

GSA Executive Council Meeting, January 21st, 2007

Meeting called to order 7:04 pm
Quorum determined

I. Approval of minutes and agenda
Approved unanimously

II. New Business

A. Recognition of New/Inactive GSOs

1. Neuroscience

No representative present.

2. Chilean student association

Loreta: Includes all Chilean students and others interested, and will present Chilean culture.

3. AAUP

Our TA/GA union is going into negotiations on Thursday. Our salaries starting from July 2007 onwards will depend on the outcome of the negotiations, which could go well or poorly. It was very difficult last time, we hope it will go more smoothly.

III. Old Business

A. Recognition of New/Inactive GSOs

1. Material Science Research

We are starting a group called Material Research Society, we are just starting up, hoping to support our activity of presenting our research etc.

Carlos: there is already a departmental group; this would be a chapter of a national group; for funding purposes there will be some arrangement linking the two as with other cases. We can vote to recognize them as a group so that they can reserve space etc.

Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Executive

B. Treasurer

We have streamlined the check/reimbursement process. This process has been ineffectual so far. Ryan personally guarantees that checks will be ready in three weeks.

Carlos: nothing your groups do will change - we are changing the GSA's internal workings.

Ryan: email me if you have any issues, I will straighten them out.

All groups are responsible for the invoices. You can get vendors to send invoices to the GSA, but we will give the check to you and you need to take care of that. We'll make checks out.

We have distributed a spreadsheet with allocation and amount spent so far for each group; your treasurers should keep track of this, let me know if there are discrepancies - we are aware of some problems to do with check coding.

We have written a lot of checks for groups to pick up; we are trying to get everything from last semester cleared up.

Ryan's office hours are Monday 2:30 to 4:30.

C. GSA Committees:

Social/Cultural

Movies on Thursdays have been started already; let us know if you would like to cosponsor a movie, organize an event, or get someone else to organize an event.

Publications:

Carlos: this has been vacant for 2 years now, and people have managed to do their publications anyway.

Student Affairs - Kristen G., not present.

International Student Affairs Committee

Tamana: Good turnout, about 75 people, at first Pizza hour. We want to do combined events with other groups.

There is a group identifying itself as the GSA, be aware. This is the Molecular Bioscience group, nothing sinister.

External Allocations Committee

Spring allocations have been made. We gave everyone money; some things were not fundable but otherwise we were able to give people nearly everything they asked for and we should be able to give some additional money to each group from what was left over. However we have not been able to give exact numbers yet because the next installment of student fee money from the graduate school is coming March 1st, later than usual. Contact Ryan if you applied for Spring funding to find out your situation.

We will vote on the Spring budget at the next council meeting.

Sustainability Committee - no representative present.

TA/GA:-Scott

Negotiations start 1/25, at the next council I will be able to give you a sense of whether the administration is negotiating seriously. We are asking for 12% a year; that sounds ambitious; the reasoning is that the state is negotiating with other state employee unions, and is being very aggressive, pushing an inferior health plan and increased premiums. If this goes as badly as it could we may need that 12%.

If you have any questions or would like someone to address your group.

D. External Committees

1. RSC Governing Board, Carls - did not meet

This was meant to be consolidated with other student centers, but no-one knows what happened. I'm trying to get microwaves set up in the student centers for those of us who bring our own food in.

2. Douglass Student Center

No meeting yet.

3. University Senate - Ryan Fowler

Senate met on Friday, New Brunswick state of the college report, mainly Furmanski listing all of the award recipients for the year, very dull. The resolution on abolition of the four-year rule has been passed by the senate, and it will be passed on to the Board of Governors and the President.

I've been hearing about the creation of a new entity called the Rutgers Student Assembly, which no-one seems to have known about. Undergraduates are creating it as a single, consolidated organization, with constitution etc., which will represent in the undergraduate task force process. Their constitution will include a measure for a regular meeting between rep of theirs and GSA. The restructuring of undergraduate education will affect us; for example disciplinary issues will no longer be sent to Dean Bender, instead they will be sent to the same place as the undergrads. Ryan will meet with the new RSA to keep track of things like this.

In the building and grounds committee of the University Senate, Ryan is working with Dan Bender to fight for more dedicated grad student space. If you have ideas or questions talk to him. We are losing ground, Graduate Student Lounge on Busch is a good example of this. The reorganization of student services has contributed to this.

I would very much like people to start using the Douglass GSL for events, so that we can start making more use of it. If we don't use it we are unlikely to be able to keep it.

4. EC of the Graduate School

No rep present.

5. Parking and Transportation - Carlos Diul

Molenaar asked what people thought of the changed B and LX routes.

Tamana: it was very poorly advertised, I still don't know what the route is.

Rafael: it seems like it hasn't affected us very much.

E. Administrative Assistant (Benjamin Peters)

Not present.

VI. Questions and Announcements

Carlos D: I am going to try to meet with Blimiiling. Space is going to be a big issue, let me know if there is anything else.

Remember, if you are having an L&P event, you MUST post it on the calendar AND send a description it to Naomi (rugsa_vicepresident@yahoo.com) beforehand; we may not reimburse you for the event. Don't send it too far ahead, otherwise it will get lost.

Q: What does the total on the spreadsheet show?

Ryan: this is total spent so far. Be aware that if you submitted your post event report in the last week or so it may not be in the report yet.

Meeting adjourned 7:36 pm