

GSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 5:15 pm

DRC2 room 1002

- Members present: Amanda Lakamp, Xiaomeng Wan, Hangting Hum Emily Edwards, Heather Talbott, Mercury Beiging Wu, Jacob Contreras, Dongwei Guo, Yinnong Jia, Miriam Menezes, Danille Fenster Tate, Carly Ninemire, Weiwei Zhang, and Gulzar Ahmad. Jamie Arnst presided.
- August meeting minutes approved
- Old business
 - August elections:
 - President: Erin Rosenbaugh
 - Vice-president: Jamie Arnst
 - Secretary: Amanda Lakamp
 - Treasurer: Ariel Burns
 - Social Chairs: Krupa Savalia, Eric Tom
 - Graduate Studies Orientation:
 - Students recommend getting ID prior to orientation due to the long line
 - Welcome Back BBQ
 - 210 people attended
 - Spent \$1400.00: Red Zone BBQ (\$1315.00), Pop/Ice (\$65), Fundraiser Prizes (\$20)
 - Students liked Red Zone BBQ's service and food.
 - Need to advertise as a "Student ONLY" event
 - Suggested to have a complete list of current grad student names to confirm enrollment as a grad student for GSA event participation
 - Dessert Competition and Fundraiser:
 - Raised \$90 (lower than expected) and increased petty cash to \$170.00
 - Winners: 1st Erin Wuebben CRGP, 2nd Michelle Edgen, 3rd Jenn Kopanic
 - Fundraiser wasn't well advertised, info was lost in the BBQ emails
 - Student Health Forum:
 - Only Pat Oberlander from Macori presented, Tere Batt from Student Health was unable to attend and present Fund B

- Students felt it was helpful, although the room was too small
- Hope to reserve a larger room to accommodate more students next year
- New business
 - GSA website revised and updated
 - New and revised tips/info and links for both new and more senior students
 - Send comments or suggestions to Amanda Lakamp
 - Changes to BRTP courses
 - Graduate council decided to redefine the BRTP courses to prevent overlap of lectures
 - 821: topic Cellular Energetics will be added (might make this course harder)
 - 822: More focused on Cell Biology; Cell adhesion, Vesicular/Membrane Transport lectures will be added. Thus Genetics will be moved to 823
 - Nucleic Acids/Chromatin and Protein Translation & Degradation will be moved to 823
 - 823 will focus more on genetics and gene expression
 - 824 will remain the same
 - This reconstruction DOES NOT effect or apply to current grad students
 - Graduate council have also discussed the potential of making departments have uniform course requirements for graduation...ex: PhD students must have a minimum of 9 classes to graduate. But this is still under discussion and no changes have currently been planned.
 - Student Senate: applications in October, elections in November (11 seats)
 - Senate meets 1st Wednesday of every Month (dinner provided)
 - Contact Erin Rosenbaugh for application instructions
 - 2 goals for the year: Potential Goals
 - Reduce the cost of Major Medical Macori Insurance
 - Develop a better Dental Plan
 - Develop a Student Parking Structure
 - Enforce grad students to complete comprehensive exam by end of 4th year
 - Course Administrators to have a finalized syllabus and class time/schedule by the commencement of the course
 - Viewing of the PhD comics movie

- After September 15th, Several students are interested
 - Cost of first screening is \$700, Blue Ray and DVD format
 - Looking for Co-sponsor with UNO, Creighton, and/or UNMC Student Senate
 - UNO has a comic scholar and may create a course to cover the screening fee
 - May require an admission fee
- Formation of a “Student Issues” committee (See GSA Constitution)
 - VP would be the chair of this committee and delegate problems pertaining to IT, registration, and parking issues for graduate students
 - Looking into updating computer equipment in DRC classrooms (lack sufficient number of internet jacks for students)
 - Wireless internet connections diminish at higher floors since routers are on the 1st floor. Some students would prefer to have wireless routers in laboratories
 - UNMC Student Parking issues
 - If unable to find a parking in a student lot, park in an employee lot (NOT Visitor lot) and contact parking services and notify them where you parked (make sure to move your car if asked to)
 - GSA Halloween Havoc:
 - Friday, October 28th or Friday, November 4th (Depending on Road Rally scheduling)
 - At McFly’s Tavern (Center & 45th street) in the downstairs basement
 - Discussion of fall and spring seminars
 - Joe Tringali: Managing Director of Tringail & Associates, Inc., a recruitment consulting practice based in Manchester, New Hampshire.
 - 20yrs experience in Human Resources and designing/implementing creative staffing programs and executive search practices within Life Sciences
 - Pharmaceuticals/biotechnology industries, including Pfizer, Eisai, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Biogen Idec, Genzyme and Infinity Pharmaceuticals contact him when seeking to hire a position within their company
 - Areas of interest: how to apply for positions in these related companies and how to get the job
 - Potential Seminar topics:
 - Education hiring consultant
 - Comparing job criteria between Undergraduate vs. Graduate education
 - A list of all possible careers for Ph.D./post-graduates

- Get involved in GSA! Sign up for a committee