**GSA Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 4th, 2012 at 5:15 pm DRC2 Room 1002**

* Meeting Minutes from November Approved, will be posted on NEW GSA Blog site
* Members Present: Duy Ha, Heather Talbott, Prathamesh Patil, Aditya Bade, Ariel Burns, Krupa Savalia, Hollie Siebler, Jamie Arnst, Carly Ninemire, Terri Vadovski, Carolyn Schaeffer, Mercury Wu, Wen Shi, and Amanda Lakamp presided
* Old Business
* **International Student Officer election** – *Thursday, Nov. 8th*
* Congratulations: Aditya Bade (PEN)
* Chairs the International Student Affairs Committee
* Email Aditya if interested in serving on the committee
	+ - ***Anyone is welcomed to join! No elections required***
* **Student Advocate** – Serve as non-executive GSA member on Student Discrepancy Committee
	+ Congratulations: Alicia Schiller (Formerly Diener)
	+ Committee: Dr. Karen Gould, Dr. Iqbal Ahmad, Dr. Dan Monaghan, Krupa Savalia, Aditya Bade
		- ***Please contact members with pertinent issues affecting you and other graduate students***
* **Senate Elections**
	+ Congratulations to all elected Grad Student Senators:
		- Alicia Schiller, Ben Reiner, Krupa Savalia, Lisa Kosloski, Nicky Haverland, Mercury Wu, and Prathamesh Patil
		- ***Please contact your senators with questions or concerns***
* **Coffee Vendor Survey** – *DRC1 atrium,* *Nov. 5th to Nov. 9th*
	+ Received favorable results, which will be posted on the GSA Blog site
	+ Many requested for a coffee vendor in the morning
	+ Upcoming morning coffee vendor trial: ***Jan. 21st to 25th DRC1 Atrium (New Vendor)***
		- ***New trial vendor is currently being solicited by administration***
		- ***Reasons for New Vendor is to meet needs of graduate students who voiced through the survey that coffee portion size is too small for amount paid and morning times are better***
		- ***Vendor Suggestions welcomed, so let GSA know (13th St Coffee, LaRoue, Creighton Coffee)***
		- ***Possible additional location elsewhere on campus if demand is high***
* **Dr. Bill Lydiatt seminar** – *DRC 1004, Tuesday, Nov. 20th*
	+ Member of UNMC Promotion & Tenure Committee
	+ Discussed strategies to improve success and likelihood of achieving tenure
	+ Presentation will be posted on new GSA Blog Site
		- ***Graduate students and Postdocs said it was helpful***
		- ***Categories of Activities and Levels of Impact of each all contribute***
		- ***Pathway towards being nominated and how selection committee is structured was helpful***
* New Business
* **Sodexo/Student Forum** – *Friday, Dec. 7th at 2 pm in Wittson Hall Auditorium*
	+ Directions of auditorium included in email announcement
	+ Discuss student interest in food vendors in Sorrell and DRC buildings
	+ Discuss possible Student Discount on Food and Services at UNMC
	+ Voice concerns and give suggestions to Sodexo/UNMC Food Service Reps
	+ Hear Sodexo/UNMC Food Service Reps proposal for vendors in both buildings
		- ***Suggested to Sodexo to bring in lunch vendor Tues/Fri that meets our demands of $5 with fair amount of food – should give them deadline to be involved***
		- ***If Sodexo does not meet deadline GSA will work with UNMC to get our own vendors***
		- ***Based on meeting, GSA may expand lunch/dinner vendors to meet grad student needs***
		- ***Would also like Sodexo to consider providing students a discount at cafeterias***
* **Spring Seminar Topics** (Ariel)
	+ Current GSA budget…**$ 3,400**
	+ Career Development committee made list of possible speakers/topics:
		- Science/Business – Student receiving an MBA or Current MBA/PhD
		- Lab Manager in Industry
		- Grant Writer – “How to improve your F31 writing” (before UNMC fellowship deadline)
		- Science Editor for a scientific journal
		- NIH representative (Clinical, Basic, and Translational research; Public Policy)
		- Speed Reading seminar – Student recommended
		- Rick Parmley – “Public Speaking and Effective Communication workshop” (all day)
			* Recommended by the College of Public Health
			* Asked GSA for full/partial sponsorship for his honorarium ($1000)
		- ***Overall, Lab Manager in Industry and NIH Representative were the most popular topics***
