**Monday, March 26th, 2018**

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

**Meeting began 11:16 am, GSS Office**

**I. Treasurer**

1. Update on Reimbursements
   1. ICOU reimbursement issue – This is related to their vendor being unwilling to fill out the vendor form on PaymentWorks.
   2. There is also a holdup with LANGSA involving a professor who is misunderstanding the fact that we don’t make the rules, the business office does. We just have to follow them.
2. Tier II Budgets
   1. Appeals are now done.
   2. A couple groups who originally did not qualify cleared their attendance requirement with Graham.
   3. The total Tier II budgets exceeded the original total by $7,000 which we just took out of the Special Allocations budget.
   4. Justin and Elizabeth will compile a summary spreadsheet which will be sent out to all Senators for review this week. We will then make a vote on it during the last Senate meeting of the year.
3. Special Allocation for Tarang
   1. The event being supplemented is Holi.
   2. The allotted budget amount is $2000 ($1500 was refreshments). The additional amount requested is $1000 for refreshments. The total number of people expected is 150-200. The cost per person would be $12.50. The Executive Committee approves bringing this to the Senate for a vote, with the stipulation that they need to bring an invoice to the Senate meeting this Wednesday.
4. Quarterly Bill
   1. We need to vote on this during the upcoming meeting.
   2. We also need to pay for the storage unit.

**II. Vice President**

1. There was one Student Life Committee meeting that was held this past month. About 25 people showed up.
2. Graham and Vignesh will hold an additional meeting soon after the final Senate meeting.

**III. President**

1. The University and GEU are in the process of negotiations right now. There are a number of benefits that are trying to be revoked. Although, we heard from Scott Jordan that there won’t be a fee bill increase but word from GEU is that the University is proposing a $400 increase to fees. There is a sit-in tomorrow to protest these proposals. Chau will send out an email promoting this today.
2. The online application for the short term loan is now live and on the GSS website on the Short Term Loan page.
3. Dean Holsinger review is complete. It’s probable that he will remain our Dean.
4. Proposal for GSS travel awards will not go through in the way that we proposed it.
5. UConn School of Social Work Proposal
   1. This came up after an experience of a Social Work student with regards to administrative action against her.
   2. She formed a committee to take action in response to this and would like GSS to spread the word.
   3. We will invite her to this week’s meeting to tell the Senate about her cause.
6. Nominations for new Executive Committee
7. Visa compliance fee – We have a meeting scheduled finally. It took a very long time to even get here and we are working on revoking it.
8. Prosper act – This was a proposed act that would affect grad students when we take out loans. It seems to have died out as we have not heard anything else on it from NAGPS.
9. Proposal of membership to Wall Street Journal – There was a rep who asked if we are interested in getting this. The general consensus of the E-Board is no.
10. Founders Day – Do we want to be a part of this? General consensus is no.
11. Triad Activities – It’s an activity for student leaders to get to know each other. We’ll let the new E-board decide if they want to participate.

**IV. Activities Director**

1. Happy Hours
   1. There is one coming up next Wednesday.
   2. It is co-sponsored with the Graduate School but we are going to pay for it via the Happy Hour budget.
2. Grad Formal
   1. It’s happening next Friday.
   2. Alexis is meeting with Kim tomorrow with regards to cashbox dealings and how she got to the cost per person.
   3. The globe stress balls should come next week.
   4. There will be a photo booth.
   5. Total people RSVPed for dinner so far is 262.

**V. Communications Director**

1. The announcement for the GSS Graduate Community Service Award ($500) has been made on Soapbox and via the GSS listserv. The nomination period will close on April 8th. The Award Committee will make the final decision by April 10th and the recipient will be announced during the final GSS meeting on April 11th.
2. As for the GSS Service Awards ($1500 for the year), the Executive Committee has nominated Jen Caffyn, Tom Briggs, Ruth Yuste Alonso, Tony Patelunas and Andrew Meguerdichian for their service throughout our time here. We will also open this to the Senate floor on Wednesday. Voting for this award will take place during the final GSS meeting.
3. Promotional Items
   1. The items of choice this year will be the following, budget permitting:
      1. Stainless steel water bottle
      2. Notebook
      3. Highlighter/ballpoint double-tipped pen
      4. Tote bag
   2. Chau is still working on getting pricing as these are quite expensive and we are limited to approved vendors.
4. Elizabeth now has access to editing and managing the GSS website.
5. Report for the GFC meeting later this afternoon:
   1. Working on taking care of the logistics of our upcoming events
      1. The next GSS happy hour is Wednesday April 4th
      2. Grad Formal is on Friday April 6th
      3. Both happen to be during Graduate Student Appreciation Week
   2. Tier II budget appeals are done. Final budgets for all graduate student organizations will be presented at the GSS meeting this Wednesday and voted on in the final meeting in April.
   3. The GSS sponsored short term loan application has been moved to an online form and is now live on the GSS website.
   4. Graduate Union is current in negotiations with the University. There are a number of proposed changes on the table, specifically:
      1. Increase in cost of insurance (the portion of the premium what Grad students are responsible for would be doubled)
      2. Increase in fee bill of $400
      3. 3% increase in stipend to offset proposed increases in fees
   5. We are still working towards removing the visa compliance fees for non-GA/TA/RA.

**VI. Parliamentarian**

1. The revised Constitution is ready to be presented at the meeting this Wednesday. Graham just needs approval from each member of the E-board.
2. There is insufficient time to revise the by-laws and this will be the high priority item for the next Parliamentarian.

**Meeting adjourned – 12:49 pm**