

GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting

February 11, 2020

4:00pm-5:00pm at ACS 121

Called to Order at 4:17pm.

Roll Call: Phoebe, Houa, Albert, Shannon, and Cerena, with Cerena acting as chair.

Agenda Items

Amendment Committee Reports and Amendment Vote (Led by Phoebe)

- Note that this is the public announcement of proposed amendments as the bylaws state a two-week public notification of amendments before voting.
- Proposed Bylaw Amendment:
 - Anyone (so all graduate students as they are all members of GSA), not just members of the DA or EC should be allowed to propose legislation.
- Proposed Constitutional Amendment:
 - Currently, any bylaw amendment only has to be voted on by the DA, but since the structure of GSA has changed, it may be best to also allow the EC to vote on bylaw amendments to distribute power better.
 - There are some concerns that this may make the process longer, but it was also noted that it will probably take just a month or so for an amendment to pass which may be necessary as bylaw amendments should not be taken lightly anyway.
- Amendments proposed by Jordan:
 - Currently, the bylaws state that any unfilled EC seats allow for a special election, but there is no clarification on what happens if the election still results in no positions filled. In such a case, the proposed amendment would allow appointment of the position by the EC. EC should be able to contact the relevant graduate student club and push for the position to be filled, but if this is not possible then someone should be assigned.
 - Currently, the bylaws state that there is an order of succession for the tasks of vacant EC seats, however this poses an unfair strain on the officer who absorbs the responsibilities. Therefore, it is proposed that instead, the EC should be able to delegate tasks as appropriate instead.
 - There is some confusion about this last proposed amendment, but it is a suggestion of the plurality vote instead of majority votes during voting procedures because absent EC officers may be seen as abstaining. But Robert's Rules should only apply to those

physically present at the meeting, therefore absent EC officers will not be included at all, not even abstaining. Therefore, there was a discussion about not moving forward with this amendment, but further clarification may be needed.

Potential EDI Event Collaboration Proposal Passed by EC. Discussion and Vote by DA Necessary. (Leader Absent)

- **There was confusion about this topic of discussion and since so topic leader was present, this topic was tabled until the next DA meeting. Until then, it was requested that more information was needed on what exactly was voted on, as the meeting minutes were too vague for the DA to come to a decision.**

Connecting Departmental Graduate Student Organization Leaders (Led by Shannon)

- CogSci recently formed a graduate student group. Although this has existed and technically everyone is a member, they recently formed an EC, much like how the GSA functions. The point of this group is to have a space where students can bring up issues of advocacy while having more power to make positive changes. In addition, they also organize professional development events and facilitate social programs.
- The issue is that the group is very new and needs more help to get things going. Questions like what to ask for, what works well or doesn't and etc.
- Shannon is inviting other grad leaders to connect, especially presidents of groups across departments to hopefully lend a helping hand in kickstarting this new EC.
- **Shannon will send out an email doing so and asks everyone who can to respond.**

Email Signatures (Led by Shannon)

- **Suggestion to all officers and GSA members who send emails to the GSA (and student body) to include all grad group leader emails at the signature so it's much easier for students to contact their grad group leader.**

Schedule (Led by Shannon)

- Initially, the EC meetings were set to happen back to back initially which was great because it allowed for members who also attend DA meetings to only attend 2 meetings, but now that the EC meetings are split up again, it's harder for people to have to attend 3 separate meetings on top of their scheduled. There is a suggestion is to keep that 2 meeting total (DA and EC, instead of DA, EC, EC) combined pattern for any future meetings.
- The EC meeting schedules have been rescheduled too often which has been very confusing. Also, they were confirmed very late in the semester which made it difficult for members to confirm times and make it to the meetings because schedules were already set. It was suggested to put a timer on setting EC and DA schedules at the beginning of the semester (for example, everything must be decided by the first two weeks, and since the DA is dependent on the EC meetings, this should be planned accordingly).

- Another suggestion is to see if some people are open to after work hour meetings (after 5pm). Although, this may be a potential difficulty for grad students with children and other commitments, but also may work depending.
- Cerena should be scheduling the remaining DA meetings for the semester.

Workshop (Led by Shannon)

- Since Shayna (and another officer?) is currently making a binder, it may be best to actually organize a workshop to bring ALL officers and delegates up to speed on how the GSA works with the constitution and bylaws, especially with the new changes.
- There was a suggestion to write into the bylaws to perhaps make a workshop a permanent thing that happens every year (just once a year) for all officers to continue a more consistent GSA for the future.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:06PM.