

## GSA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:15 pm

DRC2 Room 1002

- Introductions, Signing of attendance sheet, Approval of minutes from the last (Oct) meeting
  
- Old Business
  - **Halloween Havoc** – Friday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> (8pm-1am), McFly's Tavern-Basement
    - 77 attended, Budgeted \$500, Total amount spent \$...
    - Pictures will be posted on GSA Facebook group
    - Comments or suggestions? **Enough Parking, More Beverages Needed**
  - **Dr. Dele Davies**, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate Studies
    - Impressed by the GSA and will meet attend GSA meetings at least four times per year
  
- New Business
  - **New GSA International Student Officer Elections**
    - Candidates: Introduction and intentions for position
      - Beiqing 'Mercury' Wu (PEN)
      - Ketki Patel (Public Health)
      - Xin Zhang (MSIA)
      - Aditya Bade (PEN)
      - Raheleh Miralami (MSIA)
      - Sarbinaz Bekmuratova (Public Health)
    - Unelected candidates are welcome to join the 'International Student Affairs Committee'
    - Candidates all gave their speeches and members voted – turnout what great with a total of about 100 students voting – two GSA board members counted votes and tallies concurred. Aditya Bade from PEN Department is the GSA International Student Officer! Congratulations! Most of the candidates expressed interest in being on the committee.**
  
  - **GSA Issues Committee** (Krupa)
    - Potential "after-hours" vendors (food/coffee vendors in DRC commons area)
      - Meeting with Deb Thomas and Jeff Elliot
      - Coffee Vendor Trial – *November 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (2-5 pm)*
        - Larger Size Coffee for Price and Morning Hours**
      - Vendor survey/questionnaire (give your input) – *Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>*
        - Survey has been electronically sent out and feedback overall is positive**
  
    - **WANTED Student advocate: for 'Student Discrepancy Committee'**
      - Leadership position for a non-executive GSA member
      - Work with GSA officers and faculty members to create a document for students/faculty on how to deal or go about resolving issues
      - Matters of grave importance can be dealt with/resolved by committee
      - Three students expressed interest and the selection process will be determined after the GSA board consults with faculty on the Student Discrepancy Committee on how to proceed.**
  
  - **Upcoming Seminar** (Ariel)
    - Dr. Bill Lydiatt (UNMC Promotion & Tenure Committee member)
      - **Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, DRC1 rm 1004 (1-2 pm)**

- Coffee and cookies provided on first served basis
  - Seminar is open to Post-Docs
  
- **Senate Elections**
  - Elections online through CARE website – *Voting is open from Nov 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>*
  - 7 Graduate Studies Senate seats available
  - Find candidate's info on CARE website
  
- **Graduate Council Meeting Updates**
  - Update/changes to UNMC fellowship competition – In response to NIH funding changes
    - Submit 'Letter of Intent' and perhaps application via email to Grad Studies
    - Resemble NIH F31 fellowship application – encourage strong applicants to apply for F31
    - Potentially change to max funding as 2 years
    - New sections added to application: *Respective Contributions, Applications for Concurrent Support, Goals for Fellowship Training and Career, Activities Planned Under This Award, Responsible Conduct of Research*
    - External funding: encourage students to apply (20% stipend supplement when awarded with external fellowships to students and now their PI's)
  - Maternity Leave guidelines
    - Students not eligible for Federal Mandated Leave or Absence (FMLA),
    - Disconnect with HR, see's students as employees – Re-work policy
    - Grad Council creating 'GSO Guidelines' that doesn't require endless paperwork
    - Leave issues associated with full-time status (affects health coverage, funding, etc)
  - Graduate Student Alumni Relations – Tracking System (Krupa)
    - Council is looking to improve tracking of students/postdocs/alumni
    - IDP – Individual Development Program – (<http://myIDP.sciencecareers.com>)
    - Set goals for career development in a particular field
    - Site lists career fields and ranks them based on your skill level and interest
    - Compares your skill level and interest to that of an expert in the specific field
  
- Other Business
  - **Grant Writing Seminar –December or January**
    - Organized Graduate Studies...details soon to follow
  - Potential Spring Career Development Fair (Amanda)
    - Bring organizations and businesses to UNMC – recruit students
    - Inform current graduate students on alternative career fields
    - Involve schools in University of Nebraska system (UNL, UNO, UNK)
    - Email Amanda Lakamp with suggestions
  - Upgrading the Course Handbook (Duy/Krupa)
    - User friendly: better course descriptions, include contact info, and course syllabus
    - Classes grouped based on career trajectories
  - Live Green, Sustainability Plan for UNMC – Chris Stratman (Verdis Group, assists UNMC with its environmental sustainability initiatives)
    - Developing an environmental sustainability master plan for UNMC and want to obtain student input regarding some of the strategies and goals of the plan

**The Live Green team hung multiple posters with ideas and students took different colored dots and put them on ideas they thought were great, good with possible issues to be discussed, or not good with significant flaws, correlating with different colors. The team then discussed the various**

issues related to many of the concepts and took our ideas on activities that would promote living greener on campus. Some ideas that arose:

- **Have activities where students are likely able to see the impact such as optimizing sprinkler, heating, lighting, air flow systems**
- **Help us incorporate routines in our every lab practice such as a checklist and encourage different departments (or even colleges) to do this (possible on a fun competitive basis)**
- **Increase public awareness as to where the cost savings goes (like to creating/saving jobs here on campus) so that students understand the impact**
- **Create challenge opportunities for student teams to work together to come up with ideas or on how to implement funded ideas, where they will be judged and awarded prizes – this will increase dialogue and awareness about problems but also have students contribute to solutions**

- Individual Committee Meetings

- **Issues Committee (Krupa):**
  - Discuss minor responsibilities and current issues
- **Academic Affairs Committee (Duy):**
  - Discuss minor responsibilities and updating to the blog site
- **Career Development Committee (Ariel):**
  - Discuss minor responsibilities and Fall/Spring Seminar Topics & Speaker suggestions
- **Social Committee (Heather & Prathamesh):**
  - Discuss minor responsibilities and December/Spring activity
- **International Student Affairs Committee (New officer):**
  - Discuss goals for the year and pertinent issues affecting international students

- Adjourn