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GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2020
1:00pm-2:00pm
Zoom

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Members in Attendance

- Adam Binswanger (Applied Mathematics)
- Ben Falandays (Cognitive & Information Sciences)
- Christopher Bernal (Management of Complex Systems)
- Angela Macedo Andrade (Materials & Biomaterials Science & Engineering)
- Anuvetha Govindarajan (Physics)
- Melissa Baker (Political Science)
- Aislinn Beam (Psychological Sciences)
- Yumary Vasquez (Quantitative and Systems Biology, Life & Environmental Sciences)
- Sammy Villa (Quantitative and Systems Biology, Molecular Cell Biology)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Jordan Collignon (Internal Communications Officer)
- Shayna Bennett (President)

Opening Remarks, Jordan, Adam

- We have to vote on an election commissioner in this meeting.

- Three more departments have internally elected delegates since the last meeting.

Department Updates

- DA members will be meeting with other students in the next couple weeks. Applied Math is hosting a virtual retreat. Physics has scheduled weekly coffee hours. Materials Science is holding their monthly brown bag lunch/workshops. MCS is setting up workshops on developing research questions and obtaining IRB approval. Psychology is preparing for GROW week programming. CogSci is working on an activity plan as part of their meeting this week.

- Departments are preparing to host classes online and shift traditional events to a virtual setting. QSB is planning how to carry out its seminar series and finish moving classes online. PolySci is working out flexibility for TAs handling online classes, ensuring they have the required technology. Students in Sociology will be having their first meeting soon to find ways to support each other in this transition. Others will be following suit.

Voting on Election Officer

- Angela will be joining the election commission along with Shayna and Jordan. We need someone to lead the election commission. This person will be the primary contact regarding GSA elections and will ensure that the election runs smoothly. This is expected to be a low time-commitment position.

- There are four positions in the Executive Council that the GSA needs to fill. There are also three positions in the Delegate Assembly that will be filled through the GSA election.

- The commission will work on creating the ballot and sending it to a third party for verification. Tawana from the Office of Student Involvement will be the third party. The commission will count the votes and send out the final results.

- A vote was held to confirm Shayna, Jordan, and Angela as members of the election commission. The vote passed unanimously.

  - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

- Jordan volunteered to be the election officer. A vote was held to conform Jordan as the elections officer and primary contact. The vote passed unanimously.

  - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Structure of DA Meetings

- Article 1 of the Delegate Assembly bylaws provides operational structure during DA meetings.

- The Meeting Proceedings are summarized, additional suggestions are encouraged:

  - Usually the chair of DA meetings is the Internal Vice President, but since there is no elected IVP right now, we elected an interim chair.

  - The DA chair would call the meeting to order, and a roll call would take place. Anyone who is currently present can do this. Someone could be assigned.

  - Approving current meeting agenda and previous minutes. This hasn't been done during the meeting but usually during the timeframe the agenda is sent out and before the meeting.

  - The DA chair and/or IVP would give the opening statements. Usually these are announcements or a summary of the meeting.

- Since DA meetings are usually open to the public, there is time reserved for public comment. Each person is granted three minutes to speak, and time may be extended if necessary.

- The DA can then discuss items that they are proposing, as well as anyone who is invited and added to the agenda.

- The DA undergoes a legislative review period. Items that pass the Executive Council must have a timeframe for the Delegate Assembly to initiate a review of each of these items.

- If there is any time remaining, this can be used for discussion about the organization and new events. Otherwise the meeting will be adjourned.

- In the past meetings have been held for an hour and a half each month. Because of the difficulty getting all delegates to attend, recent meetings have been held for one hour at most. There are no hard limits for meeting times, and we can't guarantee that delegates will be able to stay for the entire meeting. Having someone from each department in each meeting is just an important as having one delegate from each department.

How to Elect Delegates

- There are eight vacant seats in the DA right now. Five out of those eight involve internal elections within grad groups. Each of them have their own election process, and we are finding out that not all departments include all of their students in the process.

- It was suggested that we heavily encourage departments that don't already have a process to create one. Departments can have autonomy in electing their own delegate. How to do this? We should have clear information about what each department needs to do. Catlife already has some of the tools to help departments set something up. Could the DA talk about what's working with each department's election? Jordan has a list of departments which don't hold any elections and will send this to Melissa.

- It was also suggested that we tell departments if they don't elect, they will not be represented; give an ultimatum so that departments will step up. This is risky to demand until every department has a process in place.

- Whatever process each department has for electing a DA rep, it should be open to all grad students in that department, and everyone in the department should be able to vote. However, we should be open to what other procedures departments suggest.

Meeting adjourned at 1:52pm.