



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 14 November 2012

- I. Call to Order: 4:31 pm.
- II. Recognition of Attendees
 - a. All Present. Presiding: Chantelle Messier, Secretary: Erin Eighan.
- III. Approval of Minutes: 31 October 2012
 - a. Approved.
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Requesting a fee increase of \$3 for Fall 2015
 1. We will need 200 signatures for the fee increase to be considered
 2. Over the next 2 years we will have to cut back on the GSS budget due to the decreasing surplus and we've been averaging \$20,000 of expenses over our budget.
 3. Anish: We moved \$20,000 into the short-term loan fund last year. How much of that is being used? Is there money sitting around not being used?
 - a. Ian: The Bursar's office, who had complete control over the loan fund, only gave us reports once or twice a year. SABO was just given permission to access that data.
 - b. Chantelle: When we decided to move money over to the loan account, Bill (last year's Treasurer) said that we could always move the money back.
 4. Anish: If we're spending more money because more people interested in GSS or attending GSS-funded events, then that's a good thing. If we're spending more money because we're being extravagant, then that's a bad thing. But there is a different.
 5. Safet: I do like how the Finance Committee was much stricter about funding events that could have been more departmentally-oriented.
 6. Chantelle: When it comes time to start discussing the fee increase with graduate students, we should be discussing our own budget cuts as part and parcel of those discussions.
 7. Ian: I'll need to bring recommendations to Exec next semester about where we might cut down on our budget.
 - ii. NGSA and SAPTA



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1. NGSA decided that they do not want to split up, but SAPTA petitioned to split up
 2. They got their budgets separately, though they shouldn't have
 3. Ian will have to discuss with the Parliamentarian how to move forward
- b. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- i. Received a petition from SAPTA to reallocate Senate seats specifically from the Kinesiology department separately. This will be considered by the Procedures Committee and make a recommendation to the Senate.
 - ii. Without any value judgments, things to look into are:
 1. Petition only signed by physical therapy students. Kinesiology consists of a number of graduate degree programs including physical therapy. So before we make a recommendation, we want to see what the members of the other degree programs felt about it.
 2. Safet: If we do separate NGSA, would NGSA represent any constituency at that point? Where do the members come from in NGSA?
 - a. Leland: We would want them to restructure before we fund them.
 3. Anish: By next semester some conclusion should be made, but for now maybe we should stick to whatever budget and allocation decisions have been made for this semester.
 - a. Chantelle: We need to put the burden on NGSA and the rest of the subgroups to come to a joint decision. They shouldn't use us as an arbitrating body.
 4. Leland: I would like to go to Student Activities to see what they think about groups who claim people as members who don't want to be members.
 - iii. At-Large Elections will be tonight
 1. Twelve people have expressed interest in becoming At-Large Senators
 2. We have five available seats
 3. How should we conduct these elections?
 - a. All people must be nominated by a Senator
 - b. All Senators will right their top five choices
 - c. We will rank by number of votes
 - d. Whoever gets the most votes (and a majority of votes)
 - e. If we get to 5 people with that method, then we're done.
 - f. Because people have to be elected by a majority, there will be a second round of voting with whoever is left



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- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Completed the Committee Report Form and will present it at the meeting
 - ii. *The Commons*
 - 1. Ask Ryan to do a Thanksgiving Dinner blog post
 - iii. Chantelle: Researching into “Best Practices” for Twitter users of non-profit organizations
- e. Vice President – Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Committee
 - 1. Reviewed, Drafted, and Finalized the Resolution
 - 2. Troy will bring it to the Senate tonight
 - 3. Will meet again on the 29th for the Grad Housing Survey
 - 4. Also thinking about writing a resolution to support the libraries in the request for more money for the collections
- f. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Student Union Graduate Lounge Renovation Plans
 - 1. We don’t know if when we propose this to John Saddlemire what our budget will be. So we should choose an option (options sent around earlier via email) and provide details for adjustments.
 - 2. All plans have a TV area, an eating area, and a chatting area.
 - 3. They will not be putting in a keycard lock.
 - a. Anish: This is crucial for defining our space. It’s almost much more important than any other furniture choice.
 - b. Chantelle: One of the objections is that a lock on a door is against the spirit of the Student Union—because the Student Union wants to encourage fluid community, and our lounge would be the only lounge in the Student Union with a lock
 - 4. Preferred choice: Option C
 - a. Bar seating along the window?
 - b. Charging station on the television wall
 - c. Coffee bar along the wall of the door
 - d. Bulletin board on the wall opposite the television
 - ii. Professional Development Symposium (February 28)
 - 1. Keynote speaker: Melanie Sinche
 - 2. Funding from the graduate school: \$2000 to cover travel expenses (up to \$100 each for 15 speakers) and honoraria
 - 3. A mass email will go out to Grad Alumni on Sunday
 - 4. Talks with the Benton for holding a reception after the event



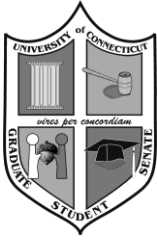
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5. Meeting with Charmane Thurmand to put together a panel related to diversity and graduate student professionalization
6. Advertising: coordinate with Anish for this and Grad Prom
- iii. Resolution on Grad Program handbooks
 1. Brought thoughts about the resolution to the Graduate Faculty Council
 - a. Overall, it sounds like there is a lot of support from departments. But there's also a lot of hesitation about situating central authority with the graduate school. They think it's a good idea, but they don't want the Grad School to make them do that.
 - b. A lot of the reluctance was about standardization. But this is not what we're pushing for. We'd like all programs to be required to *create* handbooks, not standardize them, just so that there is one official document for graduate students.
 2. Another meeting with the GFC in December
- iv. Graduate Certificate Programs
 1. Went to an event last night about graduate certificate programs, and what came up in the discussion was that there isn't a complete list available in a single place, and to apply for one, you have to reapply to the graduate school.
 2. Ask Kent Holsinger after the break about why this is not standardized or how this could be standardized. Graduate certificate programs do attract graduate students and brings more prestige to the University.
- v. Graduate School Diversity Strategic Planning Committee
 1. Charmane Thurmand approached us asking to send a representative to this committee.
- vi. Scheduling Meetings for the Spring
 1. Whetten 200 is available, though we don't have a key yet. We just need to schedule the meeting dates. Safet will figure this out by our next Exec meeting (approximately 6 meetings for GSS in the Spring).
- vii. Meeting Guests for the Spring
 1. Representative from Greek Life would like to present in the Spring
 2. A priority is Chief Barbara O'Connor
 3. Charmane Thurmand
 4. CT Rides



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- a. If we had to cut someone from this list, we could combine this representative with Janet Freniere. Otherwise CT Rides could come to GAIN.
 5. Director of Environmental Health and Safety
 6. Janet Freniere from Transportation
 7. Library Representative with a tutorial for Virtual PC
- V. Prepare Agenda for the Next Meeting
- VI. Adjournment at 6:02 pm.