Graduate Student Council  
November 5, 2007  
Waters 137

I. Call to Order
• GSC meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.
• The president announced that the venue for February, March and April meetings will be Waters 137.

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

III. Approval of Minutes from October
• A motion to approve minutes of October 08, 2007 Graduate Student Council meeting passed.

IV. Officer Reports
A. President – Kellan Kershner
   o Announced seminar list is being sent and that there are requests from some faculty members to receive the seminar list. Interested faculty members can join a newly created listserv that will be used to send the seminar list.
   o There is no guest speaker this month. But next month the speaker would be Jennifer Gehrt, Director of the Laser Project, who will be presenting an overview of the new student information systems. Provost Nellis is scheduled to speak for March 3 meeting.

B. President-Elect – Shiva Garimella
   o Announced that he was serving as Graduate Council’s representative on the Search Committee for the Interim Associate Dean for Graduate School Search Committee and discussed the committee’s activities. Previously Dr. Shanklin served as the Associate Dean for Graduate School.
   o If there is enough student interest in interviewing the short-listed candidates for Interim Associate Dean, he would like to set up a Q&A session with the candidate (s).

C. Treasurer – Kara Ross
   Kellan Kershner presented the treasurer's report.
   • SGA FY08 Travel Grant Funds
     o Spent $3665
     o Allocated $7275
     o Unallocated $7060
   • SGA FY08 Operating Funds
     o Spent $5934
     o Allocated $0
     o Unallocated $1940.66
   • KSU Foundation Funds $835.09
   • President Kershner explained how the $20,000 in funds per year from SGA is budgeted.

D. Secretary – Pradeep Malreddy
   • Membership
     o Current membership list is on the Graduate Student Council website.
Requested student leaders to keep the registrations current.

V. Advisor Report

- Dr. Carol Shanklin, Interim Dean, Graduate School is the advisor for the GSC
  - Informed the group that she attended the Big XII Deans and Provost meeting at Oklahoma State University. Issues discussed at the meeting included Graduate Student Insurance, whether or not it would be feasible to have an insurance policy offered through a Consortium of the Big 12 institutions, funding of interdisciplinary graduate programs, and a change in the policy about resenting degrees.
  - Announced the deadline for submitting the dissertation theses for doctoral students and Master of Fine Arts students. The deadline is November 28, 2007.

VI. Graduate Student Senator Reports

- Kellan Kershner introduced Graduate Student Senators. Present were George Weston, Satyabrata Das, Craig Kuehnert, Sanjayan Satchithanantham, and Sandeep Rana.
- George Weston:
  - Announced that graduate students are now eligible to apply for K-State Heroes Award. The deadline to apply is on a rolling basis. The award is need-based.
  - Vote for Recreation Center is scheduled for November 13, 2007. The student senate needs 60% vote in the affirmative to pass the referendum.
- Craig Kuehnert:
  - Stated that there are information session booths coming up at many places throughout campus about Recreation Center referendum. A 3D simulation model of the proposed expansion of the recreation center is available online.
  - Informed that last week the senate unanimously passed a recommendation to the university and the City of Manhattan to include gender identity and sexual orientation in the non-discriminatory policies that have previously not been in place.

VII. Committee Reports

- Ice-cream Social Committee, Chair: Natalie Brown
  - No report.
- GRA/GTA/GA Affairs Committee, Chair: Pradeep Malreddy
  - Emphasized the role of this committee.
  - Requested for volunteers to participate on the committee.
- Research Forum Committee, Chair: Shiva Garimella
  - The committee had a meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2007.
  - Requested more volunteers to serve on the committee.
  - Announced that next Research Forum Committee meeting will be held on November 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in Fairchild 102 conference room.
  - Reported on the visit to Wichita State University by Dr. Carol Shanklin, Kellan Kershner, and Shiva Garimella. The visit was to plan the Capitol Graduate Research Summit that is scheduled to be held on March 13, 2008. Kansas State University, Wichita State University and University of Kansas participate in this summit.
  - Emphasized the importance of having a research forum on campus and at the Capitol.
Dr. Shanklin added that Board of Regents is invited to attend the summit; this provides the graduate student to demonstrate how their research benefits the state of Kansas. She informed the group that Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma and Texas A&M are modeling their own Capitol Summit based on what is being done in Kansas.

