Meeting: General Council of the Graduate Student Association  
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 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  
Rachel Bauer, Secretary  

Call to Order- Meeting called to order by VP Gretchen Stricker at 6:10pm  
There is a group in here before us, so we will be starting with food at 6:00pm from now on. We will start promptly as soon as possible.  

Approval of Minutes- Gretchen asked for approval of the minutes. No Changes, minutes approved.  

Welcome!  
- Dean Rubin  
- Dean Rubin will not be able to attend today.  
- She will reschedule for a later date.  
- Please sign the Get Well card!  

Officer Reports  
- Public Relations Officer, Matt McCune (absent; Report given by Maxwell Philbrook)  
- Website rebuild update  
  - Matt is in DC advocating for Grad Student rights as a part of NAGPS & GPC.  
  - We are in the line for our website to be updated. We are checking in weekly to make sure there is progress. All relevant info is on our website, but only the bare necessities. You can find travel grants, contact info for Exec.  
  - Email us at GSA.missouri.edu with any questions.  
- Have you liked GSA on Facebook?  
  - Encourage your departments to like it too!  
- Matt asked if anyone wanted to be on Office of Graduate Studies float for Homecoming.  
  - The parade is October 25, 2014 at 9am.  
  - Email Matt McCune if you want to be involved.  
  - More information will be sent out via email.  
  - Use social media to tell your legislators your thoughts on Graduate Student Debt.  
  - We will send out more information via email.  
- Great Circle Holiday gift drive  
  - Each organization is assigned a local family in need.  
  - GSA will donate money, and then we will shop for what they need.  
  - These children wouldn’t get gifts otherwise.  
  - More info to come will be coming at the November meeting  
- Secretary, Rachel Bauer  
  - Please sign in and get a name badge
Thank you for signing in.

Please note the changes to sign in sheet

- Do you know anyone who should be on GSA?
- Distribution list
  
  Our distribution list has been down for maintenance. We will inform the General Council when those issues are resolved.

- Treasurer, Sarah Lirley McCune
  
  Deadline for Travel Grants Cycle III was TODAY (September 30, 2014).
  
  Cycle IV for Travel Grants
  
  Travel Cycle IV for travel occurring between September 15 and December 14. The deadline is December 30.
  
  If you submit application a week in advance, I will look over that.
  
  We have been funding all complete applications
  
  Also email if you have any questions

- Executive Board Stipend Change
  
  The last executive board:
  
  - $750 President
  - $650 Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
  - $150 PR
  - TOTAL: $2850
  
  We are proposing reducing and redistributing the stipends.
  
  - $2500 ($500 for each officer)
  
  This is over a $300 reduction from previous years.
  
  Any concerns of questions let me know!

- Vice President, Gretchen Stricker
  
  Annual Fall Picnic Re-Cap!
  
  We have some great donations for tiger pantry
  
  Good weather! The history department won the Sparky’s gift card.
  
  Gretchen showed a few pictures from the event.
  
  Very exciting and fun!

- CV Docs Event
  
  October 30, 2014 from 10am to 4pm in the Student Center
  
  Please distribute flyers at the front of the room.
  
  Give letters to faculty, so they can help our students
  
  Max emailed Grad Faculty Senate to inquire for volunteers.
  
  If you think there would be someone who is really great, please stick a flyer in their mailbox.
  
  We don’t want one professor to have to stay all day.
  
  CV Doctors—pair students with faculty to go over CVs for those who are looking for jobs etc. One on one with a faculty member in your discipline or someone close to your discipline. They take a fresh look!
  
  If you are interested in helping with CV Docs email Gretchen Stricker or gsa@missouri.edu.
  
  - James Veverka (Soil, Enviro, and Atm Sciences)-Can we forward this information to our departments?
  
  - Angela Uriyo (TAM)-Is this event for Undergraduates, or just grad students?

- President
  
  Graduate Student Bill of Rights
  
  It is a student led committee/ drafting caucus working on a new Graduate Student Bill of Rights
- We are trying to come up with a base line for what rights grad students should expect from this university.
- It is in the early stages, but the next phases will require broad support, including feedback from GSA. We will then revise the document and plan to have a public forum.
- There are a lot of changes happening around us, and though we cannot stop something that started at the top, we can at least have our rights spelled out to the administration.
- I would be happy to have individual conversations on this topic as well.
  - Ethan Kleekamp (Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences)-Is this something we are starting from scratch? Do other universities have this?
  - Maxwell (President)-We have a 2008 document that GPC put forward. It is a limited document that we have looked at, so we are not starting completely from scratch. We will be expanding to include more issues.
  - We are looking into other University’s examples as well. If you know of more examples, let us know.
  - Calvin Coker (Communications)-Has there been a discussion of endgame enforcement of this Bill of Rights?
  - Maxwell (President)-Not really, but the way we are designing this document is flexible. It is broad so that departments can do more than what is required. We will use this document as a baseline to see how to move forward. It is tricky, because it may be hard to enforce. However, the language exists for if/when there is a problem.

