**Wednesday, November 8th, 2017**

**Present:** Deepthi Varghese, Alexis Ernst, Ngoc Chau Vy, Justin Fang, Vignesh and Graham O’Toole (by teleconference)

**Meeting began 11:10 am, GSS Office**

**I. President**

1. The guest speaker for next week’s meeting is still to be determined. There are some
2. SEC Meeting
   1. Renovations to the Gant Complex will be put on hold indefinitely.
   2. The construction of the new Science Complex will also be put on hold.
   3. There are other updates but they cannot be discussed until November 16th.
3. Graduate Student Symposium
   1. There was another meeting that occurred yesterday.
   2. Regarding gifts to encourage participation, at one point, the University Foundation agreed to give the gifts. Now it’s more tentative.
   3. Tony asked how much GSS would be able to contribute to this event. Looking at numbers, we think a reasonable amount would probably be $1000.
   4. In terms of judging, we think it would be good to model it after the 3 Minute Thesis criteria. Specifically, the criteria would comprise more of communication skills, presentation aesthetics and effectiveness, and maybe one criterion for technical knowledge. In practice, the panel would comprise of two staff members who specialize in communications training, one professor from the natural sciences, one from the social sciences and one from the humanities.
4. Provost Search
   1. There are three final candidates. The one who gave the talk that Deepthi attended seemed very technical and good but she heard that the other two candidates are also really good.
   2. They will make a final decision soon so we will have a permanent, not interim, Provost.
5. SASFAC Budget
   1. Deepthi and Justin worked together last week to submit a GSS budget to SASFAC.
   2. One proposal to consider is to raise the fee by $4 over the year, or $2 per semester. There were mixed feelings about this in the E-Board, but the general feeling is that we should proceed with this.

**II. Treasurer**

1. IFTSA had an event recently and while all the paperwork was good, only seven people showed up. We will approve this reimbursement request but we will also issue a warning to them and everyone at the next GSS meeting that estimated attendance should come close to actual attendance, or GSS has the right to only reimburse based on the attendance.
2. SAGE has been disbanded but there is a sum remaining in their account. The amount is nominal and the process to re-absorb it into the GSS account is very demanding and lengthy. We have decided as a group to not pursue this.
3. GBA put in a Special Allocation for an end of the semester event for $750 with an estimated attendance of 150 grad students. There was a majority vote to bring this Special Allocation to the Senate Floor to vote. FYI, Special Allocations so far: $280+$1250+$267.50.
4. Finance Committee meeting – There was a meeting to discuss a reimbursement for SACNAS where the original receipts were lost but there was a copy of the receipts. However, the issue is that the reimbursement was submitted over six months ago. Conclusions of the meeting are the following:
   1. We approved of the reimbursement due to how long ago the reimbursement was filed.
   2. We asked them to submit a letter formally stating the original receipts were lost and also to submit a bank statement.
5. Justin would like to ask the Senate to approve his request to forgo any reimbursements currently in the office after January 31st. Deepthi already spoke to each of the people responsible for those requests in person in August.
6. We need to make an announcement next meeting regarding Tier II budgets being due by the end of January.
7. Ross is defending on November 17th so we will need a new Ross for the Spring semester. Deepthi needs to look into what the requirements are for hiring and if we as an E-Board need training before we start the hiring process.

**III. Vice President**

1. University Senate Meeting Report
   1. The state budget cut has been finalized but the specific cuts are still being worked out. There are people who will train us to present our case in the state budget hearing and buses that will take us there.
   2. There are also “back of the budget cuts” that may specifically affect us.
   3. With regards to the University-wide Metanoia Event happening today, we were not able to recruit a graduate student representative with specific-enough criteria, which was requested by the planning committee. However, we are going to be more involved for the one happening next semester.
2. Government Relations Committee
   1. There is a proposal in the GOP tax reform to put a tax on our tuition, whether it’s paid by your professor, university or waived. We need to do something to about this. The Government Relations Committee will meet this week to discuss further action.
   2. We should make an announcement regarding the recent numbers of gun violence events and flag the resources available to campus.

**IV. Activities Director**

1. Our Halloween Party had great turnout and good reviews. Ninety-three people showed up and there was plenty of extra food.
2. For Thanksgiving, over four hundred people have RSVPed so far. We will put announcements on the Daily Digest to get more people to sign up. We have over a hundred spots left.
3. Google Form – Not many ways around this other than to have people with Outlook emails send either Chau or Alexis an email so that we can help them manually.
4. Grad Prom – Possible name change and date moved?

**V. Communications Director**

1. Assistant Dean search
2. Joint Elections Committee
3. GSS Listserve

**VI. Parliamentarian**

1. Graduate Faculty Council Report
   1. Certification, class, Peter Diplock
   2. There were proposed changes to the catalog. Dean Holsinger is taking it under advisement.
   3. They discussed some changes to the fellowship programs in the Grad School.
2. By-Law change was very minor. Please review it and get back to Graham on any edits.
3. The GSS Constitution needs to be changed before the end of this year.

**Meeting adjourned – 1:03 pm**