

UNMC GSA At Large January Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015
12-1pm
DRC1 1005

1. Approval of the minutes from December At-Large GSA Meeting **Approved**
2. Announcements:
 - a. **Towing Zone will be enforced 24/7 in DRC1 and DRC2 loading dock area.**
 - b. **DRC1 self-serve convenience store is now open**
 - c. **Spring 2015 GSA Monthly Meetings – First Wednesday of the month in DRC1 1005**
3. Action Items:
 - a. **Dr. Susan Carson** – Heather and Ekta
 - b. **Career Fair** – Heather
 - c. **Holi** – Heather and International Student Committee
Early May or end of April
Feb 19th – Chinese New Year
 - d. **Graduate Student Feedback** – Open forum discussion for graduate student needs.
Convocation – Several students brought up that convocation and commencement are currently required by Graduate Studies. Most students agreed that these events should be strongly recommended but not required for students. In order to make these events more appealing to graduating graduate students suggestions included having student accomplishments written-up for inclusion within the program and on the graduate studies website. Also the ceremony should be short with the focus on the graduating students rather than the speakers (who aren't graduating). Students would also appreciate if their pin could be mailed to them if they cannot come to the event.

Portfolios – some students are still confused are portfolios required or not? Only CRGP and MSIA-Sub Applied Behavior still require portfolios, The myIDP and annual progress reports will eventually replace the portfolio requirement. Until that is established, students and faculty should keep committee meeting minutes and updated CVs. GSA should stress the importance of keeping committee meeting minutes to students (Updates from Graduate Council meeting)

UNMC Fellowship – Some students brought up that the UNMC Fellowship has no benefit to students besides helping their PI with funding. Also, some international students are concerned that because there is no “proof” of receiving the fellowship or way to verify the status that an award certificate should be given to students who receive the UNMC Fellowship.

Graduate Council agreed that a certificate indicating the awarding of the UNMC fellowship could be implemented. However, they felt there was no need to adjust the “reward” to students for completing a UNMC Fellowship since the rewards were in skills gained in the research and writing of the proposal, feedback from graduate faculty, and experience in fulfilling grant requirements and assisting the laboratory as a whole proceed with the research. Several suggestions were given to help change student’s perception of the UNMC fellowship, 1) explaining the benefits of applying and receiving feedback to students through Graduate Studies, GSA, and individual PIs 2) Create a standardized wording for students to indicate that they received a **competitively-awarded, merit-based** fellowship from UNMC. Faculty who have students with UNMC fellowships should be recruited to serve as reviewers. We will gather a listing of external fellowships available to international students. (Updates from Graduate Council meeting)

UNMC Graduate Student Stipend – Students would like to receive larger stipends. Dr. Solheim and the CRGP program brought this issue to light and discussions are currently underway to raise the UNMC standardized stipend award for graduate students.

NIH Stipend:	22,476	→	22,900
UNMC	22,700	→	23,100 (Start July 1 st 2015)
CRGP (current)	24,000		
CRGP (proposed)	25,000 ²⁰¹⁵	→	26,000 ²⁰¹⁶ → 27,000 ^{candidates}

(Updates from Graduate Council meeting)

Post-doc mailing list – Graduate students would like to receive pertinent announcements from the Post-doc office of continuing education.

4. Reports:
 - a.

5. Other business:
 - a.

6. Reminders:

- a. **Next at large meeting:** Wednesday, February 4th, 12-1pm, DRC1 1005