

Minutes for the Senate Meeting on 9-10-09

5:15 p.m., Call to Order: Tara McLellan

- **Introduction of Officers**

All officer information is in the GSC steno notepads. Tara stated how we have a very diverse group of officers that have already accomplished a lot. Each person can be contacted individually, and you can contact us for any ideas that you have for us.

- **Introduction to Senate Meeting Format: Tara McLellan**

Our meetings will be ran according to the constitution. They are available for all, and it is important that each senator have one so that way you can be up to date. Description of officer duties, how the meetings are ran, things like that are all located in the constitution. The meetings are supposed to ran by Roberts Rules of Order. We will be enforcing this for each meeting, not just because we want to feel important, but to make sure that we can have healthy debates. We will be covering a lot of important issues, and we want to promote healthy debates on these issues, instead of getting out of control. The parliamentary motions were handed out, and we will be following this procedure. On the front is the procedure for how motions can be made. Jermaine is our precedence keeper (keeping order of who has spoken and has not spoken), and will be keeping the time, making sure that we limit the time to 2 minutes per speaker. You can make a motion to extend the time as well.

- **2009-2010 Budget Proposal and Senate Vote: Camp Best**

The budget plans were proposed based off the previous years, however they have been somewhat amended to what has been needed. The budget is not set in stone, there can be changes made to it, if the need is necessary. The money for GSC comes from the Dean of Student Affairs. Left hand column is the amount that we went asking for, based upon last year's budget. They allocated 12,000. Right hand column is what we broke down and

reapportioned the money, so that's the actual amount being spent this year. If you have any questions, please ask the officers, we will answer to the best of our ability, keeping in mind that things can change, but we are restricted to the 12,000

-Discussion:

1. Merricks: Budget for grants separate?

Camp: Yes, past gave us issues, so now its separate

-Having no further discussion, a motion was made by Pickett, and seconded by Northington, A vote was held, 23 approve, 0 apposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed to approve this year's budget.

-Camp will bring an updated budget to every meeting to keep everyone in formed.

• **Grant Process: Ram Sankar Basak**

There is \$10,000 in grant money for GSC research, separate from budget. We are trying to implement some changes, not set in stone yet. However, there are some things that have changed. We are attempting to make sure that the grant process is smooth and good for all. There will be 20 grad student awards, 500 dollars each. Process of reimbursement is easier; get it from the Office of Research. Explanation of requirements will be discussed at a later date. We are still trying to help those who have issues with previous grants, please let us know if you know anyone that needs it

-Discussion:

1. Merricks: What is the criteria for application? What things are considered to be reimbursed and what are not/

Tara: Everything is on GSC website, anything research related, equipment, chemicals, travel that is research related if you need to go somewhere to actually perform research, anything specifically targeting your research.

2. Woodyard: Who decides which grants get accepted?

Tara: Committee is composed of grad students and faculty; it is discipline specific consisting of humanities, social science, pure science.

3. Pickett: Rather than fall and spring, its going to be one in the fall and continue, no spring grants?

Ram Sankar: Yes, with spring grants they carry over to the new director and it gets complicated, however with just fall, it cuts down a lot of confusion. We get all the grants done in the fall, since it is through the office of research, we don't have to deal with any receipts or paperwork.

- **Creation of Standing Committee's Proposal and Senate Vote: Dionne Bailey**

We want to create some standing committee's, so Dionne is making a motion to create four committees:

Dionne made a motion to create a committee for Social and Philanthropy, seconded by Pickett

-Discussion:

1. Dial: What does it do?

Mary-Elizabeth: We have a lot of big events that require additional strategy help, a lot of publicity, and getting the word out. It would require some time, we would like to have help setting up, taking down, working the event. Its a way to strategize to figure out how to get students involved and come up with an idea. We want the senators to be involved and this is a way to help the senators to get involved, and have more of a hang in the GSC.

2. Hymel: Is there more than just this committee?

Tara: Yes we have three more, and you can volunteer to be apart of all of them, or just specific ones.

-Having no more discussion, a vote was held: 26 approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion Passed to approve the Social and Philanthropy Committee.

Dionne made a motion to create a committee for the Grievance Procedure , seconded by Merricks

-Discussion:

1. Pickett: What does it do?

Tara: Create a grievance procedure and get it passed through the University. It is a way to file formal complaints if we didn't get a decision that we like from our department. Example: You were finish your dissertation, about to defend and graduate, your advisor says no you have to stick around and do more research, and you don't feel like you have anywhere to go, there's no procedure that protects you and helps you to file a complaint to get something done about it. We need a committee to get together to research the grievance procedure at other universities

2. Sandipan: How does the committee function ?

Tara: Research grievance procedure and then actually write the procedure that would be presented to the GSC. It would then be presented to the graduate council, and if they approve it then the university would accept the procedure. The graduate council consists of different Administrators from the graduate school, like Dr. Eftink Dr. Wyatt, and faculty across the university, and Tara, they vote to make important changes on the curriculum and issues around campus involving graduate students. All university policy goes through graduate council first.

