Meeting: General Council of the Graduate Student Association  
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014  
Chairperson: Gretchen Stricker, Vice President  
Recorder: Rachel Bauer  
Location: Room 215, Tate Hall  
Distribution: Posted – http://gsa.missouri.edu/

Officers Present:  
Maxwell Philbrook, President  
Gretchen Stricker, Vice President  
Sarah Lirley McCune, Treasurer (won special election at meeting)  
Rachel Bauer, Secretary  
Matt McCune, Public Relations Officer

Call to Order- Meeting called to order by VP Gretchen Stricker at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes-Gretchen asked for approval of the minutes.  
First-Heather Smith (Art History)  
Second-Robin Yim (Anthropology)

Presentation by Eric Hucker-VP of GPC  
- Hucker is the GPC Liaison to the Rollin’s Society  
- It is a secret society for graduate and professional students at Mizzou.  
- Founded by the Graduate Professional Council  
- This year is the 20th Anniversary  
- Recognizes outstanding Graduate Students  

Application Process  
- Applications are available now  
  rollinsociety.missouri.edu  
  All of the necessary information can be found there.  
- The application link is at top of webpage.  
  Applicants must get a nominating letter from faculty or staff.  
  Due March 21, 2014.

Questions  
- Matt McCune (Public Relations Officer)-How many people do they take every year?  
  Eric Hucker-Around 10 to 12 each year. It varies. The membership is listed on website.  
- Heather Smith (Art His)-What do you do when you get into Rollin’s Society?  
  Eric-Part of it is secret. It is an honorary and social society.  
- Amanda Edgar (Commination)- How does someone know if they should apply if it is secret?  
  Eric-We do have info on our website about the goals of the society. We do the app process so we get a wider pool of applicants.  
- Matt McCune (Webmaster)-Is it a self-nomination process or do we nominate others?  
  Eric-You can nominate others in the sense that you hand them the application. You do have to fill out the application yourself to be nominated.  
- Maxwell Philbrook (President)-Are the black hoods necessary?
Yes, and they will be used this year. Each new member is revealed after tap day and the hooding.

Further questions can be directed to: GPCvicepresident@missouri.edu

Officer Reports

Public Relations Officer (Matt McCune)

- Like our Facebook page!
  - Like it! Invite your friends!
- Updates to GSA website
  - We completed the paperwork for a real website.
  - For now, go to Facebook page.
    - All links will take you to our temporary website.
  - Adding “www.” to the web address will not work.
  - The Graduate School decided we will be an extension of their website.

Secretary (Rachel Bauer)

- Please sign in up at the front table.
- We also have name badges!
- Expanding Representation- We will be working through the semester to expand our representation. If you know a department or group that needs representation, please email GSA.
  - GSA@missouri.edu
- Update on Membership Committee meeting
  - We have sent a letter to the DGS of each department. We are waiting for responses.

Treasurer (Reported by Maxwell Philbrook, President)

- Monica Kearny had to resign because of personal reasons.
- We will be holding elections later in the meeting.
- Update on travel grant awards, Cycle I
  - Submit applications for upcoming travel grant Cycle I
  - For travel occurring from December 15 to March 14.
  - Deadline is March 30. Since the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the following business day (Monday, March 31) by 5 pm.
  - We are working to put updated travel awards process online.

Vice President (Gretchen Stricker)

- Awards Banquet
  - We give out awards for Outstanding and Superior Graduate Students.
    - The recipients are invited to the banquet.
  - If you want to help plan the banquet, you can join the Programming Committee.
- Nominations for Awards-
  - Each department will nominate one person.
  - If your department wants to nominate for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, you just need to give us their name as a nomination.
  - If your department wants to nominate someone for the Superior award, you need to fill out the entire application.
    - CV or Resume
    - 1 to 2 page recommendation for nominating individual.
- Heather Smith (Art His)-Who does the nomination? Students? DGS?
  - Maxwell (President)-Each department decides on their own.
  - Gretchen (Vice President)-You can also talk to your DGS about the process they want to use.
- There is also a Faculty award.
  - One per department
- Maxwell (President)-We wanted to encourage more departments to have an Outstanding Graduate Student, but we wanted to keep the Superior award more competitive.
  - We may have to move the deadline up from April 4th to April 2nd.
  - An update will be sent out soon.