		- ***Career Development committee will look for suitable speakers and work out the logistics***
		- ***Science/Business (3rd popular topic) may also be considered if the other topics cannot be achieved for Spring term since we already have contacts for possible speakers (Jeff Schmidt and Air Nowacek)***
		- ***Grant Writer was postponed to the Fall 2013 since the Graduate Studies Office will have Dr. Caplan host a workshop on this very topic in the Spring – Science Editor may be considered alongside Grant Writing if one of the two topics is a UNMC faculty member***
		- ***Public speaking workshop was decided against since it is all day and is not practical for students logistically – additionally if topic is not tailored specifically to graduate student audience may not be as helpful as the others – also high cost was a factor***
		- ***Speed reading may not be a helpful skill towards critically reading/analyzing scientific data***
* **December & Spring Activities** (Prathamesh/Heather)
	+ December activity
		- End of the year celebration – Grad Student social hour
		- Provide hot cider, warm tea, cool water, and sweet treats
		- ***Date was finalized to Monday, December 17th at 4:00 pm with cupcakes and cookies – timing would not conflict with exams (previous week) and department seminars and would be early enough that many students may not have left for winter break***
		- ***Fliers should be made ASAP; Heather and Prathamesh will work with Duy to get them out***
	+ Spring activities
		- Previous activities (Movie night – Askarben, bowling, zoo trip, museum – Bodies exihibit)
		- Suggestions?...(previous suggestion: cultural potluck off-campus)
		- ***Did not discuss – deferred to next meeting***
* **Graduate Council Meeting Updates** (Amanda)
	+ UNMC Assistantship/Fellowship competition – Letter of intent due ***December 31st***
		- ***Major Changes: Two instead of Three years of funding, Research Proposal structure more like NIH, No more mentor letters but instead section on how Mentor will help student achieve scientific developmental plan***
	+ MSBRF Abstract – Due ***December 14th***
		- ***Great opportunity to practice giving oral/poster presentations with judge feedback***
		- ***Top 3 of each oral and poster get monetary rewards***
		- ***If interested in volunteering to facilitate oral and poster sessions please contact Duy Ha, Academics Affairs Committee Chair (******dha@unmc.edu******)***
	+ IDP – Individual Development Program – (<http://myIDP.sciencecareers.com>)
		- Site lists career fields and ranks them based on your skill level and interest
		- Compares your skill level and interest to that of an expert in the specific field
		- Set goals for career and skill development
		- ***Once developed specifically for UNMC, will incorporate into website so students can easily forms and materials***
* Other Business
* **Potential Career Development Fair** (Amanda)
	+ Bring organizations and businesses to UNMC – to recruit students
	+ Inform current graduate students on alternative career fields
	+ Involve schools in University of Nebraska system (UNL, UNO, UNK, Creighton?)
	+ Email suggestions to Amanda
		- ***Will discuss more at a future meeting once details are developed***
* **GSA Issues Committee and Student Discrepancy Committee**
* Updates or topics to discuss?
* ***No new topics or updates***
* **Spring seminar topic:**
	+ Invite representative from each UNMC Core Facility to describe their services
	+ Seminar will familiarize students and postdocs with the facilities and their purpose
	+ Could further improve research and keep funding UNMC facilities
		- ***In the Spring, there will be a panel/poster presentation for students called “CORE Day” – however, many do not know about these events so GSA will help advertise***
		- ***Based on event, GSA may either create our own seminar to further help graduate students know of these resources, or help create supplemental guides for students to take home from the panel/poster presentation – will also post on website***
* **Updating to new GSA Blog site** (Duy)
	+ Updates?
