

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 2/12/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, February 12th, 2008 in the East Campus Union's Sunflower Room. Cookies were served before the meeting. Attendance included 18 departmental representatives, 5 executive committee members, 1 advisor, and 1 guest.

Minutes of the January 15th, 2008 meeting were e-mailed and presented to the LA. Sandra Potter (Educational Psychology) moved to approve the minutes, Erica Schauer (Modern Languages) seconded, and the motion passed. All officer and committee reports were presented:

- Tamy Burnett (English), Quality of Life Committee representative, asked about progress towards coverage plans for dependants.
- Dean Weissinger responded with a positive outlook on the progress made to attain spouse and dependant coverage. Currently, the coverage at UNL is better than basic.
- No further discussion of the officer and committee reports.

Paul Savory, Director of Summer Sessions:

- Dr. Savory presented the LA with a general description, information, and attendance of summer sessions at UNL.
- Packets of information were distributed.
- Dr. Savory was most interested in ideas we have for gaining more interest in summer sessions from both Graduate and Undergraduate students.
- LA members are encouraged to e-mail his office with ideas or events the office of summer sessions could host to develop a Summer campus culture.

Resolution 2.1.08: Against LR233CA

- Resolution 2.1.08 was distributed via e-mail to all LA members and presented at the meeting.
- Motion to approve Resolution 2.1.08 by Ramesh Singh (Biological Systems Engineering); Seconded by Erica Schauer (Modern Languages); discussion ensued.
- Leslie Martinez gave the briefing on LR233CA, a motion to the Nebraska State Senate by Senator Mark Christensen of Imperial, Nebraska, making a Constitutional Ban to Affirmative Action. This would affect the Administration, Faculty, and Students alike.
- The University of Nebraska, Lincoln in cooperation with several other state and privately owned businesses and organization is seeking support against LR233CA.
- The Students for a United Nebraska (SUN) committee was formed to petition signatures against this resolution on the campus of UNL.
- Question 1- How much of an Impact would this have on UNL?
 - There are a lot of unknown beneficiaries to Affirmative Action initiatives, though the International Student Body is greater than 11%
- Question 2- Clarify if support of Res 2.1.08 is for Affirmative Action?
 - Yes.
- Motion to Approve was sent to Vote. – Yes, 1 No, Motion Passes

Resolution 2.2.08: GA Fee Deferment

- Resolution 2.2.08 was distributed via e-mail to all LA members and presented at the meeting.
- Motion to approve Resolution 2.2.08 by Ala' Qadi (Computer Science); Seconded by Elizabeth Andrews (Textiles, Clothing, and Design); discussion ensued
- Kristin Javorsky (Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education) gave the summary of Resolution 2.2.08 for GA Fee Deferment. The underlying reason for this resolution is that GA stipends are distributed after the first billing cycle from the business office. This produces undue hardship on Graduate Students working on GA stipends as they are not allowed other forms of employment.
- This resolution would provide a minimum 1 month deferment of fees to Graduate Students on GA's.
- Dean Weissinger made the point that the University recently changed billing cycles to spread tuition over the full semester.
- This comes with a fee however.
- A friendly amendment to this resolution was made to include wording that this deferment of fees would be at no additional expense to the Graduate Student.
- Motion to Approve was sent to vote- Unanimous, Motion Passes
- The Office of Graduate Studies is in full support of this resolution.

Announcements

- Anyone wishing to purchase a T-Shirt is to sign up with Lee Dunham (VC Legislative Affairs) after the meeting.
- Marcus Natta (VC of External Affairs) sent around a sign-up sheet for the South Central Regional Conference, March 28th, at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Cost is estimated at \$50.00 registration, \$30.00 housing, and transportation.
- We are looking for Volunteers for the Better World Books program collections and packaging. All LA representatives are encouraged to bring this request before their departments.
- "The Big Event", a one-day service event bringing UNL students, faculty, and staff together to meet the needs of the larger Lincoln community, will be held April 12th. Deadline for sign up is March 7th.
- Amber Epp (Executive Chair), Frank Moore (VC of Finance), and Marcus Natta (VC of External Affairs) presented the initiative for travel grants to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and they are bringing it before the Faculty Senate at the next scheduled meeting.
- There will be dancing at Sur Tango February 14th. Bring your Valentine, or meet a Valentine!
- Event flyers for GSAW will be sent to each department LA representative after all events are confirmed. The GSAW committee is still looking for an additional event. Any suggestions can be e-mailed to Sandra Potter. Events currently planned are posted on the web.

- Erica Schauer (Modern Languages) moved to adjourn, Ashley Barnett (Geography and Anthropology), seconded, and the motion passed. Executive Chair Amber Epp closed the meeting at 7:03 pm. The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for March, 11th, at 6pm in the East Campus Union.

Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson, VC of Information.