

GSA Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, September 4th, 2012 at 5:15 pm
DRCII rm 1002**

- **Members Present:** Duy Ha, Krupa Savalia, Ariel Burns, Prathamesh Patil, Heather Talbott, Jamie Arnst, Caronda Moore, Danielle Tate, Carly Ninemire, Alex Moffit, Tim Bielecki, BrittanyPoulaert, and Amanda Lakamp presided.
- Minutes from September 2012 meeting approved and found on GSA website
- Old Business
 - Officer Introductions
 - **Krupa, Ariel, Duy, Heather, and Prathamesh introduced themselves**
 - International Student Orientation
 - Krupa and Raheleh volunteered as GSA representatives
 - GSA donated coffee and cookies from HyVee (\$50)
 - Thank you received from Danielle Dohrman
 - **Casual event went well and encouraged Danielle to involve the GSA at next year's international student orientation.**
 - New Student Orientation
 - Thursday, August 16th...very good turn out
 - Comments or suggestions from students:
 - **Feedback was positive: useful information was provided to students**
 - **Suggested to have senior student panel to answer questions – perhaps GSA can incorporate into BBQ if not possible at orientation**
 - Welcome Back BBQ
 - Friday, August 24th (11-1 pm) in Swanson Hall Courtyard
 - 223 attended, original budget (\$1500)...spent (\$1549.77)
 - Comments or suggestions:
 - **Students found vegetarian options tasty and overall it went smoothly**
 - **Next time vendor needs to be told prior they will not be paid the day of the event to avoid any misunderstandings**
 - Student Health Insurance Forum
 - Tuesday, August 28th (12-1:30 pm) in DRC 1005
 - 50 attended, spent (\$248.15)
 - Thoughts on Student Panel Q&A Session ... and Overall Comments:
 - **Need bigger room such as DRC 1002 (Auditorium) or 1004**
 - **Next year will reserve and schedule with presenters ahead of time**
 - **Set date for last week of August to ensure before health waiver deadline**
 - **Call food vendor directly instead of UNMC catering to avoid surcharge**
- New Business
 - October meeting

- **Amanda will be absent for October meeting, Krupa will preside in her place**
 - Dr. Dele Davies will attend Oct. meeting to discuss changes in University system and to have a Q&A session
 - **Great time to discuss student issues (maternity leave, parking, etc)**
 - **Graduate students encouraged to send questions to Krupa ahead so they can be presented in an organized manner**
 - **Push for advertisement of event since critical issues will be discussed**
 - Biostatistics Workshop
 - Joyce Solheim, CRGP Academic Advisor
 - Wants to offer basic biostatistics workshop (3-4 hrs) for all grad students
 - Looking for GSA sponsorship of credit hours
 - **Overall, students hope organizers will be able to make event free**
 - **GSA financial support may be limited, but would like to give input**
 - **Students suggest course material to directly relate statistical concepts and applications to tasks most likely encountered in research rather than general lectures from courses already offered**
 - Library Resources Seminar (Ariel and Jamie)
 - Allisa Fial (education librarian) presents a 1 hr seminar
 - September Event
 - **Event will take place on September 18th, 2012 from 9:45-11:00AM**
 - **DRC 1002 and 1004 both reserved; will choose based on numbers**
 - **Topics suggested: Refworks, Resources that graduate students may not know about such as having librarian help with literature search**
 - **Ask for postdoc involvement, if they can help with snacks/beverages**
 - GSA Halloween Havoc
 - Avoid College of Medicine Road Rally (scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27th)
 - Location (previous: McFly's Tavern off Center/45th St.)
 - Food: Sam's Club/Costco goodies
 - **Event will take place November 2nd to avoid Road Rally (Oct 27th)**
 - **Location of McFly's chosen due to size of space and ample parking**
 - **Get similar food as last year – fruit and veggies were good options**
 - **No gift-card costume contest prizes – focus money on food and beverages....instead to gag gifts as contest prizes**
- Grad Council meeting
 - Recommended changes to funding requirements for NIH and UNMC
 - **Increased number of enrolled graduate students, age of graduating students and the duration of PhD career has also increased**
 - **As of July 1, 2012 the government will no longer cover subsidized loan interest (no deferment or government subsidy of new Stafford loans)**
 - **Decreased funding for US/domestic students ... capped funding to 5th year**
 - **Increase number of students covered by training grants and fellowships versus research project grant without increasing number of students in lab**

- **Evidence shows students trained on or applied for K, T or F awards are more successful than those trained on R01s...examine the outcome of all PhD graduates across the US**
 - **Graduate Council and Graduate Studies want to monitor the career track of UNMC alumni from Graduate Studies**
 - **Requested an Alumni Relations department/representative for grad students and currently working with the UNMC alumni relations to do so.**
- Other Business
 - Senate Representative Elections in November
 - **All interested graduate students are encouraged to be a senate rep.**
 - UNeMED webinar: “Research Commercialization Introductory Course.”
 - **September 19th, encouraged to pre-register by emailing Val Gunderson at vgunders@unmc.edu by Sept. 14th**
 - **Caronda Moore represented UNeMED and informed students that course can be taken online and students will receive a certificate upon completion if not more than two classes are missed**
 - **GSA will help advertise by posting flyers around campus**
 - Request for a list of regional Industrial/biomedical research organizations for potential job opportunities for UNMC grad students after pre-doctorate degree
 - **Duy Ha and Academic Affairs Committee will accomplish**
- Individual Committee Meetings
 - Discuss duties and responsibilities of committee members and set goals for 2012-2013
 - **Committee leaders were given lists of members and will contact them**
- Take group photo
 - **Deferred to a future meeting**
- Adjourn