

# GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2020

4:00-5:00pm

Zoom

## **Members in Attendance**

- Adam Binswanger (Applied Mathematics, DA Chair)
- Angela Macedo (Materials & Biomaterials Science & Engineering)
- Ben Falandays (Cognitive & Information Sciences)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Melissa Baker (Political Science)
- Christopher Bernal (Management of Complex Systems)
- Shaina Sta. Cruz (Public Health)
- Yulissa Rojas (Environmental Systems)
- Yumary Vasquez (Quantitative and Systems Biology)

## **Opening Remarks**

- Reviewed agenda

## **Department Updates**

- Management of Complex Systems
  - Had funding application for research equipment, software
  - Trying to update website with student profiles & other info.
- Cognitive & Information Sciences
  - Also has similar funding opportunity, funds previously allocated for inviting speakers, now offered to graduate students
    - Recommended other departments investigate similar avenues for potential funds
- Political Science
  - The department is thinking through and contending with issues with visa and location during the pandemic/distance learning
    - Potential solutions: different working titles
    - Interested in any other solutions other departments are pursuing
- Quantitative and Systems Biology
  - Working through how to handle SWAG (shirts, stickers, mugs, merchandise)
- Public Health
  - Planning end-of-semester social (Jackbox party games)
- Materials & Biomaterials Science and Engineering

- o A student in the department suggested doing a diversity showcase for graduate students
  - Will connect with Benny, IVP, because the IVP is currently trying to build relationships w/ GSOs who may be an asset in such an event
  - Office of EDI was also suggested as a resource
- Jay Colond
  - o Katie Butterfield wants to offer resources for teaching/support a worker coop in response to the privatization of the ECEC. Email her for more info.
    - The GSA is currently working graduate students on this issue; more information will be sent by Benny.

### **GSO and Sponsored Events Funding**

- Call for applications not yet happened, but will occur soon; Adam will contact Quy, GSA Treasurer
- The DA will be involved with reviewing and scoring funding applications from GSOs
- The process: Call for applications made by GSA Treasurer → DA reviews those applications → GSA Treasurer (and potentially IVP) will interpret those scores to allocate funds

### **GSA Social Media**

- Delegates please fill out the form
- The form/effort above is to highlight members of the GSA EC & DA and build engagement with GSA social media.
- Benny talked briefly about a Student Researcher of the Month Spotlight that is in development

### **Survey Progress & Process for Approval**

- Adam looked into the survey distribution process; will send out that email chain
  - o There is concern with over-surveying
  - o There is a one-month long approval process
- The survey is tentatively cancelled, instead the following actions will be pursued:
  - Looking at past & existing surveys, see what is already being done.
    - Specifically, look for data from the survey conducted in the summer
  - Thinking about actionable things delegates can do to support their students.
    - We are all very aware of issues graduate students face, however, whether that issue is within the scope of the delegate to change or advocate for is another dimension.

### **Fellowship**

- A student's issue w/ the disbursement of fellowship funds and not knowing who to contact/bogged by the chain of command
- Delegates will research and collaborate on specifying and making aware the chain of command for disbursement of these fellowship funds

- o This case is good example of actionable items delegates can undertake

### **Mental Health Resources**

- Would like to involve a CAPS in a meeting (potentially next month's meeting) to discuss mental health resources, especially during the pandemic.
  - o Want to leverage the position of the DA to push these conversations into actual change

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

The next Delegate Assembly Meeting is Dec 7, 2020 (not Dec 14<sup>th</sup> because we want to meet before the last week of classes!)