- Added items
  - Graduate Faculty Senate met last week. This is the governing body that is tasked with approving new graduate courses and programs.
  - GSA Exec elections! We will have elections coming up in the next two months.
    - November meeting will be a vote.
    - Each Executive Board member will give a small report on their position at the next meeting
    - Questions? Let us each know!

Old Business
- None.

New Business
- CV Docs Committee
  - We do need help. There is some planning that goes on before the day.
  - Email Gretchen Stricker or gsa@missouri.edu if you are interested.
- Grads Have Debt 2!
  - Keep an eye out for more information and upcoming events.
- National Association of Graduate and Professional Students Conference in November.
  - It is a national conference here at Mizzou in November. Students from all over the country will be attending. GPC is helping run it, and they are looking for people to get involved.
    - They may be bringing in Elizabeth Warren as a speaker.
    - Luke Russell (HDFS)-It is an interesting organization. It was founded to get tax free stipends for grad students. They are trying to be at the federal level advocating for grad students.
- Question Raised-Interested in Organization Fundraising
  - Bethanie Barnes (Health Management)-We are looking to raise money. What do other Departments do to fundraise?
- Calvin Coker (Communications)-ACGS does a calendar to fundraise. It helps to reduce overhead cost in the department for travel funds.
- Angela Uriyo (TAM)-We create lab kits which we sell to the bookstore. We buy materials and create them for purchase.
- Ethan Kleekamp (Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences)-My advice is don’t ignore the travel awards given through the actual societies for the conferences you are attending. They usually have money to give away.
- Hope Fine (ELPA)-We have educational fees that go to our student org. We have a lot of money for student travel that way.

- Nalinda Wasala (MMI)-Question: 28hr rule. For students who did not sign the contract due to the definition of work. How is it defined? In Bio Chem, 10 or 15 students have not signed the contract, and they are possibly bringing lawsuit. Their DGS was there too. What is work for grad students?
  - Maxwell (President)-The 28hr rule is 0.7 FTE for not how much you work but for how much you are paid. Unfortunately, that is one of those things that is a gray area. What is work? Is it when you are thinking about your studies? Is it when you are actually on campus? The University says it will revoke student status from those who work over 28 hours per week. There are implications with health and tuition waver. The rule it to keep grad students as part time workers.
  - Sarah (Treasurer)-A lot of us tutor to make more money. The rule limits our time tutoring. We cannot work more than 8 hours elsewhere.
  - Maxwell (President)-This has come up every meeting. It is something that is affecting grad students. What can we do? What should we do?
  - Nalinda Wasala (MMI)-A colleague of mine did not sign and brought it up at a meeting and then we had a discussion.
  - Stan Maxson (History)-This rule is not affecting us all equally and in the same manner. Perhaps this is something where the Graduate Student Bill of Rights can be a help as a collective body who have similar needs.
  - Maxwell (President)-And we can find where those crossovers are. This will be part of discussion of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights.
  - Arndt Gossel (Bio Engineering)-I read some other Bill of Rights. They say that I’m expected to finish research in timely manner.
  - Maxwell (President)-Sometimes in the labs, the work and studies are so interrelated, it’s impossible to pull apart.
  - Nalinda Wasala (MMI)-Our contracts says you can’t work anywhere else. I’m not sure if that counts for off campus, but it does mean we can’t have another job.
  - Arndt Gossel (Bio Engineering)-Can we request that they define “work” in detail?
  - Maxwell (President)-Yes, absolutely. People say “It’s the apprenticeship model!” That may take more than 28 hours a week in order to finish the work. But, is that fair?
  - Ethan Kleekamp (Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences)-What should the end goal be? Are we just offended or are we trying to bump salaries? We usually just sign it knowing we will work more hours.
  - Maxwell (President)-That’s a great question too. Do we have an end goal? The administration is tied by Affordable Care Act. It would have cost them a considerable amount of money to have us be full time employees.
- James Veverka (Soil, Enviro, and Atm Sciences)-What is the stipend adjustment we are looking for?
- Luke Russell (HDFS)-It will have to be on a Department basis. We went to our chair and said, here is where I qualify for welfare or else I’m taking a 40 hour a week job. That convinced them to give us a boost.
- Stan Maxson (History)-Let’s look at how we may be able to act collectively. I agree that it affects us on a department level, but I think that perhaps we can talk to the DGSs. They meet at retreats. I don’t see why we shouldn’t at least be able to issue a statement. Let the DGSs know. If department by department conversations need to happen, we would like them to talk to their students, because it’s happening to other grad students too.
- Maxwell (President)-I love that. We could talk to our DGSs individually; they can see this is coming from all different directions. Let’s sit down as an Executive Board and General Council and have meeting outside the monthly meeting to develop a GSA position to give to DGSs, to explain how we are being affected across the board.

- Announcements
  - Announcements from General Council
    - AHAGSA-Garage Sale
      - This Saturday from 8 to 2pm.
      - 902 West Prairie View Drive.
      - Premiere of Art 21! PBS show.
      - Art Education Graduate Student Group.
  - Next meeting is October 28, 2014 at 6:00pm.

- Adjournment
  - Nalinda Wasala (MMI)
  - John Garner (Economics)