Meeting: General Assembly of the Graduate Student Association  
Date: Tuesday, Nov 19, 2013  
Chairperson: Lauren Fath, Vice President  
Recorder: Jacob Washburn  
Location: Leadership Auditorium – MU Student center  
Distribution: Posted – http://gsa.missouri.edu/

Officers Present:  
Matthew Cook, President  
Lauren Fath, Vice President  
Monica Kearney, Treasurer  
Jacob Washburn, Secretary  
Gretchen Stricker, Webmaster

Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice President Lauren Fath

Motion to approve September minutes – Matt McCune (Physics), 2nd Gary Glass (Rural Soc.)

Officer Reports
Webmaster  
We have a GSA Facebook page, please “like” it.

Secretary  
Please sign in.

Treasurer  
Cycle IV – Sept 15 to Dec 14, travel grants due by Dec 30, 2013. Please submit complete applications. Submit them well ahead of time so that we can contact you before the break if there are problems.

Vice President  
Nothing

President  
Nothing

GFS (Graduate Faculty Senate) Report:  
There is a new director of MU online

Graduate student leadership program (GLP) had 12 applicants.

Mark Twain fellowship was approved – 5 years of funding and 1 year study abroad. Fellowship will be given to an individual who applied for the NSF GRFP or Fulbright and did not receive the award.

Affordable Care act and graduate student work hours: Students with the potential to go over 28 hours will be contacted and required to make modifications.
Mizzou will offer a positive psychology certificate

GFS TOFEL committee will merge with another TOFEL committee on campus since they have similar goals.

8090 and 9090 classes has always required a syllabus (for the GFS to approve them). In the past it has been generic and GFS has decided not to require it anymore. However, they would like some way of measuring what students are required to do in these courses in order to more easily resolve the occasional student faculty disputes over grading.

Any ideas from the assembly?

Matt McCune (Physics): So currently there is a syllabus? I have never seen one.

Mathew (pres): Yes, but it is very general.

Sarah Lirley McCune (History): Have there been problems with the current systems?

Mathew (pres): Yes. However, they are very uncommon. Some of the few faculty who have had these issues in the past have gone to a contract system which lays out the expectations between student and instructor and then they both sign.

Tom Anderson (BioSci): Don’t all graduate students have to meet with their committee every year to determine if they are progressing anyway? Wouldn’t that be a more meaningful way of assessing this?

Lauren (VP): 8090 and 9090 courses also serve to keep students from having to pay back student loans while in school

Mathew (Pres.): Yes, they used to give I’s but this caused financial aid issues so it is now a U or S system.

Lauren (VP): This is a way for the registrar’s office to keep track of student progress.

Nalinda Wasala (MMI): Our department requires annual reports to the grad school system from advisors, one committee member, and the student. This should be a better assessment than the 8090 or 9090 anyway.

Maxwell Philbrook (English): What are the consequences for getting a U in 8090 or 9090 courses?

Matt (Pres): They are department specific, but generally three U’s and you are out of the program. The reason the GFS is concerned about this is mainly for cases when U’s are contested.
Monica (Treasurer): I like the idea of having guidelines, but a contract might not really assess progress. Someone could meet all the conditions of the contract but still not be progressing in the program.

Lauren (VP): In research, a contract may not make since because even if the student does everything they passably can other issues may come up which are out of their control.

Discussion ended in favor of moving on with meeting

Matt (Pres): GFS report continued.

Website migration: it will take longer than we had hoped, so using the Facebook page may be important for communication for a while.

Lauren (VP): Why is it important to like the Facebook page?
Matt (Pres.): If you like the page it will then feed you updates about GSA.

Because of delays with the website we will have a temporary html website which will be very simple but allow people to download the travel grant form and like to the Facebook page for announcements, etc.

As they website is built next year we hope to have a lot of input from the assembly.

Graduate Dean Search Committee: What do you want in a graduate school dean?

Heather Smith (Art History and Archeology): What do they do?

Mathew (Pres):
  Report to the chancellor
  Make admission acceptations for special cases
  Advocate for graduate student body
  Serve on committees, approve graduate committees

Gretchen (Webmaster): I want someone who is open to all fields.

Mathew (Pres): Yes, that is something the committee wants too

Monica (Treasurer): someone who is well rounded, and not biases to one area

Maxwell (English): I would advocate for someone who has a stake in the school and the area.

Lauren (VP): I would prefer someone with strong academic ties, not someone coming from business or outside of academia. This has caused problems particularly with the current MU president.

Mathew (Pres): I will take these ideas back to the committee
2014 awards ceremony: It would be better to have it in March (a month early) because we could make our award announcement before the graduate school banquet and then our awardees could attend both and be recognized.

Gretchen (Webmaster): Would that adversely impact the selection process?

Matthew and Lauren: It would still allow enough time for the selection process, it would just have to be done a month earlier

Maxwell (English): I was one of the awardees last year and I felt that the only issue with the timing was logistical in that I heard about the award from the graduate school before I heard from GSA. It wasn’t a major problem.

Monica (Treasurer): We want the award to be a surprise and be announced first at our banquet.

John Garner (Economics): Some people may not want to be recognized twice?

Lauren: If someone did not want to be recognized at both they would not have to attend, but they would have the option. Because it is our award we want to be the ones to announce and award it first.

The new executive board will have to decide the best course to follow with this.

Matthew: Please help us recruit reps from departments not currently represented. We would really like to have better representation

Matt McCune (Physics): Are there “at large” reps?

Lauren (VP): Because we have been unable to find the original constitution we don’t know. However, the new exec board will be drafting a new constitution and that is a possibility.

Old Business:
   Travel Grant re-structuring re-cap (see power point presentation from Oct mini notes)
   Discussion on travel grant restructuring:

Sarah Lirley McCune (History): Why is our budget being cut?
Monica (treasurer): All ORGs are being cut. Sequestration.
Matt McCune (Physics): Doesn’t it come from student fees?
Matthew (Pres): Yes, and that was my argument too, but the entire budget was re-allocated with sequestration.

Heather Smith (Art History and Archeology): How will the travel grant cycle budgets be determined?
Monica (treasurer): We don’t know yet.
Matthew (Pres): We have some rough estimates based on previous years which we will use.
Monica (treasurer): We will give highest preference to travel grants.
Nalinda (MMI): Would a Post-doc count interview count as professional development?
Matthew (Pres): Yes, any questionable requests would be determined by the exec board on a case by case basis.

Maxwell (English): If the Budget is reached then we will just use the old rubric system on all applications?

Monica (Treasurer): Yes.

Vote taken: Motion Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Elections speeches by the candidates.
Voting, Results:

2014 Executive Board:

Maxwell Philbrook (President)
Gretchen Stricker (Vice President)
Rachel Bauer (Secretary)
Monica Kearney (Treasurer)
Matt McCune (Public Relations Officer)

Announcements:

We would like to partner with GPC to put on a Tax preparation seminar in January or later.
Museum advisory council lecture, Dec 4th (see attached flyer)
Mizzou Adventures in outreach (see attached flyer)

Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Gary Glass (Rural Soc) and seconded by Tom Anderson (BioSci).