

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
All-Council Meeting Minutes
Feb. 29, 2015 - Senate Chambers, Talley Student Union

Food Served -6:45 PM-

Call to Order

Roll Call

Read & Approve Minutes

Advisor Update: Dr. Hodge

Executive Officer Updates

President -- Jacob Majikes

- Reps: if you aren't returning next year, think about finding your replacement

Vice President of Internal Affairs -- Doug Czajka

- Has emailed reps whose chapter hasn't turned in letter of credentials. Do this before the end of the year or your chapter won't be eligible for its rebate.
- Reminder that nominations for executive board positions will close later tonight.

Vice President of External Affairs -- Tyler Allen

- Reps serving on external committees should remember to send updates after their meeting.

Vice President of Academic Affairs -- Jessica Nash

- Please attend the Graduate Research Symposium to support your fellow students.

Treasurer -- Mohamed Desoky

- The updated budget is back on the website.
- If internal committees need changes to budget, speak to your exec liaison.
- Some block grant money is still available.

Secretary -- Susan Rodriguez

- Looking for volunteers to help move stuff out of old UGSA office in Hill Library, probably during spring break. Will send email.

Public Relations Officer -- Charlena Wynn

- Update on planning the end-of-year formal: Melissa (chair of Social Committee) is helping to plan. 300-400 people expected to attend. Reps need to come to the first part for the last GSA meeting but don't need to stay for the event.

Committee Chair Updates

Special Projects and Political Action

- Calendar project is now out of the committee's hands: OIT is continuing it.
- New question: why are Master's of Engineering degrees called that and not the more specific kind of engineering? -- Dr. Hodge's reply: Most degree titles are simply not that specific. This is a question that has come up before but without enough interest to make a change. Ask the Registrar for more information.

Departmental Outreach and Leadership

- Two chapters tied on Best Practice Award, Entomology and Genetics.
- Extra funds unused by DOLC will be given to the travel award.

Community Service

- 5-6 spots still available for Umstead Park cleanup
- Service Raleigh event will be on April 9. GSA has its own group; to join it, find NCSU GSA on serviceraleigh.org.
- Adopt a Highway paperwork is complete; expect details about the first cleanup event toward the end of the semester.

Research Recognition

- Yes, reps can participate in the Graduate Research Symposium.
- Many more travel award applications received compared to last semester (70 now; 27 then). Volunteers from other committees are helping to evaluate applications. Decisions will be made and applicants notified by April 15.

Publicity

- No updates

Social

- Trivia event was fun!
- Note about the end-of-year formal: *somebody* from your chapter must be there but it doesn't have to be a rep.

Teaching Effectiveness

- TA Award Ceremony will be on March 22. Winners from the more than 70 applications received will be announced soon.

Constitutional Amendment -- Housekeeping

Presented by Doug. Second reading; unanimously approved.

Management Survey Subcommittee Update

Presented by chair, Nathan Corder.

- Committee is representative of graduate student body
- Statement of purpose is now available in the Google Drive under General Documents, so any rep can comment on it. It is still a work in progress.
- Survey will be sent to everyone, not just TAs and RAs; grad students who aren't supervised in this way will not take the management-related questions, but they will answer questions about demographics and outcomes, so we get a picture of the whole student body.
- The survey is complete and ready to share with the Graduate School once the statement of purpose is finished.

Discussion:

- Will this survey be repeated? -- For now we are planning to administer it only once.

