

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

17 October 2012

- I. Call to Order: 4:36 pm.
- II. Recognition of Attendees
 - a. Present: Leland Aldridge, Erin Eighan, Chantelle Messier, Ian Yue. Present for Part of Meeting: Safet Berisa, Anish M. Kurian. Presiding: Chantelle Messier, Secretary: Erin Eighan.
- III. Approval of Minutes: 3 October 2012
 - a. Summary of Amendments
 - b. Approved
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Speed Dating (6-8 pm) and Grad Student Mixer (8-10 pm) on Friday
 - ii. Prom scheduled for March 1 in the Rome Ballroom
 1. Contacting Event Services for catering options
 - iii. Met with the programming office today to talk about Move Night and Thanksgiving Dinner. Will be meeting with Event Services next week about these two events.
 - iv. No Ted's Social Night scheduled, but planning on one more for the semester.
 - b. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Procedures Committee has not met since the last GSS meeting
 - ii. Ian and Leland have noticed some irregularities when it comes to the funding and representation of the NEAG School of Education
 1. We are giving senators and funding the NEAG Graduate Student Association as a whole, but we also have a constituency for Higher Education and Student Affairs and we are funding a number of organizations as subsets of NEAG. Neither of those things are appropriate and we need to figure out how to fix them.
 - a. Anish: How many organizations do they have?
 - i. Leland and Ian: There's NGSA, and three others. Education has 4 senators, HESA has 1 senator.
 2. Leland has some ideas to restructure, but he would like to get an official recommendation from the Procedures Committee first.
 3. Ian and Leland are meeting with the leadership of all of the organizations involved.



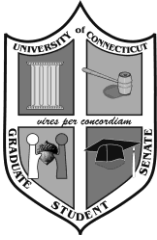
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4. Anish: Is the Art department in the same boat? If so, then we should consider handing these together
 - a. Leland: Art is a little bit different because there is the “Department of Art and Art History.” We’ve tried to base the apportionment on the basis of departmental organization; however, they still consider themselves functionally separate from each other. It’s a little awkward, but it is still workable.
 5. According to the FPP, we’re not allowed to give a budget to any group whose membership is comprised entirely of members of another funded group. For instance, NGSA covers all NEAG graduate students, but SAPTA is composed entirely of NGSA members.
 6. There are two possible solutions: stop funding all the smaller groups, or stop funding the one major group.
 7. We are not allowed to change the apportionment in the middle of a year unless an affected group petitions a change.
- iii. Ex Officio members who are not members of the body as a whole (i.e. Graduate Student Trustee) are not to be counted in quorum.
- c. Vice President – Safet Berisa
- i. Student Life Committee will finish the survey report and conduct a new survey on graduate student residencies—where they live and how much it costs to live there, etc. All suggestions are welcome
 1. Chantelle: How many roommates?
 2. Safet: How many roommates per bathroom?
 3. WRTD bus stop schedules are no longer at the bus stops.
 - a. Anish: It would be nice if we can add them to the mobile app (iHusky and/or My UConn).
- d. Treasurer – Ian Yue
- i. No activities budget for the spring, so Anish and Ian will meet together to discuss this issue in detail and then bring it to Exec and the Senate.
 - ii. Finance Committee
 1. Now officially formed, and will be contacted as a committee soon.
 - iii. Posted a new short-term loan criteria based on the new Bylaws.
 - iv. Confirming a schedule for information sessions either tomorrow or the day after.
 - v. Special Allocations Requests
 1. Green Grads: “Movie and Popcorn: Queen of the Sun”



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- a. Are we their only funding source if they are also attracting undergraduate students? If Green Grads is co-sponsoring with EcoHouse, is EcoHouse also providing funding?
 - b. Conversation with Green Grads Representatives
 - i. Is there a license to show the movie? Yes. Have you covered the license? That was purchased last year by the EcoHouse and the library. I don't know if it has an expiration date, but the library checked when we reserved the movie with them. Do you know what that costs? I don't know the exact amount of that. I think they're generally around \$200 for a license, but I don't have details. Is this event co-sponsored with EcoHouse or another organization? Not really. EcoHouse showed the same movie last year, so we're in communication about it, but they haven't contributed to it. Was EcoHouse a part of purchasing the license to the film last year? I think so. So are you advertising this as an event open to the entire university or to the graduate student population? It's open but we would like to target graduate students. We do have some funds available still in our own bank account.
 - c. Recommendation by Executive Committee
 - i. Recommend that it is funded in the full amount by unanimous consent.
2. Green Grads: "The Critical Mass Bike Ride"
- a. This event is co-sponsored by EcoHouse. Green Grads did not receive funding from EcoHouse because there was none available, but they are requesting volunteer support from EcoHouse.
 - b. Ask about the revised budget.
 - c. The request indicates that graduate students will only be 40% of the predicted attendance. It doesn't seem that we should be the only funding source if that is the case.
 - d. Conversation with Green Grads Representatives
 - i. Because you eliminated the Green Valley Farm from your budget, could you give us a sense of the revised budget? The revised budget request would amount to



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\$120. A route map and bike safety tips will be distributed to all attendees. We will use the free printing we have for that. Are the attendance numbers and break downs still the same? That's pulling numbers from the air rough estimate. Do you have any information about how EcoHouse will be committing labor? I don't have specific volunteers yet, but the Learning Community students have certain volunteer requirements that they have to meet. We also have mechanics and a tent and equipment committed by UConn. Is this even considered co-sponsored by EcoHouse or EcoHusky? No, I don't think so. So will you be advertising it as a graduate student event? We would like to have it open to the community, but with targeted advertising to graduate students. Mainly we want to get graduate students connected to the biking community and become aware of the things they can have access to through UConn. Having that open to undergrads as well can only help because they can learn through the undergrads what they can take advantage of UConn's bike offerings.

