

GSA Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2012 at 5:15 pm DRCI Room 1004

Introductions, Signing of attendance sheet, Approval of minutes from the last (Sept) meeting

Old Business

– **GSA Library Resources Seminar** – Tuesday, Sept 18th (9:45-11am), DRC1 Auditorium

- o Alissa Fial: request to include her for 2013 New Student Orientation
- o 27 attended, \$115 cost for coffee/pastries
- o Comments or suggestions?
 - Time of day when the event was held may have reduced participation
 - Students may have not gotten a clear sense of what information they would get out of workshop
 - If we have event next year, can upload workshop presentation online to increase participation

– **Student Senate BBQ** – Tuesday, Sept 18th (12-1pm), DRC1 Auditorium following seminar

- o **Senate Representative Elections** will be held in *November* – **Declare Candidacy by Oct. 31st**
 - Log onto CARE website to declare candidacy and/or cast your vote
 - New Electronic voting system (CARE website)! No re-voting will be allowed
- o Comments or suggestions for Senate?
 - Better/earlier advertising (participation was poor) – and too close to Graduate Barbeque event
 - Perhaps offer “UNMC – Omaha Food Festival” to all students in the Sorrell Center Courtyard
 - Senate meetings (first Wed of each month Sorrell 2010 at 5:30PM) are open to all students
 - Come to Senate meeting to see how it operates - voice your opinions (but no voting unless a Senator)

New Business

– **Graduate Student Issues & Goals of Issues Committee** (Krupa)

- o Ability to voice grievances regarding student issues – Process (GSA Grad Council/Senate)
- o Opportunity to become involved in advocacy and collaborate with Senate meetings open to ALL students
- o Creating “after-hours” resources (food/coffee vendors in DRC commons area?)
 - Students very receptive of idea and suggest having “food festival” to select new vendors
 - Would be convenient to grab dinner and/or coffee without having to travel too far when working late

– **Dr. Dele Davies**, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate Studies

o Increase opportunities for student participation in applying for training grants

- Encourage American students to apply to all that they qualify for (including NIH grants)
- Find and/or develop new opportunities for international students who do not qualify for as many grants
- Such grants would help students become more proactive in their projects and program of study

o Encourage students to discuss an Individual Development Plan (IDP) with their mentors

- Formulate a career path & specific steps to achieve goals along the way (academia, industry, teaching, etc)
- Students suggest that having formalized incorporation into track of studies (1mo internship, etc)
- May present disruptions to lab work but one solution is to have protected time in final year of studies
- Having students apply for their own funding will increase flexibility for such activities
- Goal is to have departments and mentors become more receptive to such ideas
- Providing system for students who teach courses (high school/undergrad/other) to gain credit/recognition
- Addition of course(s) to teach students “how” to teach effectively

o Improve Alumni Relations so current students can see what paths are possible and how to get there

Have alumni return and talk to students about their experiences (postdoc, industry, consulting, etc)
Provide a means for students to interact with alumni (such as website forms to keep in touch)
Possibility of creating live chat/webcam sessions if alumni are unable to travel to UNMC

o Provide centralized resource for students to pick classes and learn about career development opportunities

Often students do not know of classes offered by departments outside of their own
Current department websites are not standardized in terms of providing information about classes
Suggestion to create a handbook in conjunction with online resource (such as during registration)
Suggestion to create a system where students can review/rate particular class to help others decide
GSA website could be another centralized location to organize classes based on elective interests
For example, list all the classes/core facilities that can help students learn lab techniques
Does not have to be limited to classes – can include teaching opportunities (HSA/UNO)
Less reliance on “word of mouth” so that all students who want to participate are able to do so
Description should include topics taught, goals of class, and a syllabus from previous years

– GSA Halloween Havoc (Prathamesh & Heather) – *Friday, November 2nd 8pm-1am*

- o Location: McFly’s Tavern (45th /Center St) – lower room; snacks & unlimited soda provided!
- o Cover charge for students & their guests: \$5 (with costume), \$6 (without costume)
- o Costume contest at 10 pm (cutest, creative/superhero, funny) followed by piñatas!!!
Those interested in helping to decorate can arrive early at 7:30PM
GSA is also looking for volunteers to help Heather and Krupa make treats

– New GSA International Student Officer position – Elections *November 6th GSA meeting*

