine apartments.
    2. To conduct a survey about the number of international students that joins K-State and then leaves before even finishing the degree. This will be done with the assistance from International Student Center.
3. To discuss with Career and Employment Services about inviting more companies who are willing to sponsor H1B visas for international students.

4. To organize a panel discussion involving distinguished faculty and alumni who have good experiences of mingling with international students. The discussion would be about the ways of reducing cultural barriers for the new international students and is tentatively scheduled for February.
   o Announced that ICC will be sponsoring an International Olympics at Recreational Center in February 2008.
   o Requested for more volunteers to join this committee.

- Union Governing Board Graduate Student Representative: Kendra Kobiskie
  o Announced that Caribou Coffee in Student Union will increase the price by 5 to 10 cents in January due to the increase cost for dairy related products.

- Health Insurance Committee, Chair: Michael Hinkin
  o No report.

- Allocation Committee, Chair: Kara Ross
  o No additions to the Treasurer's report.

IX. Group Reports and Announcements
   o Shiva Garimella suggested having one or two group's representative come forward every month and report on their respective groups' activities.
   o Walter MacNiel from GNOMES reported that they helped new graduate students to give tours to different laboratories.
   o Steve Bellinger from GNOMES expressed concern about the international students not wanting to participate in their club's activities. He requested if there was anyway to improve their participation without confronting them. Walter added that there is segregation/clustering from some of the professors as well.
   o Lauren Brewer from Grain Science Graduate Student Association added that they have very good participation from everybody in their club. For the Halloween they had the chance to carve out their professor's faces on pumpkins. She suggested such kind of activities may increase student participation.
   o Wansoo Kim from Graduate Foodservice and Hospitality Management Organization reported that they had the opportunity to visit different professors' houses for the departmental Thanksgiving progressive dinner.
   o Sanjayan Satchithanantham, Graduate Student Senator, commented that the low participation from international students may be due to language and cultural barriers. He suggested having a discussion on this topic. Dr. Shanklin encouraged students to interact in different settings so that they become comfortable and enhance their communication skills.
   o Pilar D'Asto from CATS reported that last week their group visited a computer programming classroom and did a role playing about academic integrity. She offered to visit other groups and do some Drama Therapy to illustrate how different problems can be addressed.
X. Old Business
   o A motion to remove from the table the discussion on 'Involvement in Activities and Seminar List' passed.
   o Kellan Kershner encouraged students to participate in various committees. He requested for 2 more volunteers who can serve on Seminar List committee with 8-12 hours commitment per month. If one or no one offered to volunteer, then the Seminar List may no longer be provided.
   o Shiva Garimela reminded of the GSC bylaws that state that if a group's representative is absent for two consecutive GSC's monthly meetings then that group will be put under inactive status and so would hamper the group's members in obtaining travel grants from GSC in the future. Kellan Kershner commented about the possibility of having a discussion with the Graduate Student Council's Leadership Committee about regaining the active status.
   o A motion for opening the discussion on Fundraiser was not initiated for the lack of time. But Kellan Kershner inquired if any student groups would be interested in working with GSC leadership to develop a fundraiser. This would allow students groups a chance to raise funds.

XI. New Business
None

XII. Open Forum
Guest speakers at the beginning of the meeting.

XIII. Announcements
   1. Professional Development Seminar on Academic Interviewing - 4:30 p.m. Thursday 1/31/08, Big XII, Student Union.
   2. Next GSC Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Monday 2/04/08 in Waters 137.
   3. Abstract deadline for Research Forum is Friday 2/01/08.

XIV. Adjournment
   • Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.