		- ***Site is mostly functional right now with most of the current information updated***
		- ***All information from old site will be incorporate into blog by December 15th (IT requested)***
		- ***New blog website will be announced at the beginning of next year with instructions for graduate students on how to use the site and provide feedback on user friendliness***
		- ***Home page has synopsis of all current GSA activities to help students efficiently keep up with what is going on – including upcoming meeting agenda and recent meeting minutes***
		- ***Please submit photographs from recent events and any other relevant information you think would be a great resource for graduate students to webmaster Duy Ha (******dha@unmc.edu******)***
		- ***In the Spring, Academic Affairs Committee will work to expand content in terms of guides for Domestic and International Students, Resources for Current Students, and also a section for us to connect with Alumni***
		- ***Have been in contact with Alumni Committee (help UNMC connect to all of its previous students) and IPE (Interprofessional Education) Committee – will incorporate relevant information from these UNMC initiatives into website to inform students on progress***
* **International Student Issues** (Aditya)
	+ Student Ambassador Committee report
		- ***Aditya serves on the Ambassador Committee and will update the GSA on the process of applying and selection of Student Ambassadors – will attend all relevant committees pertaining to this program and update us at future meetings***
		- ***International Student Affairs Committee will work with Duy to update this information on website***
	+ Updates?
		- ***Issue was brought up that Chinese Students through the Pacific Rim Development Program are proportionately not getting UNMC Fellowship Funding and are hoping to get more funding opportunities by UNMC***
		- ***Terri Vadowski from Graduate Students was present and said such students are not eligible for UNMC Fellowship until their Chinese Scholarship funding has ended (4th Year) but perhaps they do not know this and still apply – will ask Pacific Rime Program to make sure this is known to them and they get a timeline to apply at the right time***
		- ***Suggestions to increase opportunities: Allow many international students who are in the same situation as Pacific Rim Chinese Students to apply for UNMC Fellowship before 4th year so they get grant writing and application experience – furthermore have a way for those students to get recognized for the merit of their research, possibly a one-time $1000 grant much like how this year UNMC will award money to students who applied for NIH F fellowships and get a high merit score but were not funded***
		- ***Reason for the above is that many international students are not US citizens and are not allowed to apply for NIH grants and if their work is not related to organizations that have funding opportunities for international students (American Heart/Cancer Associations, etc) they have no other opportunities to apply for grants and get feedback on their work – such recognition may be important for furthering their career in the US if they wish to do that***
* **Updating GSA electoral process and alternative GSA meeting times**
	+ Use of open elections…success with senate election via CARE website
	+ Move officer elections to Spring instead of August
	+ Create survey to determine preferred GSA meeting times
		- ***Overall, it was voted that GSA did not need an electronic elections through CARE***
		- ***It was voted that all GSA Executive Positions be elected in the Spring***
		- ***Furthermore, voted to improve ease with which to cast ballots although current elections are “open” meaning any students can come and vote***
		- ***At next meeting will discuss requiring candidates to have attended a certain number of GSA meetings throughout the year (possibly 4/8 from Sept-Apr, while May meeting has elections)***
		- ***Brought up idea of sending out survey for preferred GSA meeting times – then trying having some meetings at that time to see if participation is increased – if not then will revert back to current meeting time***
* Individual Committee Meetings
* **Issues Committee** (Krupa):
	+ Discuss minor responsibilities and current issues
* **Academic Affairs Committee** (Duy):
	+ Discuss minor responsibilities and updating the blog site
* **Career Development Committee** (Ariel):
	+ Discuss minor responsibilities and Spring Seminar Topics & Speaker suggestions
* **Social Committee** (Heather & Prathamesh):
	+ Discuss minor responsibilities and Spring activity
* **International Student Affairs Committee** (Aditya):
	+ Discuss minor responsibilities and any issues affecting international students
* ***No specific minor issues discussed at GSA – deferred to individual committee meetings***
* Adjourn