- o Interested candidates email Amanda (alakamp@unmc.edu) to declare intent to run
Mercury Wu and Xin Zhang are interested in running for this position
Suggestion for co-chair since this is the first year for this position on GSA Executive board
- o Information regarding candidates will be emailed to student body prior to election day
- o GSA Constitution has been updated to outline new position responsibilities as follows:
 - Advocate for international graduate students
 - Spearhead and chair the “International Student Affairs Committee”
 - Encourage international graduate student involvement in activities, professional/social
 - Communicate and collaborate anonymously with the Chair of the GSA Issues Committee to resolve any issues specifically affecting international graduate students
 - Assist and communicate with International Student Office when preparing new students for orientation (e.g. international student handbook/guide)

– New GSA blog site (Duy)

- o Converting to RedDot software for enhanced accessibility (e.g. Phi Chi site)
Need graduate student input while they are using site to improve “user friendliness”
Can compile content and use as a more effective advertising tool to reach out to graduate students
Use website forms to connect to alumni and provide resources for students to pick classes/electives
Vontact UNMC Today to help promote GSA meetings/news either directly or by linking to our website

– Fall/Spring Seminar Topics & Speakers (Ariel)

- o Dr. Bill Lydiatt (Head & Neck Surgeon) – UNMC Promotion & Tenure Committee member
Request to gear talk toward older graduate students
What is an academic committee looking for in an applicant?

How to get promoted in a future academic position after graduating with PhD?

Suggestions/Comments?

Student receptive to having this speaker in the near future

Other future topics: managing professional relationships and/or grant finances-economic planning

Subtopic may be a specific situation such as upon receiving first R01 – what are the next steps?

– **Graduate Council Meeting Updates**

o “Maternity/Paternity Leave Policy”

Currently, No policy exists but council is working to create “guidelines”

Upon Approval of “Guidelines,” info will be email to student body

o Graduate Student Alumni Relations

Council is looking to improve alumni relations

Roxanna Jokela, director of UNMC alumni relations

Development of Graduate Studies Chapter in UNMC Alumni Relations

Will work alongside Graduate Studies Council create Chapter

UNMC Alumni Relations office: 518 South 38th /Jackson St.

o Other Goals

Increase student recruitment to UNMC

Optimize Pre-Doctoral Training

 Other Business

– **College of Medicine’s Road Rally – Saturday, October 27th**

– **UNMC Graduate Student Photography Contest – Deadline Thursday, November 1st**

o Sponsored by the BRTP for all UNMC graduate students (MS or PhD)

o Refer to GSA website for contest rules/description and Media Authorization form

– **NIH Grant Training Seminar at UNL – Tuesday, October 16th**

o Graduate Studies is not sponsoring or endorsing this training seminar

Students requested to have similar training seminar at UNMC or in Omaha

– **Sodexo Updates**

o Sodexo manages food services in the med center cafeteria and Storz pavilion

o Desires to manage convenience store in Sorrell and lunch food vendors in DRC and Sorrell

o Implications:

Potentially denying \$5 maximum price cap on lunch meal deals

Remove great business from local vendors enjoyed by students & faculty in DRC

o Meeting between Sodexo Reps, student advocates and administrators – **Mid-October**

Sodexo will present their proposal for food vendors in DRC Commons & Sorrell

Meeting minutes will be presented at November GSA meeting

Students wanted to know if they can be present to express their views and/or create transparency

Process of selecting vendors over lunch requested to be known to encourage other local vendors

Perhaps student body can vote for vendors they would like in DRC via food fair

Contact person is Tina Spencer in student services

– **Student Health Issues**

o Students expressed concerns about clinic visits and inability to set appointments for acute illnesses

Senate is addressing this issue as well and any progress will be brought to attention ASAP

☒ Individual Committee Meetings

– **Issues Committee** (Krupa)

o Discuss minor responsibilities and goals for the upcoming year

– **Academic Affairs Committee** (Duy)

o Discuss minor responsibilities and updating to the blog site

– **Career Development Committee** (Ariel)

o Discuss minor responsibilities and Fall/Spring Seminar Topics & Speaker suggestions

– **Social Committee** (Heather & Prathamesh)

o Discuss minor responsibilities and Halloween Havoc

☒ Adjourn