

GSS Exec Meeting 3/01/17 5:00 PM, SU213

Attendance: Jordan Rees, Tony Patelunas, Harshul Khanna, Matthew Parent

President

- Exec pay bylaw
 - Tony has reached out to a number of peer and aspirant universities to see if and how their executive committee receives compensation. He is finding that it is not unusual for people to get paid, but the ways executive committees get paid varies widely by institution. Purdue's is set up similarly to UConn and has had no issues. UT Austin does a zero-hour scholarship through the Dean's office and UMass has GAships
 - Tony will be meeting with the University Tax Lawyer about this issue on Friday, March 3rd.
- Quarterly bill - Thanks to Harshul for getting that together. He will cover the details during his report.
- Visa compliance fee - Scott Jordan send a quick fact sheet on the fee; He speak at the senate meeting on 3/8/17.
- Committee reports:
 - SASFAC - Nothing really happened with SASFAC.
 - President's fee committee - President Herbst called a task force to examine all fees. It includes 10-12 people. The committee meets through June and it is there to review what is considered a fee, what should be included in tuition vs. fees, big picture stuff, and possible library fees. They decided to wait to make any decisions until an undergraduate could be present.
 - SEC -
 - There was a task force on free speech and civility that put together a document on what free speech and civility are, which will be presented to Senate with recommendation from the SEC.
 - There was a discussion about the impending search for a new VP of research. There questions as to why it is an internal search and not external.
 - There were also questions about foundation investments - When the foundation presents that they usually report how much money they get but not how they are handling it. There were questions about how we are investing it and if the returns are as good as the good be.
 - Athletic director - SEC also discussed that although there was talk of reducing the amount the University subsidizes athletics (about 30 Million currently), the new Athletic Director has no plan in place to reduce cost.
 - Email accounts - There was one created for all positions. Jordan and Matt have theirs. Tony is looking into was redirected to a GA in SABO who is working on it.
- Graduate Research Symposia (idea) - The Graduate school at UConn doesn't have one. The undergraduates have a symposium that is very successful. It is a nebulous idea right now but seems like a cool idea that could be co-sponsored.

- Jordan suggested the possibility of doing this for graduate appreciation week. Jordan will contact Morgan.
- Office Hours - Tony will be holding office hours in the GSS office on Thursdays from 6-8.
- 314Action (Talea) - Ross got an email from Talea Cornilius -about 314Action, a science non-profit trying to get science people involved in policy. The organization wants a local chapter so Talea want to get the information out to graduate students in case anyone wants to start a local chapter.
- Reimbursements - Kimberly Miller requested the executive committee vote to approve some minor changes.
 - Monique Golden, GSCA, \$71; missing itemized receipt; 4/6 members vote to approve reimbursement without itemized receipt.
 - Janki Andhariya, AAPS, \$30; prize forms are photo copies; 4/6 members vote to approve reimbursement without original prize form.
 - Lauren Fontana, AAPS, \$114.41; prize forms are photo copies; the budget does not match refreshment column; 4/6 members vote to approve reimbursement without original prize form; 4/6 members vote to approve refreshments budget.
 - TSA - Mileage request for picking up food at a distant location; 4/6 members vote to disprove mileage.
 - Husseyin Yer, TSA \$138.34; turned in photocopies of receipts for the TSA welcome dinner; photocopy is legible so 4/6 members vote to approve the reimbursement with the photocopied receipt.
 - Ting Zhou, Graduate Art Alliance, \$26.38; supplies for open studio event; supplies were not explicitly listed for the budget for the event, but they were under budget; 4/6 members vote to approve the reimbursement.
 - Daniel T Volk, SASP, \$84.24; pizza from Big Y. They did not specify a recruitment event on their original budget, but did have \$300 in refreshments set in the budget; 4/6 members vote to approve.
 - Reza Rahmaeher, ICOU, \$95.70 for kindle fire; 4/6 members vote to approve.
- Invited speakers
 - Dan Weiner and Scott Jordan (3/8)
 - LuAnn Saunders-Kanabay (4/26) - manages fellowships with the Graduate School. She wants to speak to the senate about what her office can offer.
 - We will invite the new director of Student Health Services for the remaining meeting
- Jordan and Tony will draft a resolution condemning the new visa compliance fee.
- Video conferencing - We will consider video conferencing for next year.
- Agenda items
 - Committee reports
 - Office hours
 - Invited speakers

Vice President

- Student Life Committee

- Student Life Survey, GSS Evaluation - The student life committee will get started on the student life survey. We would like to include an internal evaluation of GSS, to give graduate students a chance to provide GSS with feedback.
- The committee also discussed the possibility of mandating the survey in the by-laws. We will draft something for the April meeting.
- Tier II Trainings - Matthew will talk to Christine Wilson about eliminating these trainings for good.
- Agenda items
 - Student life survey
 - Tier-II trainings

Treasurer

- Budget -
 - PHONE BILLS - April, May and June - 16.85 each month; 4/6 members vote to approve.
 - Quarterly Bill
 - Quarterly bill from March 30-June 30 2016 4/6 members vote to approve.
 - Quarterly bill from July 1 to December 31 - 4/6 vote memebtrs to approve
 - Reimbursements
 - Abigail Smith, GSCA; used 25% tip bringing a bill to \$30; 4/6 vote to approve.
 - Abigail Smith, GSCA, \$53.92; Nathan Hale, Receipt is a photocopy. 4/6 members vote to approve the reimbursement with the photocopied receipt.
 - Finance Committee
 - Siddesh Kulkami and Ngoc Chau Yv have volunteered for the committee.
 - For bigger events we would like to make pay orders through SABO mandatory for the major bills (like food) or set a cap on how much can be processed as a reimbursement. .
 - Table until we determine who should be drafting this policy
 - AGES asked if they can they use their fall budget for a larger spring event - 4/6 members vote to approve.
- Agenda items
 - POs
 - Tipping
 - Finance Committee
 - Budget Requests

Communications Director

- PR Committee
 - Promotional fund increase (vote) - increase to \$1250 to buy additional items. 4/6 members vote to approve.
- Parliamentarian nominations - Current nominees are Cera Fisher and Graham O'Toole.

- UAW International Women's Day Sponsorship -
 - 4/6 members vote to approve \$500 for refreshments or supplies for IWD event
- Coffee and Conversation with OIE - This will take place next week before the senate meeting.
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week - Jordan is meeting with Morgan Sutton to discuss partnership with the Graduate School.
- ListServ - Have not heard back from Victoria about populating it.
 - We need to draft a policy setting guidelines for what the executive committee will and will not send out.
 - Additionally will consider a GSS Communications by-law - refer to procedures
- Agenda items
 - Listserv document
 - Coffee hour
 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week

Parliamentarian

- Reapportionment - Time for reapportionment. We need to get the population numbers. Tony will reach out to find out who we get the numbers from.
- Agenda items

Activities Director

- Grad Prom update - Scan-in attendance was approximately 250
- Other events
 - Happy hour - Consider starting these up.
 - Coffee Hour with GSS - PR Campaign - 1-3 times a month during office hours we will set up a table in the Union and offer coffee and discussion to graduate student.
 - 4/6 members vote to approve up to \$750 for Coffee and Snacks.
 - Visa Tax Seminar - In the past was run in collaboration with SAGE for international students. Bahareh is interested in running this again. We would provide pizza and an honorarium for the speaker.
 - Voted 4/6 to approve the tax seminar.
- Agenda items

Admin. Assist.

- Agenda Items

Adjourn at 8:00p.m