

GSA Minutes 03/16/2012

Attendance

Chelsea Carey
Joshua Phillips
Julie Phillips
Erin Stacy
Kristynn Sullivan
Janelle Szary

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:03pm.

Minutes need to be approved.

Kristynn

- GRC
 - Short Meeting
 - Award Letters were the main focus
 - DivCo meeting last week
 - Chancellor came
 - Staff ratios
 - Departmental procedures instead of grad groups
 - New provost will decide this
 - Graduate classes taught by lecturers
 - Check with policies on other campus and do the same thing
 - Overall grad student handbook (CCGA Approved)
 - Each program has it's own, which overrides the other?
 - President Yudof conference call (President's Council)
 - Want to change all campuses to the same electronic monitoring system for student health.
 - The regents are more/less just mandating it even though the staff involved have pushed back as well.
 - Not intended to change the mission of the health centers
 - Supposedly will help accountability of the health center staff

- No financial model proposed to fund this yet, and we don't want to take it on (student fees, health fees, etc.)
- Reports from UCLA initiated this process, but this “Marsh Report” hasn't been released to us.
- Yudof did agree that we needed a good financial model on the table before we keep moving forward with this.
- Funding stream model
 - All things now come from campus fees and 1.7% tax has been taken to run UCOP now.
 - Student referendum fees, GSA, ASUCM, etc. were included in the base budget, but that means that we may need to pay this as well.
 - Basically, taxing services that UCOP isn't subsidizing in any way.
 - Now we need to include this tax in the future for voting. This wasn't taken into account when the fees were proposed and voted on by our constituents.
- Campus climate issues

Chelsea

- Delegate Assembly
 - Sent emails to people who have agreed to serve, and some additional nominees, to check that the term works for them.
 - 4 accepted, one declined
 - Need to get someone from MEAM

Janelle

- Student Lobby Conference
 - Big success for the lobbying portion
 - The conference was more steered towards undergrads
 - Millionaire Tax
 - UCSA is supporting this, but there are other proposals that also were on the table
 - They specifically liked it because it targeted higher education
 - Supposedly going to shift this to something else, a combined measure with a new name, but USCA probably won't like it as much.
 - Maybe their focus on higher education is a little aside from their overall goal to support education in general
 - May meeting Chair Lansing (Regents)

- She wanted to get the student regents involved in recruiting people to not hold finals on this day so that people can bus up to Sacramento for a rally.
 - Now they are backing down from that, saying that the March rally was great, and it would take some of the momentum out of the current rally.
 - Maybe a lobby day with the EVPs and the Presidents.
 - Don't want it to be a photo-op instead of something more powerful?
- Berkeley Chancellor is stepping down.
 - Didn't say that it was because of the protests, but that's probably the issue.

Erin

- Nothing new
- Follow-up from last meeting
 - One day graduate service day
 - End of the semester, after grades are in
 - Something in conjunction with an outside service group
- Janelle had a suggestion
 - Program for helping with animal shelters, cleaning, or helping to build them, maybe even train the animals

Julie

- SFAC
 - Times set for deliberations
 - GSA is being officially asked to represent our budget
 - Need to prepare documents for this

Josh

- Nothing new

Rachael

- At a conference

Kristynn

- TAPS letter from Ryan Lucas
 - Probably need to follow-up with him (Josh)
 - Let our reps know if he hasn't heard anything back.

Janelle

- Berkeley Student Housing Co-ops
 - Small grant for starting new co-ops
 - We are thinking of applying for that
 - Need to talk with Charles Nies about this (Janelle)

Janelle

- Nothing new on music in the SSM building.

Kristynn

- Meeting with Chris Kello
 - Fee remissions
 - Misinformation from GradDiv
 - Seemed receptive to the suggestions that we made
 - Next steps from him
 - Meeting with Sam and Callele to talk with them
 - Disseminate the report from the TA hiring audit
 - Things that Sam mentioned that seemed to surprise Chris
 - Childcare reimbursements for GSRs
 - USAP money
 - Maybe we need to be proactive in getting communication on these things started soon and that it doesn't slip through the cracks so that people end up in an upset mindset again.
 - Maybe need to address Sam directly so that we can make sure that things are focused this time. It would be better for them, not just us, to have a focus on these things.
 - Need to draft up a letter than brings these two issues up.
 - Maybe we can offer to help in some way?

Voting:

- We have space
- We have a date and time
- Box lunches have been ordered through Rachel
- Voting will be on April 17th, need to put out a call (Kristynn will put out call for nominations/candidates)
- Nominated people will have to accept nomination in order to be placed on the ballot

- Nominations will be due by Tuesday the 3rd
- Mail the nominations call by March 20th

From the Focus Groups, we have book store gift certificates

- Need to do one for the Focus Groups because we said we would (at least one)
- Will also do a raffle for voting (online or in person will be eligible)

Do have a GSA rep on the GRC committee, but comments made about not having any representation on the committee:

- Send out digest email by the end of the semester (including what we've been doing so far)
- Furthering the Mullet
- Having a GSA pamphlet at Grad Services family events on the last Thursday of the month
- Having a newsletter with news (babies, engagements, conferences, dissertations)
- 1 page "What is GRC?" "What is CAPRA?" "What does the Delegate Assembly do?" "Childcare reimbursements and how to get it done" with a different highlight each month, etc.*aggressive dissemination of information*
- Something with pictures, create a culture....but this is going to take work.
- Having a Social/Recreation GSA Chair or Officer who would organize such a thing, and organize newsletters, organize Intramural team. Will need to change bylaws to include this before the elections/call for elections

Travel Grants

Proposed improvements

- o Need a PDF that you can save... Why can't the PDF be saved?
- o Have second PDF file for the part that goes to the advisor/sponsor
- o Need page numbers in addition to section numbers
- o Instead of receipts in envelope, just staple receipts to application
- o Can change the formatting, but not the rules because we're in the middle of a cycle right now
- o CHECKLIST for the rules/included parts
- Potentially second strike opportunity – fix technicalities and submit for the second time; if the travel grants are competitive, these would potentially be lower in priority (but 6 month limit for refunds?)
- Fewer grants right now than originally (may be getting more applications, but treasurer will not be hunting down missing pieces)

- No additional funds have actually ever come through from Graduate School
- Rules are still evolving; still frustrating

Finally, referendum for increasing Graduate Fees so that we are more comparable to other schools, can offer more services (will need to mention Return to Aid and UCOP tax)

Graduate Appreciation Week - first week of April. Other schools are doing a lot more.

Classy dinner?

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.