

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 4/8/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 in the East Campus Union's Sunflower Room. Dean Weissinger provided a meal consisting of Chicken Amandine and the fixings. Attendance included 29 departmental representatives, 7 executive committee members, 1 advisor, and 2 guests.

Minutes of the March 11th, 2008 meeting were e-mailed and presented to the LA. Amendments were made directly and included changes to:

- Notes on Resolution 3.2.08
- Change in the time of the Big Event

Sandra Potter (Education Psychology) moved to approve the minutes, Ramesh Singh (Biological Systems Engineering) seconded, and the motion passed. All officer and committee reports were presented; no discussion.

Mike Moses, Lincoln International Networking Community (LINC)—International student mentoring program:

- Described the program as an opportunity to give International students a home away from home
- This program pairs international students with a qualified mentor for at least once a week meetings with mentees
- Mike and the program would like our help with outreach & recruitment of mentors.
- Anyone can apply and more information can be found at www.peopleinlinc.org

Proposal 3.1.08: GSA By-laws Amendments

- Motion to approve by Tamy Burnett (English), second by Brenden Rensink (History)
- Lee Dunham (VC of Legislative Affairs, Finance) described the proposal, which is a change the procedure for amending the By-Laws. While it should be difficult to both bring and adopt an amendment to the GSA Constitution, the By-Laws should be slightly more fluid. The proposal calls for a 2 LA members to initiate an amendment at a meeting, then enlist support of 10% of the remaining LA body. With 10% support of the LA, the amendment will be brought to vote at the next regularly scheduled LA meeting. A quorum vote is needed for ratification.
- This process will be used to enact Proposal 3.1.08 which also includes minor changes to removal of committee members and chairs, and changes to duties and responsibilities to the VC of Internal Affairs, and VC of Public Relations.
- The VC of Internal Affairs will be granted the ability to “Remove committee chairs who fail to perform the necessary duties and responsibilities required of the position of committee chair”
- The VC of Public Relations will Chair the Social Events Committee.
- Dr. Hanna asked what other examples we had of proposed amendments to By-Laws from other student organizations. (And I must have had a mouth full of spaghetti cuz I didn't write down the response! ☺)
- The Proposal was tabled to acquire the 10% support of the LA at the 3-11-08 meeting.
- 10% support was acquired, and further discussion was asked for.

- No discussion.
- Proposal 3.1.08 passed Unanimously and will be adopted to the By-Laws or the GSA.

Resolution 4.1.08: GSA Response to recent developments in UNL Libraries funding

- Motion to approve by Brenda Pracheil (Natural Resource Sciences), seconded by Melissa Samuelson (Political Science)
- Dr. Frank Moore (VC of Finance, Mathematics) described the resolution.
- The Libraries of UNL are faced with a 20% reduction in journals due to lack of necessary funds.
- They decided to raise student fees to extend time for more permanent funding.
- ASUN approved this action and the resolution was subsequently Vetoed by the ASUN President.
- Our Resolution 4.1.08 asks ASUN to reconsider their position & asks the administrators to find a more permanent solution to the situation.
- Discussion ensued.
 - Question 1: Could part of student tuition go for library fees? –Yes, but more is than tuition and student fees is in need to guarantee the best periodical resources.
 - It was mentioned Engineering fees were increased under the table and it seems there is a lot of pressure on student fees already.
 - Question 2 & 3: What other means of funding are available? And how is this not taxing Graduate students? –Department of Education grants (both State and Federal) for sustained library resources are in need, as well as endowments. However, it should not necessarily be our responsibility to secure these resources nor is that the scope of this resolution. This resolution and an increase in student fees for the library is not just taxing Graduates Students. It is a burden shared by all students.
 - Question 4: Who does this concern? I mean, With whom will this information be shared? -The ASUN President, Dean of Libraries, Dean Weissinger, & Chancellor/Vice Chancellors
 - Quesiton 5: Hour many e-mails were received from Graduate Students regarding this issue? –Approximately, 45 to 50
 - It was mentioned that there is a view and the reason the ASUN president vetoed the resolution raising library fees is that Undergraduates rarely use the library. However, this does not seem realistic as undergraduates and the instructors that educate them regularly use the available resources of the libraries, be it the physical building or online resources, which include supported periodicals. The idea of a task force to educate Undergraduates as to how they are impacted by the library resources was brought up. These ideas should also be disseminated to the State Legislature, UNO, UNK.
 - The main gist of this resolution is that the increase in fees would have bought time for the libraries to secure more permanent sources of funding.
 - Faculty Senate did not have a comment on ASUN resolution and subsequent veto though the Libraries committee meeting is up-coming.
 - The history of the student library fee was that there was no fee until 2003 at which time a \$2 fee was instigated. The ASUN resolution would have adopted a \$1

increase in 2007 increase. This resolution simply asks ASUN to reconsider their veto position.

- There was a friendly amendment made directly to the document -Ranks will
- Motion to approve was sent to vote: 29 yes, 1 opposed Motion passes

- Dean Weissinger talked with the Dean of Libraries, Joan Ruth Giesecke, and will send this resolution and the concerns there-to to Chancellor Perlman, as well as President Milliken of the Board of Regents

Elections:

- And the results are! ☺:
 - Executive Chair: Brenda Pracheil (Natural Resource Sciences)
 - VC of Internal Affairs: Kristin Javorsky (Teaching, Learning, & Teacher Education)
 - VC of Public Relations: Elizabeth Andrews (Textiles, Clothing, & Design)
 - VC of External Affairs: Leslie Martinez (Psychology)
 - VC of Legislative Affairs: Ben Blackford (Business, Management)
 - VC of Finance: C. Russell (Jimmy) Hendrix (Nutrition & Health Sciences)
 - VC of Information: Avery Paulson (Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences)

Announcements

- The Big Event is this Saturday at 8am. We'll all meet at the Union and we can use Avery's Van to go to the work site.
- The Academic Integrity subcommittee of Academic Affairs is asking for applications for individuals to serve on university judicial board. This may increase the chances of having a jury of peers in cases of graduate student academic dishonesty though the jury most likely would not be made of all graduate students. Please consider applying by sending an e-mail to Dean Weissinger.
- Also, try to continue response to the questionnaire developed by the Academic Integrity subcommittee.
- The Better World Books book drive is scheduled to begin Monday, April 28th through Friday, May 16th. Dr. Marcus Natta has set up advertising by Facebook & the Daily Nebraskan. He is now looking for volunteers to setup and collect books. He has the materials.

- Kristin Javorsky (Teaching, Learning, & Teacher Education) moved to adjourn, Ala' Qadi (Computer Science) seconded, and the motion passed. Executive Chair Dr. Amber Epp closed the meeting at 7:22 pm. The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for May 6th, at 6pm in the East Campus Union.

Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson, VC of Information. If you can read this you do not need glasses. If you did read this! Bring a book to the LA meeting for the BWB program.