

GSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5th, 2013 at 5:15 pm

DRC2 Room 1002

- Approved of minutes from Feb meeting (posted on GSA website)
- Members present: Krupa Savalia, Duy Ha, Prathamesh Patil, Heather Talbott, Aditya Bade, Ariel Burns, Carly Ninemire, Beiqing (Mercury) Wu, Wen Shi, Hollie Siebler, Terri Vadovski, and Amanda Lakamp presided.
- Old Business/Announcements
 - **No Friday Lunch Vendor** – Tina Spencer looking to fill vacant day
Looking into Mexican vendors
 - **UNMC Writing Group:** Contact Marissa Stanton (mstanton@unmc.edu)
 - Group of Postdocs/Students: work to improve scientific writing
 - **GSA Breakfast Social**
 - Offered Bruegger's bagels, coffee, hot cider/chocolate – March 4th in DRC Commons
 - Budgeted \$100, Spent \$110
Positive reaction from graduate students
 - **International Student Ambassadors** – need **national** and **international** ambassadors
 - Applications being accepted till March 15th
 - Two (1 hr) training session – receive certification for service
 - Contact Deb Keim for application
Amanda will send email detailing how much time and effort to be involved
 - **MSBRF UNMC Winners**
 - Congratulations to all the UNMC winners of Poster and Oral Presentations:
 - Poster: 1st) Sai Srinivas Panapakkam Giridharan, 3rd) Cassandra Hays
 - Oral: 1st) Shiv Ram Krishn, 3rd) Richa Hanamsagar, 4th) Parul Katoch
UNMC student did a great job overall, winning more than half the awards – congrats!
 - **Spring Career Development Seminars:**
 - Alternative Career Options: Keck Graduate Institute – March 13th at 1pm in DRC Auditorium
Amanda will forward more info about the institute and the upcoming seminar
 - Khan Academy: Active learning at UNMC – April 11th at 12 pm, Sorrell?
UNMC may be interested in incorporating this active learning into curriculum of colleges
 - Lab/Project Manager Panel – Tuesday, March 19th at 12 pm in Sorrell 2018
 - Informal Question & Answer session – offer cookies & coffee to attendants
Will ask all panelists for permission to record seminar
 - Dr. Robert Powers (UNL faculty, 10yrs in industry)
 - Maria Tosseh, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (Streck – Technical Service Manager)
 - Dr. Chuck Hankins (Novozyme, QES/Quality Control Manager)
 - Dr. Jon Anderson (LiCOR, Senior Scientist in Advanced Research & Dev.)
 - **Looking for more students to have lunch with Maria or Chuck...**
 - Dr. Cliff Mintz – Tuesday April 9th at 10:30-11:30 am in DRC Auditorium
 - Founder, CEO and Chairman of BioInsights, Inc.
 - Title: “Straight talk about Career Opportunities and Jobs in Biosciences in Industry.”
 - Formal seminar – offer brunch/snacks to attendants
 - Contacted Postdoc association for event sponsorship
 - **Looking for more students to have lunch with Cliff...**
 - **Morning Coffee Vendor** (Amanda)
 - Jeff Elliot and GSA created an RFP (proposal for soliciting a semi-permanent coffee vendor)
 - Proposal includes requested items from vendor (ex. price and ounces of offered drinks)
 - In return, vendor gives proposal as to how they're applicable to our RFP