- Spring Picnic Update
  - In the works! More updates to come.

President (Maxwell Philbrook)
- Thanks to new and old faces!
  - You are the communicators to the department. We can’t do this without you.
- Update on Writing Center Feedback
  - We are still gathering feedback on graduate student Writing Support. Still accepting feedback. Maxwell will send email tomorrow with documents and the survey.
  - The Graduate School is interested in widening writing support for graduate students.
  - Maxwell will be meeting with Writing Center.
  - The more info I get to bring to further meetings the better!
- Updates From Dean Rubin
  - I met with Health Insurance brokers yesterday to talk about student health care coverage changes.
    - I have documents from them on the new plan that I will pass on.
    - There will be a 6% increase to grad school health care.
    - The initial increase was going to be 19%.
      - Higher co-pays and out of pocket.
      - Better prescription coverage
    - At the meeting, these are the changes that were already made.
    - What I proposed is that graduate student representatives should be a part of the decision making process.
      - The process goes through HR and not the Graduate School.
    - I am advocating for more influence on the decision making for the next year.
- Questions:
  - Natalie McCabe (Theatre)-Is the cost for each dependent the same? Or did it go up?
    - Maxwell (President) –Yes, it went up. I will email the PowerPoint with all the info.
  - Heather Smith (Art History)-Is that for the yearly coverage?
    - Maxwell (President)-Yes.
  - Robin Yim (Anthro)-The literature says that we may lose student status for working more hours? But, ABD students often work more. How will this affect us?
Maxwell (President)-That’s the 28hr. It’s a hard rule. You will lose your student status if you work over 28 hours. It is a choice to lose our student status and still take classes.

John Garner (Economics)-GTA and GA get health insurance sub. What percent of students receive the insurance subsidy?
  - Maxwell (President)-Much fewer than you would think. Our Health Insurance liaison for the Graduate School says it that less than 20% of Graduate Students receive the insurance subsidy.

John Garner (Economics)-How viable is it for the students to shop around for other insurance?
  - Maxwell (President)-You can shop around, but our insurance representative was not as positive about the other options. If GSA would like to formulate a statement on our health insurance needs, we can. Together our voices can advocate for policy change. Personally I would shop around.

Nalinda Wasala (MMI)-Who do we talk to regarding insurance?
  - Maxwell (President)-There are two full time representatives in the Student health Center and one in Graduate School.

Kevin Martin (Sociology)-To address a few things that have been said. The reps at the SHC, you have to go to them physically. Karen in the Graduate School is good, but I hate to overburden her. The best thing to do is call the insurance company. They will tell you what they do and do not cover.
  - Also, I call for change in undergraduate and graduate insurance. Right now it is the same for both groups. They are basing these numbers on 10% of students in the WHOLE University.

Elise Broaddus (English)-What do you think the attitude of the dean is on this matter? What kind of support do you think we will get?
  - Maxwell (President)-Our interim dean is a wonderful person. She had a defeatist attitude about this, because it was out of her hands. Generally, overall we have a good and sympathetic advocate in the grad school.
  - I definitely want to talk to her more about undergraduate and graduate student differences in Health Care, but next year is already set.

Adam Galovan (HDFS)-By splitting the groups, the risk pools are different. Our cost may go up.
  - Maxwell (President)-That is part of the complexity of the issue.

Kevin Martin (Soc)-I have tried looking at different plans, and because of our status, we can’t get anything else. Technically, we are sandwiched in, because we are students but employees. Our employer has a plan that fits the minimum requirements of ACA.
Maxwell (President)-Another part of that is the way our stipends work. We aren’t full-time, but not exactly part-time.

Any input you have, please send it our way!

Last month Dean Rubin found a link to a story at University of Texas-Austin

Graduate Associate there is putting together a Graduate Student Bill of Rights. Maxwell will send the link.

- Stipends
- Student/Faculty interactions
- Work Loads

Dean Rubin is interested, and wants students to put together a statement like this. A position statement from graduate students.

- We can bring up minimum stipends.

Maxwell (President)-Not opening floor yet. I need to do some more research.

- I have emailed a few people at UTA, and they had not heard of it. It’s a good idea, and we will work on it. (New Business for next meeting.)

Accident at University Village

Maxwell (President)-As grad students we should be ashamed of our University on the way they let the housing inspections lapse for so long.

