**GSA Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, January 8th, 2013 at 5:15 pm DRC2 Room 1002**

* Introductions and signing of attendance sheet
* Meeting Minutes approved from Dec and posted on the GSA blog site
* Members present: Jamie Arnst, Nick Griffin, Heather Talbott, Carly Ninemire, Alicia Schiller, Ben Reiner, Hollie Siebler, Danielle Tate, Duy Ha, Prathamesh Patil, Mercury Wu, Raheleh Miralami, Krupa Savalia, Terri Vadovski, Erin Rosenbaugh, Aditya Bade, and Amanda Lakamp presided
* Old Business
* **Sodexo Student Forum** – *Friday, Dec. 7th*
	+ Students from Sorrell/DRC buildings like the current vendors and feel their service is adequate
	+ New lunch vendors: Big Horn Mtn. BBQ (Tuesdays) and Chicago Dawg (Fridays)
	+ Members of Sodexo stated that they have no intent on managing these vendors
	+ Discussed Student Discount (10%) at retail venues within the Med Center, discount would only be accessible by use of your UNMC swipe card with an open account to access funds.
	+ Sodexo/UNMC Food Service Reps are looking into the development of a convenience store for the DRC buildings…currently surveying a possible location…details soon to follow
		- *Chicago Dawg did not have a meal deal for $5, rather it was just for the hot dog – will ask Tina Spencer to see if cookie/chips/pop can be included for $5*
		- *No vegetarian options for the new BBQ and Chicago Dawg vendors – should see if there are non-pork/beef options too – ask in survey if students want veggie options whole week*
		- *Still waiting to hear back for the 10% student discount and swipe card accounts*
* **Winter Holiday Celebration** (Prathamesh/Heather)
	+ End of the year celebration – *Monday, December 17th*
		- Provided hot chocolate, cider, coffee, and cookies
	+ 49 people attended, budgeted $100 and spent $107
		- *Tasty cookies and yummy cider, enjoyed how many students stayed in Commons to socialize*
* **Spring Seminar Topics** (Ariel)
	+ Preferred speakers/topics from Dec meeting:
		- Lab Manager in Industry – Kathy Barker
		- NIH representative (Clinical, Basic, and Translational research)
		- *Updates – Possibly Joe Tringali, could refer a speaker, but they could be from a larger company – can also look into smaller/local industry– Prof at Lincoln Mass Spec Industry*
		- *Amanda will send email out that describes each speaker, students will vote through a survey, Speaker CVs and descriptions of candidate speakers will be posted on new GSA website*
* **Academic Requirements and Course Handbook** (Duy/Terri)
	+ Updates on Handbook/webpage?
		- *April 15th Student Handbook completed and posted online*
* **New GSA Blog site** **and Grad Studies Facebook page** (Duy/Terri)
	+ Reveal the new user friendly site that centralizes information between graduate studies and GSA
	+ Turning Facebook into a recruitment tool
	+ Suggestions or comments…Please email Duy
		- *Concern that blog site may not be sustainable given the need for coding knowledge – but blog tool is very user friendly and one would only need to know basic HTML to format page and this can be achieved in a training of a couple hours*
* New Business
* **2013 GSA Survey**
	+ Short questionnaire will be sent out to all graduate students – ***Monday, January 14th***
	+ Questions: GSA seminars/events, on preferred GSA meeting days/times, the GSA electoral process
	+ *Reviewed contents – try to narrow down to fewer questions and convert some open ended questions into multiple choice questions*
	+ *Include question on whether listing specific projects that committee members can work on would increase their likelihood to participate*

* **IPE** (Krupa/Duy)
	+ Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program – Topic presented at Senate, but further discussion was needed before implementation in the graduate colleges…*as of late the IPE program for medicial/patient care based students has been dissolved as a result of lack of funds*
	+ CIP students and a few senators are creating a “proposal,” which will be forwarded to Drs. Nickol and Davies in the next week or so.
