

**Minutes from the Graduate Student Association General Council Meeting
September 18, 2005**

- I) Determination of Quorum and Call to Order
- II) Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Done.

- III) Guests – Meredith Staples, Mark Bostic, AAUP-AFT

Meredith and Mark spoke about the recent activities of the AAUP-AFT (our union), especially of TA/GA aspects. They mention the importance of becoming full members of the union, as the new contract negotiations approach.

Contact Meredith and/or Mark at the next meeting to talk about it.

- IV) New Business

- A. Executive Council to the Graduate School reps election

One of the three candidates dropped due to a schedule conflict, so we only voted on Devin Griffiths and Brian Vancil. They were both elected as reps to the Executive Council of the Grad School by 48 affirmative votes, 0 negative and 3 abstentions.

- B. Recognition of New / Inactive Grad Student Organizations

We voted on three departmental organizations: Italian, Nutritional Sciences and Physics. The three of them were recognized by unanimous vote.

Taiwan Study Association introduced itself and will be voted upon in the next GSA Council meeting.

Musicological Society – no officer was in attendance to introduce the organization. Needs to be introduced at the next meeting and voted upon at the following meeting.

- C. Proposals from the floor

None.

- V) Reports

- A. Executive

Rutgers created a position and hired a new VP for Research and Graduate Studies. This should have a strong impact on graduate students. The Council will be kept informed as we find out more about this position.

The monthly meetings with VP for Student Affairs Blimling will continue this semester. GSA officers and three or four other students can attend, so if you'd like to participate in one, contact Kristen Gilmore.

Grad Student Lounge policies:

GSA has exclusive domain over GSL every Tue and Thu. The idea is to keep those two days with no events scheduled during the day, open as study and relaxed general-use space. GSA Movie Nights will be held on Thu after 7pm. Tue nights will be reserved only for emergencies, if your group is really in need of a last-minute space. For any other day of the week, you need to contact the reservations office.

GSA Website:

The website is being revamped. There will soon be a calendar of events and every group will be able to –and required to- announce open events there.

Undergraduate Task Force:

You will hear a lot about this report. It will have implications for grad students, so we'll keep the Council updated, and everyone should try to take a look at it.

- B. Treasurer

See section C) v).

- C. GSA Committees

- i. Social/Cultural (Carlos Diuk)

GSA Movie Night will be held every Thursday at 7/8pm. Announcements will be sent to the gsa_filmvideo list, please subscribe if you're not getting them.

Multicultural picnic of 9/22 was announced. It already happened, 120+ people attended!

- ii. Publications/Newsletters (vacant)
- iii. Student Affairs (Kristen Gilmore)

See section A)

- iv. International Student Affairs (Naomi Fleming)

The committee needs new members, volunteers and a chair for next year. Please talk to Naomi.

Social hours will go on every other Friday. Announcements sent to ISFA list, subscribe if you're not there.

- v. External Allocations Committee (Inga Parker)

The EAC met and suggested a provisional budget allocation. The final proposal will be discussed and voted at the next meeting. Each group received a paper slip with their initial proposed allocation.

Some of the things the EAC considered while evaluating applications:

- 1- number of monthly meetings (8 max)*
- 2- cost of food per person (proportionate to meal type)*
- 3- number of people in the group*
- 4- quality of the application (ie, just food vs. a conference)*
- 5- if there was membership overlap with other GSOs*
- 6- whether the event was entirely graduate student or included faculty and/or other benefactors*
- 7- attendance deductions where made to groups that didn't reach the four EC meeting requirement.*
- 8- total funding limit => across the board deduction, in this case was 19%*

vi. TA/GA Steering Committee (Scott Bruton)

New contract negotiation is approaching, we need to increase membership, we need to discuss what we want to see in the next contract.

Meetings held every other Wednesday at 10am (next is Oct 7th at RSC 402).

vii. Sustainability Committee (Mike Crockford)

The administration is much more aware of sustainability issues. They actually have a staff member working on these.

Mike is serving on the Rutgers transportation committee.

D. External Committees

i. RSC Governing Board (vacant)

Mike Crockford will attend.

ii. Douglass College Center GB (vacant)

There's a Grad Student Loung in Douglass. It's small but cozy and nice, good for meetings. Try to use it!

iii. University Senate

New VP introduced (see section A).

President's addressed, picketed by Douglass College people.

There will be two extra meetings entirely devoted to Undergrad Task Force Report.

iv. EC of the Graduate School

We elected two new reps. See IV) A).

v. Parking & Transportation

E. Administrative Assistant

*Mike asks everyone to *please* send post-event reports on time. There have been problems in the past, and this year it will be tougher. Also, put an effort into your reports.*