

UNMC GSA Officers and Committees

January Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2015

11am-12pm

DRC Atrium

1. Announcements:

- a. After Dark Student Shuttle
- b. Now accepting nominations for UNMC Faculty Senate awards
- c. Exam Scheduling is active in Sequidor
- d. Student Senate Faculty awards will begin accepting nominations soon
- e. BOSS proposals due Feb 16th
- f. Student Termination Policy referred back to a committee
- g. UNMC Fellowships DUE – February 15th

2. Action Items:

a. Umbrella Graduate Program Committee Updates and Feedback - Hollie

i. Updates on decisions that have been agreed on

- 1. Name – Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences
- 2. Generic name for individual programs – Graduate Programs (not Focus Areas)
- 3. The common program chair should be reviewed annually by the administration
- 4. Individual graduate programs may, if they choose, have a student representative on their committee
- 5. Mentors/the chair should confirm that a lab has sufficient funds before it takes a student.
- 6. Comprehensive exam

ii. Requested feedback on specific issues

- 1. Should the individual graduate programs or the common program notify the grad studies office of the acceptance (committed and/or uncommitted?)
- 2. Minimum GPA/GRE
- 3. Co-mentors
- 4. Curriculum
- 5. External funding

b. 2015 Midwestern Scientific Research Career Fair – Heather and Tyler

i. Updates on decisions that have been agreed on

- 1. Name – Midwest Graduate Coalition
- 2. Motto – “Keeping the best in the Midwest”

3. Sponsorship – current \$3450, need ~\$2000 more
4. Employers – 5 (corporate, government, non-profit, and graduate programs)
5. Participants – 3
6. Keynote at 12-1, lunch provided to participants and vendors
7. Breakout Sessions staggered throughout day, repeated morning and afternoon, if available

ii. Requested feedback/action on specific issues

1. Breakout Session Topics (recommendations)
2. Breakout Session Speakers (recommendations and introductions)
3. Employer recruitment (choose 1 and contact)

c. Holi – Heather, Sidra, Diane

- i. Date – April 17-18?
- ii. Budget - \$4000
- iii. Funding
 1. Boss proposals due to senate Feb 16th, final decision March 4th
 - a. \$750-1500
 2. GSA – proposed contribution \$1000 (depending on budget)
 3. Personal donations – make a list from last year
 4. Sponsorships – Food and otherwise (make a list and start recruiting)
- iv. Event ideas and organization
 1. Soccer tournament
 2. Henna tournament
 3. Flash mob
 4. School Carnival-like
 5. Qingming (Chinese tomb-sweeping festival, treeplanting, kite flying)
 6. Songkran (Tibetin festival, water fight)

d. Pi(e) Day – Heather, Shalis, Brady, Jannah

- i. Do we want to have this event? Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 3.1415
- ii. Fundraiser
- iii. Categories

e. Career Development Series – Hollie and Ekta

- i. Book Room – DRC1 1002
- ii. Design Flyers
- iii. Plan schedule
- iv. Order lunch if we can reserve room at lunch

f. Distinguished Graduate Mentor – Hollie and Heather

1. Convocation – May 8th
2. Decision – mid-late April
3. Final Judging Panel – mid-late April
4. Preliminary Judging Panel – early-mid April

5. Assemble judging panel – March - early April
6. Nominations due – end of March
7. Announce nomination period – March
8. Judging Criteria reevaluated – Feb

g. **Other Spring/Summer Social events – Social chairs**

h. **Volunteer for procuring food for February meeting –**

3. Reports:

- a. IPE Day – Brian
- b. Health Care Careers Day - Nick
- c. Fall 2014 GSA Activities - Heather

4. Other business:

- a. Raising student stipends within UNMC
- b. GSA Budget vs National Standards

5. Reminders:

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

Interprofessional Education Day – Brian Coburn

This year was the first year that students were invited to participate as facilitators alongside faculty members. It was also the first year that Graduate Studies students were invited to participate. The format of the day was a large group discussion followed by break-out groups with facilitators. In the break-out groups, the facilitators guided students through a series of team-building exercises. A mock bandage instruction exercise was used to illustrate the difficulty of creating effective and concise written instructions (though, the illustration generalizes to most communications). The importance was illustrated through the potential harm of an ineffective bandage design.

Next the students worked as a team in a survival task to prioritize a list of items to use after their plane crashes in Alaska. The group score is almost always higher than the individual average, as well as higher than most individual scores. This illustrated the added benefit of input from a variety of people. The general nature of the day made it relatively applicable to all professional endeavors from health professions to scientists and researchers. The day had good attendance from students: approximately 22 student facilitators (of which 2 were MD/PhD students and 1 was a graduate student). There were 12 graduate students who participated out of approximately 470 total participants.

Graduate student participants found the event concise and generally useful for emphasizing teamwork and communication. However, these comments reflect a minority of potential graduate students who could be involved and may represent a more active subpopulation. These students had a few recommendations. They suggested better advertising especially for first year graduate students who are not required to be on campus yet for orientation. It was recommended by attendees that more graduate students attend this event, but a recommendation for requiring attendance was not made. The recommendation of the Graduate Student Association IPE chair is to continue this event for graduate students with emphasis on mechanisms for expanding first year attendance by emailing faculty and students along with the other materials that may be sent to regarding the start of the semester for first year students.

Healthcare Career Day – Nick Griffin

Healthcare Career Day was Tuesday, October 14, 2014 in the COPH building from 12-2pm. Dr. Carmines provided handouts regarding the various programs available at UNMC. Shalis Ammons, Brady Sillman, and Nick Griffin were the three graduate students available to discuss life as a scientist with the visiting high school students. Each student gave a brief introduction, including undergraduate degree emphasis and graduate thesis topic before opening the floor to questions. The three groups asked varied questions about graduate school including ones about why science was chosen as a career, high school, ACT and SAT scores, GPA, college majors/minors, life as a college student, undergraduate research, GRE scores, graduate school admission, classes, daily life, work, career goals, and life plans post-graduation.

It may be helpful to provide a simplified building map labeled with what will be discussed in each room with the itinerary to the students or some sort of signs on the doors. We had many lost or confused students asking us where a certain room was or what event was in the room we were in.

UNMC Graduate Student Association

Yearly Report – 2014

2015.01.14

This year, the GSA worked with the Graduate Studies Office to celebrate graduating students with a Graduate Studies convocation ceremony. This included the creation of an oath for graduate students, similar to the Hippocratic oath taken by medical students upon graduation. We also were instrumental in the creation of the newly established Graduate Student Grievance Resolution Procedure, which helps students address any issues with faculty during their time at UNMC. The GSA also established the annual Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award as judged by a committee composed exclusively of students and post-doctoral associates. Dr. Karen Gould was the winner of the first annual Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award, which was given at the first Graduate Studies Convocation ceremony. Graduate students were also provided several social and career development events held throughout the year, including a series on Teaching Opportunities for graduate and post-graduate associates.