This is a really important time to start advocating for graduate student campus housing. I’m glad we started a committee last meeting of which Kevin Martin (Soc.) is the chair. You can get in touch with him to see what you can do as a committee.

- kwm9rc@mail.missouri.edu

Kevin Martin (Sociology)- I came with a resolution prepared for today. As it stands it is for Student Advisory Committee for Graduate Student Housing.

- Kevin reads Resolution
- Maxwell (President)- This is not final. This can be friendly amended. But having experienced these issues, and the events that occurred this weekend, I feel that as a body we need to have some kind of response.

Kevin (Martin)-I would also like to note, I have spoken with RHA about establishing dialogue about a representative. The problem is establishing representation on RHA would take about a semester to go through. A committee for grad student issues would provide a place for issues more pertinent to us.

- Maxwell (President)- This sounds like two things are happening in the resolution. One is procedural and structural—Committees.
- The second is support for our 1st responder friend. I think we can formalize and make a statement sooner.
- With policy changes, I would like to have a period for review and amendments. If we are talking about representation, a semester wait is worthwhile.

Heather Smith (Art History)- Will we be able to pass this? Can we read statement before this is passed? I feel like it is really important how we word this.
Natalie (Theatre)- For those of us who live there, it was not a surprise that it happened. Is there a way to do it so everyone can read it, but sooner rather than later?
  - Max-We will not vote on the resolution, because we have not had time to read it. We will send it out, and vote and at the next meeting.
  - Matt McCune (PR Officer)-We can express our condolences and have a moment of silence.
    - Maxwell (President)-We can offer our condolences and possibly donate to a fund.
  - We will table this resolution until next meeting, so the General Council can review the document.
  - Motion to split the resolution into two parts.
    - First-Maxwell Philbrook (President)
    - Second-Matt McCune (PR Officer)

Old Business
  - Update on the 28-Hour Rule
    - Maxwell will re-send the documents on this topic.
    - We highly recommend you review them and distribute them to your departments.
      - Talk with your advisors about how it will affect employment.
    - This is the decision the University has made to adhere to Affordable Care Act (ACA).
  - Graduate Support Staff Recognition Award
    - This is a Graduate school award.
    - If you think your person in your department’s office should be recognized, the Graduate School is interested in hearing about them!
      - The nomination requires a name, department, and a one page letter of recommendation.
      - The deadline is Friday, February 28, 2014.

New Business
  - Ask General Council for New Business
    - Art History is hosting a symposium next weekend!
      - Ancient to modern topics.
      - Strickland 210. 9am to 5pm on Saturday, March 8, 2014.
      - Opening lecture of Friday night
    - WGST Conference!
      - Saturday, March 8, 2014
      - 9am to 4pm
      - Tate Hall 215
    - Art Department Exhibition!
      - Bingham Gallery in Fine Arts Building.
      - Showcase of student work
    - GPC- Research and Creative Activities Forum
      - Saturday, March 8, 2014
      - Student Center-Second Floor
    - Theatre Department-A Midsummer Night’s Dream
      - February 27, 28, and March 1 at 7:30pm. March 2 at 2:00pm.
      - Rhynsburger Theatre, Fine Arts Building
- Elections for Treasurer
  - Open to Nominations by Gretchen Stricker (Vice President)
    - Sarah Lirley McCune (History) was nominated.
  - Motion to close nominations.
    - First: James Veverka (SEAS)
    - Second: Robin Yim (Anthro.)
  - Sarah introduced herself to the General Council
  - Motion to vote by Gretchen (Vice President)
    - All in favor
    - Sarah Lirley McCune is new treasurer
    - Maxwell (President)-Thank you Sarah!

Announcements
- Announcements from General Council
  - Nalinda Wasala (MMI)-Mini notes. Where were they?
    - Rachel (Secretary)-We will send out Mini Meeting notes this month.
  - Maxwell (President)-If you don’t have a committee, feel free to join one!
  - Matt McCune (PR Officer)- There still people who didn’t sign in, so please do so.
  - Rachel (Secretary) - I will email out about committees. Those who did not sign up can do so.
- Next GSA meeting will be March 18, 2014 at 6pm (Tate Hall 215).

Adjournment
- Motion to Adjourn-
  - Kevin Martin (Sociology)
  - Second- Adam Galovan (HDFS)
- The motion is so passed