Meeting: General Assembly of the Graduate Student Association
Date: Tuesday, Oct 29, 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 – Rachel Bauer (Theatre), seconded by Megan Koch (Comm.)

Officer Reports
Webmaster
We have a GSA Facebook page, please “like” it.
Webpage migration: The graduate school will host our new website and we have arranged to have a professional design it for up $600.
Motion to approve up to $600 for website design – Colin Wunder (Nutr. And Exc. Physiology). Seconded by Sarah Lirley McCune (Hist). Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary
Please sign in.
Please let friends in other departments know they are needed in GSA.

Treasurer
Presentation about budget cuts and travel grants (attached).
Cycle II – 18 grants awarded, $2,491.76, average award: 138.43
Cycle IV – Sept 15 to Dec 14, grants due by Dec 30, 2013. Please submit complete applications. Also, if you submit at more than a week ahead of time we will try to look for mistakes and give you the chance to correct them.
Presentation of new travel grant system (attached). Voting on the new system will take place at our next meeting.
Discussion of new granting system:
Kevin Martin (Soc): We should include things other than presenter in the first category. For example, meeting organizers or delegates.

Rachel Bauer (Theatre): Agreement with Kevin’s comment. In addition, those who present creative works should be included in the presenter category.

Lauren (Vice-pres): We can change the terminology to “Presenter/organizer”

Mathew (pres): We will need to come up with a way of deciding what is counted in this category and what isn’t. Ideas?

Tom Anderson (BioSci): Why not let people justify it themselves in their proposal?

Mathew (pres): We used to not have rubric at all, it was just up to the Exec Board’s discretion.

Lauren (vice-pres): We do read the proposals so we can let the Exec. Board use their best judgment.

Kevin Martin (Soc): Often if you don’t present you don’t get money from your department or anyone. We need to make it clear how much people can get when not presenting.

Mathew (Pres): By default people will fall into the lower “professional development” category, so they will still get something even if it isn’t to full amount.

Maxwell Philbrook (Eng): Is presenter supposed to be on a pedestal?

Monica (Treasurer): We want to support students in their academic development, but also want to support those who represent the University more highly than those who just attend.

Maxwell: I agree; if someone has prepared something we should reward that.

Mathew (pres): It will have to fall to the board to decide what is justified as representing the university and what is not on a case by case basis.

Lauren (Vice-pres): The burden should be on the grant writer to justify why they need the full amount.

Mathew(pres.): The new system will also cut out the people getting $300 dollar awards, but those are mostly for international travel, and the graduate school has funds available for that. We should encourage those traveling internationally to apply for the graduate school funding as it is more money anyway.

Vice President
CV-docs: Very Successful!! ~100 applicants, ~60 actually submitted CV’s, 16 faculty members participated. The faculty were few, but they gave very positive feedback on the event.

The advertising was by word of mouth and by an E-mail to the student body.
Thanks for spreading the word and great job!

President
Mizzou Bookstore gift card of $100 awarded to Tom Anderson for the most successful department in the food drive.

Hoodings: Currently hooding take place in your seat at graduation. Starting in May they will take place in a separate ceremony where you will be hooded on a stage.
Off-campus housing google doc: please fill in any off-campus graduate housing you know of. The list is badly needed.  
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ItgIF_VsPYn8opN8neaYX0630zXkG6saW0CabYSf5OU/viewform

GFS (Graduate Faculty Senate) Report:

One of Mizzou's biggest donors will fund a Study abroad fellowship for graduate students

Affordable Care act: the school is “sweeping it under the rug” for now.

Low performance programs are having a 3 year review to determine if they will lose their standing or not.

Graduate school is trying to re-evaluate the minimum TOEFL score for students in order to be similar to that of other SEC schools. Mathew is on a committee to investigate the effects this might have on the school. Many of the departments have their own requirements which I higher anyway, so it may not change too many things. The TOEFL is also not a great indicator of English language competence and doesn’t have an oral component

Sanchita Gargya (Psychology): The TOEFL actually does have an oral and a listening component.

Matt McCune (Physics & Astronomy): There are a lot of issues with the language exam process on campus as well.

Maxwell: Does raising the standard make Mizzou more competitive? More or less diverse?

Gretchen: How do we compare to other SEC schools in terms of diversity, etc?

Kevin: Even if the standard is raised it will not likely improve the English language abilities on campus. We need to have a realistic understanding that it simply may not affect academics, because the test isn’t very good.

Old Business

New Business

Elections: Positions explained by Executive board members.

Anyone can nominate themselves or another graduate student. Please make nominations by Nov 12th by going to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gSykGMzT2jXXqGa-pltJP18Vbzd2Hq7CTiSIt6HVU/viewform

Kevin: can someone address the issue of Exec Board compensation?

Mathew (pres): currently, Pres gets $750/year and all others get $650/year. This will go down by 10% next year because of budget cuts.

Explanation of Election process: Voting takes place by secret ballot. All who are running will be asked to give a short 2 minute speech on why they should be given the position. The Exec Board is a one year appointment from Dec to Dec.
Announcements

Tuesday, Nov 19 (one week earlier than usual due to holiday break) – Next GSA general Assembly

Mathew (pres): Versatile-PhD is a service provided by the graduate school for those looking at careers outside of academia. [http://gradschool.missouri.edu/resources/graduate-student-career-exploration/versatile-phd.php](http://gradschool.missouri.edu/resources/graduate-student-career-exploration/versatile-phd.php)

Monica (treasurer): Flu Shots available tomorrow from 10am-2pm in the Library

Mathew (Physics & Astronomy): National Grads Have Debt has a Facebook page, please like it.

Gretchen (webmaster): Please like GSA Facebook page.

Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Tom Anderson (BioSci) and seconded by Robin Yim (Anthro).