

Graduate Students Association General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Brady Commons Room 234, 6:00 pm

Minutes recorded by GSA Secretary Kate Hertweck.

I. Call to Order

Vice President Leslie Rill called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. She noted that President Disraelly Cruz was unable to attend the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from both the September and October meetings were approved without modification.

III. Special presentation

Hung Chiao from **International Students' Career Services** spoke about her program, which is part of the MU Career Center. The Career Center is mostly staffed by undergrad students. They offer services including resume/CV building and interview skills, but these services mostly benefit undergrads. ISCS (<http://career.missouri.edu/ISCS/>) is mainly to help international students, and the staff mostly grad students. They offer services about anything related to academic jobs, including lots of workshops. Their website offers links to finding jobs abroad, and staff can also help find faculty or students that have worked there before. For more information, contact ISCareer@missouri.edu.

The **open forum** was moved up in the agenda. The assembly spent some time brainstorming about ways to improve professional development. Most grad students don't know about or utilize the Career Center. Regardless, students requested help with looking for job, writing a resume, building a cover letter, determining the timeline for job searching, finding grants and awards for post doctoral positions, and building teaching and research portfolios. The graduate school offers sessions on many similar issues.

VP Leslie asked the assembly if plaques are necessary for the awards banquet. The assembly concurred that certificates would suffice for superior student recognition.

An issue with the library database was raised. Sometimes articles are hard to find, and the database is difficult with which to work.

IV. Officer Reports

Treasurer Bill Alexander noted that **allocations from the University** have arrived, and we have a little more money than expected. Travel grants for the previous few weeks had been awarded and review of new applications continues.

Bill also announced **changes in the travel award application process**, designed to streamline fund allocations and increase fairness. Beginning Jan 1, the year will be split into three parts, and applications will be evaluated at one of three points during year. Check the website for due dates and more information. Some representatives raised concerns about not knowing they will travel until right before trip, so might be unable to

apply for funding. It seems to be an unavoidable problem. Bill clarified that students can apply for travel funds once per year, and cycle restarts in January. Bill also made some clarifications about the priority of funding: presenters, attendees, and workshop participants. He noted that students can also apply for funds before they are accepted to a conference.

Bill also gave the **Graduate Faculty Senate (GFS) report**. The only issue of importance to graduate students discussed was a problem the Graduate School had experienced with e-mail. He said that if a student receives an e-mail that seemed incorrect, they should contact the Grad School directly.

Secretary Kate Hertweck had no significant news to report.

Vice President Leslie Rill gave the **GPC report**. She stated that representatives from MyZou advised student not to rely completely on the website; they should check with pertinent departments to be sure about information listed (financial aid, etc). Recommendations about how to improve the system should be sent to selmab@missouri.edu . She also related that student health insurance was currently being reevaluated. The focus of budget management on campus is improving faculty salaries. Also, educational fee waivers for graduate students were being reconsidered, and some modifications could possibly be recommended in the next few months. Although the “For All We Call Mizzou” campaign is producing lots of funds for the University, these monies are generally earmarked.

Items discussed at GPLC included Graduate Education Week, which will occur April 14-19. Additionally, several sections of Senate Bill 389 affecting graduate students were discussed. Criminal background checks of all instructors on campus will rely initially on self disclosure. Also, every instructor must be checked against the Missouri sex offender list. Student evaluations of instructors are mandated to be made available to all students by this legislation, although they ratings are not operationally defined and will not be implemented immediately. A task force on education fee waivers was also discussed.

Leslie also requested volunteers to help with receptions during major graduate student recruitment weekends.

V. Announcements

Check the Graduate School Website (gradschool.Missouri.edu) for upcoming professional development seminars on improving Powerpoint presentations and interviewing skills.

Next GSA general assembly meeting: Tuesday, February 12 2008 at 6 pm, room TBA.

VI. Adjournment