- Could results affect a faculty member's salary? -- Not possible; it is anonymous. Instead of identifying problems with individuals, the survey will find trends among departments and colleges.
- Is this like a 360-degree review where people rate their supervisors? -- Not in its current form.
- Please add veteran status to demographics.
- How long will survey completion take, and is there an incentive to complete the survey? -- Not meant to take too long, maybe 15 minutes? GSA is willing to fund an incentive but that's logistically difficult (including complicating the anonymity question). The Grad School will send out the survey and we will encourage department heads and DGPs to get students to respond.
- How is "advisor" defined? My program randomly assigns advisors to first years; that person might continue to be on paperwork but isn't the eventual committee chair. -- The screening questions will help with this.
- Make sure to include graduate assistants as well as RAs and TAs.
- Is the audience for this survey *all* grad students, including self-funded ones? -- Yes.
- Does it include grad students who work outside the university but have advisors here? -- Yes. The wording is "do you report to...?" not "are you funded as an RA or TA?"
- What about students who have more than one supervisor? -- You'll be able to say which is more important.
- What if you changed advisors? -- Mention it in the comment section.
- What if your advisor and supervisor are different people and equally important? -- Maybe the one on whom your pay depends. You may be allowed to answer questions for both.
- Voted to move forward with showing the survey to the Graduate School.

GSA Logo

Presented by Charlena. Voted on four options:

- Logo #1: 11 votes
- Logo #2: many votes -- the winner
- Logo #3: no votes
- Make next year's representatives decide: two votes

Mission Statement

Discussion:

- Run-on sentence? Too many "ands"?
- Replace "try to represent" with "represents"
- Insert sentence break after "programs"?
- Bullet points for goals?

Movement to pass as-is: succeeded with 35 votes in favor.

Break

Rep Packet Update

Presented by Jacob. Comments on updated rep packet; what would you have wanted to know as a new representative?

- Clarify meeting time: specify it's the last Monday of the month, not simply a monthly meeting.
- More information about internal committees
- More information on dress code (since we voted on it after the rep packet)
- We like the one-page infographic of main points (prepared by Departmental Outreach and Leadership Committee) in addition to the rep packet

Constitutional Amendment -- Internal Committee Descriptions

Presented by Doug. First reading. Discussion:

- Departmental Outreach and Leadership Committee -- clarify that rep should attend the all-council meeting and serve on the internal committee
- Publicity Committee -- what does "academic month" mean?
- Social Committee -- helping other committees "as requested" may be too open-ended
- Teaching Effectiveness -- maybe too vague?

Constitutional Amendment -- Attendance Policy

Presented by Doug. First reading. Discussion:

- Can we have a mechanism for alerting a chapter if its rep is not attending? -- Do we have good contact info for chapter officers who are not the rep? Difficult if SI page is not up-to-date. Also, should managing rep attendance be the GSA execs' responsibility?
- Clarification: Attendance policy applies to the chapters' representatives, not to individual reps, so attendance by a substitute counts.
- Is this consistent with the mission statement? We want increased participation; achieve by carrot or stick? And, this amendment gives power to committee chairs; is there a process for appealing a chair's assessment? This is meant to incentivize people to be involved in committees, but may just punish them for not being involved.
- Committees would establish a participation policy at the beginning of the year while electing their chair.
- Could the committee, not just the chair, review the member's participation if the chair identifies someone as not participating?
- Further agreement that this gives too much power to the chair and it needs to be distributed, with possibility for appeal and flexibility to allow for real life.
- Note from Desiree (maker of the committee chair infographic): the infographic answers some of these questions about how the chair is elected and held responsible.
- Let's have public information about each chapter's good standing -- maybe something on the website. Then chapter officers could check it directly.
- The executive liaison can act as a check on the chair.
- Do chairs really want the responsibility of judging whether a member is participating enough? Also, setting expectations at the beginning of the year can be difficult, especially with new committee members and limited institutional memory.

- When would this amendment take effect? -- Next year.
- It's good to be able to review chairs' decisions, but committee members don't always know the whole story when a chair is working on their own.

End of Nominations for 2016-2016 Executive Officers

No new nominations after the ones that happened on the email list. All accepted nominations will be put on the website. Nominees who accept need to submit statement to be put on website.

Open Floor – Comments and Announcements

None.

Adjournment at 9:23

Next scheduled meeting of the UGSA Council: Monday, March 28 at 6:45 PM