**Tuesday, February 13th, 2018**

**Present:** Deepthi Varghese, Vignesh Vasu, Justin Fang, Ngoc Chau Vy, Alexis Ernst, and Graham O’Toole

**Meeting began 10:15 am, GSS Office**

**I. Activities Director**

1. University Senate Meeting – Neither Alexis nor Vignesh could make this meeting. They will report on it after reviewing the minutes at the next GSS meeting.
2. Happy Hours
   1. There is one coming up on Thursday.
   2. Deepthi and Graham won’t be able to make it but Chau and Jen might.
   3. The Grad School contacted Alexis about setting one up during Grad Appreciation week (early April). There was good feedback about the past Happy Hours.
   4. In addition, we would like to hold an end of the year bonfire.
3. Grad Formal
   1. We aren’t able to get a quote from catering yet because it’s been too far out in advance. They base their pricing on market price.
   2. Alexis will start this process in a week or two.
   3. We will print tickets at SABO. We also need to take names of guests.

**II. Treasurer**

1. Special Allocations
   1. GSAC – $1900 for an evening colloquium event for 50 grad students, with $1450 in refreshments. We cut back the amount allocated to $1100.
   2. SASP – $900 for an on-campus lunch event for 50 students. We approved the amount because they are restricted to using University Catering.
   3. Anthropology – $200 for an academic event for 20 grad students.
   4. Graduate Art Student – $3000 for printing catalogs for 500 people, 100 of which are grad students. We approved $600 which is enough to print for the grad students.
   5. ICOU – Iranian New Year celebration, 70 of which are grad students, in the Rome Ballroom for $1400. We approved the amount as is because of the restriction of University Catering.
2. Update on Reimbursements
   1. Tarang’s reimbursements are finally complete.
   2. Justin has a check for Animal Science.
   3. We need to start keeping track of checks that are issued to ensure they are cashed in time and not kept pending.
3. Budget Proposal
   1. All of the budgets that will be accepted have been received.
   2. The Finance Committee will meet tomorrow for the first time to review budgets.
4. SASFAC
   1. The presentation for GSS budget was done yesterday by Deepthi and Justin. Seemed to be successful but we won’t know how much money they decide to give us (or take away) until later.
   2. The one negative feedback we received was that there are so many existing graduate departments but there are so few registered Tier II organizations. The suggestion we got to improve these numbers is to get departments to require (incentivize perhaps?) their students to register with GSS before providing them with funding. The issue is how do we actually implement this.
   3. Adam Wentworth – The Exec Committee with personally pay him for advising us on 3D printing.
   4. New committee that we need to send someone to – Student Fee Review Committee
   5. GSS Travel Fund – According to KMM, here are the issues:
      1. The benefit of payments must directly benefit the graduate community as a whole.
      2. Prizes go to individuals but increase the desirability of events.
   6. Proposal to change process on Special Allocations in terms of
      1. When they have to be turned in to be considered for a Senate vote
      2. How Special Allocations can be made available in the summer

**III. President**

1. The speaker for the next Senate meeting will be our new Assistant Dean, Karen Bresciano.
2. Short term loans
   1. There is a question on the form that asks how many loans the student has used already to ensure they don’t exceed three.
   2. We think this should be programmed into the software based on the student ID as a surefire safety.
3. Dean Holsinger review committee – A questionnaire was sent to Senators on Ken’s performance.
4. Admin Assistant search – We have decided on the candidate we want to hire. We will make the announcement soon.
5. GSS Travel Award – Justin will discuss this later.
6. Appropriations Committee
7. Nominations for the new Executive Committee will need to be brought up again during the next meeting.
8. Visa Compliance Fee – The fee was reinstated for international students but we still want to remove it. The issue is how.
9. Health insurance meeting – This health insurance meeting was not referring to that which affects GA/TA/RA. It’s for anyone outside this list who does not have access to insurance. The good thing is the cost has not been increased for the students even though there has been benefits added, such as free TB testing.

**IV. Vice President**

1. Appropriations Committee – Graham will be presenting on behalf of GSS in Hartford.
2. Student Life Committee – They haven’t met yet because of issues with booking a room in the Student Union.
3. The search committee for the Director of Fellowships, Outreach and Programming is looking for graduate student representative.

**V. Communications Director**

1. Updates were made to the Senator List on the website.
2. Service award nominations cannot happen until March 1st. Also we need two more student volunteers to join the committee.

**VI. Parliamentarian**

1. Policies and Procedure committee met yesterday to review the constitution.
2. There were a number of concerns over who takes over responsibilities and we have proposed these in our edits.
3. One question that did remain was whether it would make more sense for the Treasurer to take over the President’s role since their trainings more closely overlap. The consensus from the E-Board is that while this may seem like a good idea, it seems like it would be too much work for one person to do both the President’s and Treasurer’s jobs. Instead, we would advise that the VP get the same training should they have to take over the role.

**Meeting adjourned – 11:50 am**