Meeting: General Assembly of the Graduate Student Association (Rescheduled February Meeting)
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2013 (moved from Feb due to snow storm)
Chairperson: Lauren Fath, Vice President
Recorder: Matthew Johnson, German and Russian Studies (sitting in for secretary)
Location: S206 Memorial Union
Distribution: Posted – http://gsa.missouri.edu/

Officers Present:
Matthew Cook, President
Lauren Fath, Vice President
Monica Kearney, Treasurer

Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Vice President Lauren Fath

Approval of Minutes – a motion was made by Kevin Tarwater (Physics) and seconded by Matthew Johnson (German/Russian) to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Minutes were approved.

Officer Reports
Webmaster
- GSA is still in need of a new Webmaster. This position is compensated. Please contact an Executive Board member if you or someone you know is interested.

Secretary (report by Vice President, Lauren Fath)
- Please sign in. The contact list will be updated with new members.

Treasurer
- March 30 – Upcoming travel grant deadline for travel occurring December 15, 2012 to March 14, 2013

Vice President
- The spring awards banquet is coming up. Nomination instructions and application will available soon. One graduate student and one faculty member may be nominated per department.

President
- GSA serves as a student council. In this regard, GSA is the voice of all graduate students to the Dean of the Graduate School (Dr. Justice) and to the Graduate Faculty Senate, both via GSA’ president.
- Dr. Justice has accepted a new position and will be leaving MU in May.
- Rec Center Family Nights – Matthew spoke numerous times with staff at the Rec Center regarding the decrease in family nights and how this is affecting students. Although no satisfactory response was received, the consensus is that the student body has outgrown the Rec Center and this is making it difficult to schedule events due to lack of space; thus, family nights are not scheduled when other events occur.
  o Impact on graduate students and their families – significant.
  o If GSA reps feel this is unacceptable, a committee can be formed to provide a greater voice and have the potential to lead action. Please contact the GSA email if you would like to join this committee.
Additional issues relating to graduate students with children/families may also be addressed by this committee, such as instituting places for breastfeeding/pumping on campus; having more resources for students with families could aid in recruiting talented graduate students to the University.

- Football section specifically for graduate students – this is being implemented.
- Survey responses
  - Several indicated wanting more social events. This can be accomplished by combining a social event with an academic or service component. A spring barbeque with donations accepted for Tiger Pantry could be an event for this year. Please help plan this by joining the social committee (email GSA).
  - Surveys are designed to provide feedback. If you have suggestions, anonymous surveys such as these are the best time to voice them. Additionally, it is more helpful to offer suggestions for improvement than to simply say that something is bad or isn’t working.

- Student health center (SHC) fees - $97.47 is charged automatically each semester for full-time graduate students. If you are not full-time (fewer than 7 credit hours), you may elect to pay this (note that this is considered a student fee and is not reimbursed by insurance). This covers standard use of the SHC, including four counseling appointments each semester. If you elect not to pay this semester fee, charges for SHC use will go on your myZou account. If you have the Aetna graduate student health insurance, they will reimburse these charges if they are for tests/services covered under your plan.

- Research hours – working to change the working in the graduate student handout so that they are assessed the same by professors as by the federal government (for financial aid considerations).

- A new certificate in Global Health Issues has been approved.

Old Business

- Lib Dub –
  - Shirts are provided. If anyone has design ideas for the shirts, please join the social committee to plan them and/or send your ideas to the GSA email.

New Business

- Should GSA generally assembly meetings be made open to all graduate students so that any student could voice an opinion (but not have voting rights)?
  - Jess Hodgson (English) – motion for discussion.
  - Question: Would attendees need to RSVP (Roli Karljupla – Bio Eng)? Answer – No (Matthew).
  - Question: Would they have the agenda or itinerary ahead of time (Tom Anderson, Biology). Answer: No, just forward them the meeting announcement (Matthew).
  - Comment: This could give other students insight into GSA if they want to run for office (Jess Hodgson, English).
  - Matthew: Instead of completely open, this could be open by invitation from a GSA representative.
Question/comment: If it is completely open it would seem to make the role of the GSA representative obsolete, but open by invitation would be beneficial (Johanna Leath, MBA). Response: Yes, by invitation to one or two people per representative, per meeting. For example, if an issue is being discussed that relates strongly to a particular student (Matthew).

- Rachel Bauer (Theater) - Motion to make meeting open. 2nd – Jess Hodgson (English) ; Motion passes (no opposed)
  - Focus groups to design questions for an extensive survey regarding graduate student health insurance
  - Find out if students in your department would want a domestic health insurance information session.

Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 19th, 6:00 p.m. (food at 5:45 p.m.), in N222 Memorial Student Union. Note that this is early due to Spring Break falling during the normally scheduled meeting.

Other Announcements

- Recruiting subjects for a study involving recent break-ups
  - Announcement/flyers available and will also be attached to minutes.

Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Martin (Sociology). Seconded by Kevin Tarwater (Physics). Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.