- e. Recommendation by Executive Committee
 - i. Recommend that it is funded in the full amount by unanimous consent.
- 3. LANGSA: "Open Humanities: Multifaceted Approaches for the 20th Century"
 - a. LANGSA is one of the groups that lost their funding requirement as per the attendance requirements.
 - b. They are receiving funding from the Humanities Institute and their department
 - c. One worry about funding this event: issues of responsible use of funds from LANGSA in the past. Ask if they are clear on the policies for appropriate and proper use of funds. Based on Ian's conversations with them, they have said they will be much more conservative



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- d. What are the sources of their revenue? How much is coming from the Humanities Institute and how much from their department?
- e. Conversation with LANGSA Representative
 - i. Keynote speaker is Gabrielle Starr, from NYU in the English Department. How does the brain react to aesthetic experience? The honorarium you list, does that go entirely to the keynote speaker? That includes travel costs and a stay at the Nathan Hale. How exactly are the funds breaking down from other revenue sources? UCHI is funding the Honorarium and our department is funding the advertisements.
 - f. Recommendation from the Executive Committee
 - i. Recommend that it is funded in the full amount by unanimous consent.
 - vi. Next Monday, meeting with the University Budget Committee
- e. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Still need to develop a Committee Report worksheet, but any feedback or suggestions welcome.
 - ii. Now that Chantelle has drafted the GSS section for the graduate school catalogue, Erin will excerpt a blurb for the graduate school website.
 - iii. Will need to send out an email announcing at-large senator elections at our next meeting.
 - iv. Reminder that we will have Rich Gray at our next meeting, and a blurb explaining his function in the university
 - v. Public Relations Committee
 - 1. The Commons
 - a. Ryan Tomchek is Activities Editor
 - i. Two new posts, but we're still looking for graphics to go along with them. This would be an area where the Public Relations committee might like to have a budget—to purchase rights to cheap stock images for the blog.
 - 1. Are there any alternatives to stock image websites?
 - 2. You can go through the Creative Commons on Flickr, you just have to cite where its from.



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3. Another option is looking for Fotolia.
 - b. Rich Colon is Professional Development Editor
 - i. He will contact Career Center, CETL, and graduate school for coordinating posts
 - ii. He will ultimately work on a scheduled “round-up” of other professional development blog posts related to academia and graduate work. Right now, he’s drafting a poll with Erin to see what categories are of most interest to graduate students.
 - c. Formal Announcement and call for contribution proposals will go out over the listserv sometime on Friday.
 - d. Holding off on marketplace/classifieds section until the blog is up and running.
2. A friend of Rich Colon’s who used to work in advertising and marketing will be joining the PR Committee at its next meeting to discuss branding opportunities and help focus our efforts.
3. Ideally, we would like to contact the graphic design program at UConn and turn the GSS logo redesign in to a class project. We would like to see a cash prize attached to the winner with the option of contracting them for further design work. Erin will be contacting the department to see if there’s any interest in teaming up with a professor to develop this project.
 - a. Ian: Can’t offer financial rewards if it is already part of their payment by the University (i.e. Teaching or Research Assistants).
- f. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Graduate Student Senate Section in the Graduate School Catalogue drafted
 - ii. Breakfast with the President
 1. Erin: Send out an email tonight telling Senators that they have 24 hours to reserve their spot. After that, it will open up to the waitlisted non-senators.
 2. James Wells should be the representative for Physics and transferred to the reserve list immediately.
 - iii. Professional Development Symposium
 1. If you haven’t gotten in touch with Alumni you know, please do so immediately. Chantelle needs to contact a list of people as soon as possible.



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2. Will also post an alumni information request through the alumni foundation. We could then draft an email through this data source asking for their proposals for talks.
 3. Spoke to Kent Holsinger about funding and he would be open to it as long as we ask for something specific (i.e. travel expenses, honoraria, etc.). Our symposium is specifically catered towards non-academic professional development, which is not covered by the Graduate School's own professional development seminars.
 4. Coffee and muffins in the morning; sandwiches in the afternoon for refreshments.
- iv. Two of the three next Graduate Faculty Council meetings have been cancelled, which is concerning.
1. The December meeting is still on schedule.
- v. Senate Executive Committee was cancelled this week.
- g. Other Issues
- i. Listserv Issues
 1. Martha Marroni and Christine Crumley informally moderate the GRAD-ANNOUNCE Listserv.
 2. Draft of the Listserv Guidelines should be sent out to the Graduate School.
 3. GSS does not forward messages to the listserv. We do not moderate the listserv, the graduate school does.
 4. When you reply to an email from the listserv, does it bypass the listserv moderator?
 5. Maybe as an addendum to the guidelines: The Moderator shouldn't post or approve replies to messages.
 - ii. Rainbow Center as a non-academic constituency?
 1. We've reached out to them before, but they haven't responded. Multiple non-academic groups have been contacted.
 2. Is it required that groups have an official graduate organization?
 3. Chantelle would support the inclusion of another constituency that needs representation.
 4. Procedures Committee will follow up on this.
 - iii. Recommendation from GSS regarding a requirement for graduate department handbooks.
- V. Prepare Agenda for the Next Meeting



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VI. Adjournment at 6:41 pm.