- **International Student Affairs Committee, Chair: Sanmitra Barman**
  - Absent.

- **Professional Development Seminar Committee, Co-Chair: Urska Bukovnik**
  - *Kellan Kershner presented the report for the Committee.*
    - The committee is planning the next professional development seminar on November 15, 2007 on Vita Writing. Karl Kandt from Career and Employment Services will be present an overview on preparing a curriculum; his presentation will be followed with a panel comprised of 2 to 3 faculty members.
    - On November 29, 2007, the committee is planning a seminar on conflict resolution. Dr. Jim Guikema will be the presenter.
    - David Whitman requested that these Professional Development Seminars/Workshops be video recorded and posted online. President Kershner asked the group whether there was a sufficient need. He agreed to investigate the feasibility of taping the presentations and determining the cost of this request. This request will be presented at the next Leadership Committee meeting.

- **Union Governing Board Graduate Student Representative: Kendra Kobiskie**
  - Informed the group about Student Union's outside food policy when reserving rooms in the Union. No outside food is allowed for events that are held in the Union. The food has to be catered by Chartwells because it is a liability issue for the Union. In case of a first time violation, there will be letter issued and the second time one will loose the privileges to reserve a room in the Union.
  - The Union is also selling Gift Cards that can be used to buy merchandise sold in the Union.

- **Health Insurance Committee, Chair: Michael Hinkin**
  - Reported the results of the Health Insurance survey that was sent to graduate students. There was not a large participation in the survey because of the technical glitches in sending out the survey.
  - A 15-page report of the survey will be sent to graduate students using GSC-L listserv.
  - In summary of the report, a lot of students were concerned about vision and dental along with major medical. There will not be any changes made to the existing insurance policy this semester. However, the report will be submitted to the Board of Regents Insurance Committee. Other concerns were about the payment period, enrollment in insurance policy prior to getting the graduate assistantship, high insurance premiums for married couples, enhanced plan for prescription drugs.
  - Informed about the structure of how input is given to the decision making body. At K-state there are representatives from HR department, an undergraduate student representative and a graduate student representative
Michael Hinkin), representative from the International Student Center, and the Interim Dean of Graduate School, the director of Lafene who chairs the KSU Health Insurance Committee, and a student representative from the Student Health Advisory Committee. K-State has a representative to the Kansas Board of Regents. Similarly, there are representatives from University of Kansas, Pittsburgh State University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, and Wichita State University. So for a change to take place to the existing policy, a consensus has to be achieved among all these plus the insurance provider.

- Dr. Shanklin added that the reason family plans are more expensive than all other plans is because they incur a larger number of claims.

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

VIII. Group Reports and Announcements
1. Creative Arts Therapies Students
   - Marching Band Contest on November 18, 2007.

2. Grain Science Graduate Student Organization
   - Halloween party was organized.
   - Carved the faces of five selected professors into pumpkins

3. Graduate Association of Psychology Students
   - Visited different professors' houses on Halloween Day.

4. GNOMES
   - Five students attended the IEEE conference in Hawaii.

IX. Old Business
None

X. New Business
1. There is a need for webmaster for the seminar list. The webmaster will be responsible for getting the webpage put up for an archive of the seminar list, announcements, etc.
2. Open position for Professional Development Committee Chair. As a chair, he/she will serve on GSC Leadership Committee. Also, committee members are needed for various other committees including GTA/GRA/GA Affairs, Research Forum, Seminar List, and Professional Development Seminar.
4. SGA Budget request for next three years. Brian Cox who is representing Graduate Student Council’s application to the Student Senate Privilege Fees Committee recommended that GSC should continue with an annual budget of $20,000-21,000 for the next three years.

XI. Open Forum
None

XII. Announcements
1. Professional Development Seminar on Conflict Resolution - 4:30 p.m. Thursday 11/29/07, Big XII, Student Union.
2. Professional Development Seminar on Vita Writing - 4:30 p.m. Thursday 11/15/07, Big XII, Student Union.
3. Next GSC Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Monday 12/3/07.
4. Abstract deadline for Research Forum is Saturday, 2/1/07.

**XIII. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Pradeep Malreddy