		- *This is to encourage students to formally network with other professions to advance their graduate thesis work or career development*
		- *If you are interested in helping to shape guidelines please contact Duy or Krupa*
* **CV/Resume Review**
	+ First review by UNMC faculty (relevant to applying for a position in a scientific field)
	+ GSA will organize review session, after Fellowship Deadline
	+ Have list of volunteering faculty members
	+ Will create a template for review/comments sheet for faculty members
* **Spring activities** (Heather/Prathamesh)
	+ Possible activities:
		- Henry Doorly Zoo day –*Senate is organizing a Zoo day in the Spring, the GSA will work with Senate to help distribute tickets*
		- Bowling Night – *Very cost effective since can split even on costs, if at Kelly’s Lanes we can have whole place to ourselves*
		- Cultural Potluck (International and national student prepared food) – *might be too complicated to organize enough food for all students and might not be cost effective*
		- *Ice skating evening – offer hot cocoa and cider (looking to organize/host event soon)*
		- *Karaoke night at a location in either North Omaha or Papillion…need to provide carpool services for students without transportation*
	+ Suggestions?
* **Coffee Vendor Survey** – *DRC1 atrium,* ***Jan. 21st to 25th***
	+ Morning trial 7:30-10:30 am ***(New vendor)***
	+ Currently soliciting for a new vendor by administration (Jeff Elliot)
		- ***Amanda should hear back from Jeff by the end of the week on a new vendor***
* **MSBRF Volunteers**
	+ Volunteers will facilitate oral and poster sessions (do **NOT** have to be presenter)
	+ Breakfast and lunch provided to all volunteers – will be contacted for food preferences, volunteer times, and specifics on parking at a later date
	+ Please contact Duy Ha, Academics Affairs Committee Chair (dha@unmc.edu)
* **Graduate Council Meeting Updates** (Amanda)
	+ UNMC Assistantship/Fellowship competition – Letter of intent due ***December 31st***
	+ Encouraged to apply for external funding – additional supplement applicable based on review scores
	+ New Bioinformatics program – offered at UNO in connection with UNMC – *Rob Weir, a UNMC MD/PhD student is one of the first students to be a part of this, so please talk to him if interested*
	+ Looking to improve thesis submission - Library
* Other Business
* **NIH Fellowship Writing Workshop** – ***Thursday, January 10th (11am) DRC Auditorium***
	+ Presented by Dr. Steve Caplan (BMB)
	+ Focused on NIH F31 and F32 format – from reviewer’s perspective
	+ Open to students, postdocs, mentors – Free lunch for first 40 attendants
* **GSA Issues Committee and Student Discrepancy Committee**
* Looking to maintain a permanent committee by faculty and students
* Dr. Gould has spoken with Dr. Davies about students' desire to establish a permanent graduate student grievance committee
* A “flowchart for various contacts and resources available on campus is currently being created to outline the steps students can take in the event of issues”
* Discussion of “flow cart” – *Perhaps add note that the chart is a recommended protocol/guideline and students can contact any of the resources that they are more comfortable with*
* *Contact Krupa will possible questions or scenarios where this flow chart could be helpful to its user*
* **International Student Issues** (Aditya)
	+ Updates – *Number of participants still being determined for the Ambassadors Program*
		- *March – an application to become an Ambassador to incoming international students will be made available (each incoming student will have 2 ambassadors: 1 national student and 1 international student from the same culture)*
		- *Becoming an ambassador will require permission from your PI and 2 hours training (will receive certificate that can be noted on CV)*
	+ *International students and faculty will be asked to attend an orientation a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the beginning of Fall term to assist in the assimilation of new incoming international students,*
	+ *At that time, students and faculty can address issues and concerns with the new school year as well as network within the UNMC international community*
* **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 – *Possibly recruit student help if needed*
		- *Amanda will contact the Graduate Student Associations/Organizations at the other Nebraska campuses to determine the level of interest*
		- *The goal is to host a larger scale event by Fall 2013 or Spring 2014*
		- *Looking to recruit local biomedical/industrial companies (big and small) and perhaps large nationally recognized companies (depending on the level of interest and students involved)*
* 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
* Adjourn