3. Sandipan: How many members?

Tara: No fixed number, can contain as many as we need. Anyone who wants to be involved can be.

4. Fyke; Would it be dissolved after we achieve?

Tara: Yes it would, would not be needed

-A sign up sheet was sent around the room for anyone interested in signing up for the Elections Committee.

-Jermaine made a motion stating that Grievance Procedure committee be amended from a standing committee to a select committee. A standing committee is permanent, however a select committee would dissolve once it's duties are fulfilled. It was seconded by Pickett.

-Having no further discussion, a vote was held: 26 approved, 0 apposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed to change the Grievance Procedure committee to a select committee.

-Having no further discussion, a vote was held to create the committee: 26 approved, 0 apposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed to create the Grievance Procedure Committee.

Dionne made a motion to create a committee for Publicity, seconded by Fyke

-Discussion:

1. Headrick: Difference between social and publicity?

Mary-Elizabeth: Social specifically targets events. Publicity would promote the GSC, getting our name out, and will be in charge of the newsletter.

2. Sandipan: Do we need two different committee's?

Tara: Yes, publicity would be handling grants, and things like that, and everyone else would be specifically for just social events.

3. Pickett: So the intent is to create committee's so everyone can be involved?

Tara: Yes but there is also things to do. Everyone who wants to be involved can be involved, besides just coming to a meeting. We also need a chair for this committee

-Having no further discussion, a vote was held to create the committee: 26 approved, 0 apposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed to create the Publicity Committee.

Dionne made a motion to create a committee for Fundraising, seconded by Dial

-Discussion

1. Fyke: What are we fundraising for?

Tara: Most important need is copier, cost 600 for us to repair, and they actually don't make the toner for that copier. Toner cannot be refilled.

2.Sandipan: Can we talk to ASB for funding?

Jermaine: The budget for ASB is 4,000 so its doubtful that we would even be able to actually get the money. The most they've ever given out is 1200.

3.Camp: Another possibility, start new scholarships. Trying to do larger size research grants, like 1,000, it would go further, but we need money to do that. Tara has talked to Dr. Eftink, and we can do fundraising that doesn't have to go through UM foundation, they don't think its actually worth raising money for GSC.

4. Woodyard: One idea, is to contact alumni that were specific grad students.

Mary-Elizabeth: We are trying to work really close to alumni association to get them involved this year. And hopefully the fundraising committee can come up with these ideas.

5.Sandipan: Wouldn't it be better to change the name to Finance and Revenue?

Tara: We wouldn't necessarily need to change the name, its not needed

-Sandipan made a motion to change the name from Fundraising to Finance and Revenue, however there was no second, therefore the motion did not pass due to lack of support.

-Having no further discussion, a vote was held to create the committee: 25 approved, 0 apposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed to create the Fundraising Committee.

- **2009-2010 GSC Initiatives: Tara McLellan**

- Formal Graduate Grievance Procedure: Brought up with Dr. Wyatt, very much in favor of this, going to help us take the necessary steps.

- Senator Recruitment – If you know of a department that is not represented, please get the word out and help us find one. Ask them to join FB group, emails.

- Increasing stipends – Chancellor is extremely receptive to the idea, although he said he can't make it happen right away. Stipends have not increased in the last 10 years.

- Child care stipends – Making sure grad students are included on faculty maternity leave.

- Community building- going to have a lot of social events, and also professional building, with business and law department

- GSC publicity

- Nontraditional students – Camp and Dr. Eftink are very interested in it, there are lot of non-traditional students around campus, and we aren't doing enough to help them feel comfortable.

Minor Initiatives

- Redesign of website – Jermaine

- Newsletter

-Veteran support – there are graduate veterans, so we are going to be creating a center for veterans that includes counseling, and we will be apart of it.

-Life skills workshops

-Fundraising

Tara: We are involved in a lot of different things, and we want the senators to be involved

- **Philanthropic Events: Mary Elizabeth Garner**

-Picnic Sept. 26, graduate school is going to cater it, have events and things to do like a Cornhill Tournament. It will be held at Pat Lamar park, and we will have different things to do so it will be fun. Mary-Elizabeth needs help organizing!

-School bus on one of the game weekends and fill it with school supplies. Mary-Elizabeth has communicated with some bands to help turn it into an event, and is communicating with the city. Possibly be held in October

-Spring: Provide lunch and invite alumni and business leaders, help us network.

-Up for suggestions for any event, if you have any please contact Mary-Elizabeth or any of the other officers.

- **Senator Involvement: Debra Jo Scardino**

There are many things to do to get involved with the GSC, and we, as officers, want to make sure that everyone is aware. Make sure to get onto a committee if you want, we want as much communication as possible. Also, Senators represent their department, and we would love to hear what graduate students

from their department are saying as well. We are here, as officers, to represent you guys.

-Sandipan: Suggested moving meeting to 5:30, however it is not possible due to scheduling conflicts.

-Mary-Elizabeth Garner will be in touch over the committee's.

Woodyard motioned to end the meeting, seconded by Tipton, meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.