- Will contact: 13th Street Coffee, Crane Coffee, Scooters Coffee, Jo-on-the-Go
- New Business
 - **Spring activities** (Heather/Prathamesh)
 - Another activity graduate students proposed was learning to ballroom dancing at clubs taught by instructors – will look into places nearby since this was our second top choice of events*
 - Movie Night at Aksarben Cinema
 - Suggested that in addition to movie night can have a social following that at Jones Brothers cupcake to promote interaction between students – this was voted top choice*
 - Pi Day – March 14th (bake-off fundraiser: come and vote for your favorite dessert)
 - Open to all UNMC Personnel and dessert enteries*
 - Contact Heather/Prathamesh by March 13th if competing (Give name and description of entry)*
 - All proceeds will be used for future GSA events – suggested donation of \$2*
 - International Game/Movie Night (w/English subtitles)
 - Deferred for next GSA Meeting – Aditya will discuss with International Student Committee*
 - **CV/Resume Review...all electronic** (Amanda)
 - Putative event for mid- or end of April
 - Reviewers: UNMC faculty – **Need more volunteers!!**
 - Please ask faculty to participate – will reduce workload for current volunteers*
 - If not enough faculty volunteer, then we will limit the number of participating students*
 - Contacted the faculty members and began assigning categories
 - GSA will provide: review/comments sheet for faculty & CV/resumes template for students
 - Faculty: select 2 career categories to review (Academia, Industry, or Alternative Careers)
 - Students: select 2 career categories – examples provided
 - Students/faculty schedule one-on-one meeting at their convenience
 - Recommended for **PhD** (3rd year & above) and **Masters** (2nd year & above) students
 - **Graduate Council Meeting Updates** (Amanda)
 - Signing bonus/scholarship – recruitment tool for exceptional incoming domestic students
 - Graduate Council is in favor and currently forming a evaluation committee*
 - Committee (representatives from each council college) will create criteria*
 - Grad student work and study status (leave of absence greater than 3 mo = unpaid leave)
 - Creating Student Tracking Database: user friendly, less paper trail
 - Working with UNMC Alumni Relations to create Graduate Studies Chapter
 - Sequestration: Changes to policies and impacts on NIH funding
- Other Business
 - **GSA Online Elections:**
 - Approval of changes to GSA Constitution
 - Constitution has been revised to state all officers will be elected at May meeting*
 - States that election will be held in open forum and how voting will be administered*
 - Through Dr. Carver, IT tentatively agreed to create online election (no candidate write-in)
 - Amanda is meeting IT rep to design online election template*
 - Are you interested in serving as a GSA Officer?
 - Election will be announced at April meeting*
 - Candidates will be announced mid-April (GSA will host meet & greet with all candidates)*
 - **IPE proposal**
 - Possibly create IPE chair on Board or Secretary Educational committee position
 - Students unanimously voted to create an Academic Affairs committee position for IPE*
 - GSA proposal for IPE*

IPE was presented at the recent IPE Subcommittee meeting. Students from other professions said our ideas were feasible and that pairing graduates students with students from other professions would allow us to learn what we need to

They also favored having it be opt-in and approved by the graduate committee of each student

- Campus-wide IPE certification for student groups

This will encourage students to think about IPE in activities they are already participating in

Additionally, documentation of IPE activities could be discussed in a UNMC student only blog

– **Scientific Research Career Fair** (Amanda)

- Putative event – Fall of 2013 or Spring 2014 in Omaha
- Emailed UNL, UNO, & Creighton’s associate deans of Graduate Studies & College of Arts and Sciences, plus the UNL GSA president
- Creighton’s Grad Student Senate President – in favor of event
- Grad Students from UNL are interested
- Suggested to involve undergraduate and postdoctoral researchers
- Will create project committee with student reps from every college
- Want to be in on this project? Email Amanda!!

Intensive planning for this event will likely occur during the summer

• Individual Committee Meetings Update:

- **Issues Committee** (Krupa):

- **Academic Affairs Committee** (Duy):

Updated course handbook has been created and in the process of being finalized for the mid-April deadline so it can be released to students on time

Terri updated us on the reasons why the add date for classes was so early so that finances for each department paying for courses could be finalized

Library is looking for new director due to retirement of current one – Duy is serving on the committee to search for candidates and will need your input – discussion deferred to next meeting

- **Career Development Committee** (Ariel):

- **Social Committee** (Heather & Prathamesh):

- **International Student Affairs Committee** (Aditya):

Putative dates for International Student Orientation week: August 13th-16th

International Culture/Spirit week: November 11th

• Adjourn