

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 1/15/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, January 15th, 2008 in the East Campus Union's Sunflower Room. Cookies were served before the meeting. Attendance included 34 departmental representatives, 6 executive committee members, 1 advisor, and 0 guests.

Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were e-mailed and presented to the LA. Brenda Pracheil, Natural Resources Sciences, moved to approve the minutes, Tamy Burnett, English, seconded, and the motion passed. All officer and committee reports were presented; there was no discussion.

National Association of Graduate and Professional Students Presentation

- Marcus Natta, Vice Chair of External Affairs, created a formal report compiled of comments from all UNL GSA attendees (Leslie Martinez, Avery Paulson, & Sandra Potter). Marcus briefly presented this report with discussion of what impressed each of the attendees the most.
- The Formal Report, which was also given to NAGPS, is posted on our home-page: http://www.unl.edu/gsa/NAGPS_21st_Annual_Conference_Report.pdf
- LA Members are urged to file initiatives on points of interest as this is the key to success of the Graduate Student Association as seen at other Universities and with other Graduate Student Associations.
- Leslie Martinez told us about other GSA constitutions, their goals, initiatives, resources, and outreach.
- A question was raised about # of Participants- Collectively we recalled roughly 200 participants from 35 to 40 Universities.
- Tonia Compton of UNL is the newly elected NAGPS President
- The next NAGPS Southcentral Regional Conference will be held at Oklahoma State University, March 28th & 29th, 2008. More information is available on our homepage and at <http://gpsga.okstate.edu/index.php>

Graduate Student Association Logo Contest

- Marcus Natta presented the Legislative Assembly with the two finalist logos as determined by the GSA Executive Committee meeting of December 5th, 2007
 - Logo #1: Nebraska "N" and Graduate Student Association on 3 lines to the right; "Supporting, Serving and Socializing" appears centered below the word "Association"; Submitted by Carolyn Brown Kramer (cbrownk1@bigred.unl.edu) from the Psychology department.
 - Logo #2: Outline of the state of Nebraska; GSA, University of Nebraska, Graduate Students Association inside the outline, Graduation cap inside the outline; submitted by Jabari P. Cain (jabari@bigred.unl.edu) from the Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education department.
- Vote was moved and Seconded
- Logo #1 received 4 votes, Logo #2 received 30 votes, Jabari P. Cain was the recipient of the \$300.00 contest prize

- Jabari sent this statement of Thanks as he was unable to attend the meeting: “Thank you so much for the opportunity and it was a wonderful contest. I look forward to seeing my work on all GSA paraphernalia in the future.”

Better World Books Initiative

- Melissa Samuelson (Political Science) made a motion to enact the initiative, Russel Hendrix (Nutrition and Health) seconds the motion; Discussion ensued
- Marcus presented a brief summary of the program to the Legislative Assembly, and a 5 minute video presentation.
- Question 1- One Time or Repeated Annual approval?
 - That is up to the GSA LA. We want to establish it now & should GSA choose to continue, further proposals can be brought forth.
- Question 2- Why not rotate programs?
 - Again that is for the GSA LA to determine after this years inaction.
- Question 3- Is this a for Social profit venture?
 - The GSA LA can establish what and to whom the money is directed towards after receipt of the funds. No, it is not just a “for Social profit venture”, nor is the Program. The program is set up on an altruistic nature to bring education to third world countries and underprivileged individuals.
- Question 4- Is BWB a qualified business?
 - Anthropology and Geography has experience with Books for Africa, as their student organization has already worked with the Better World Books program.
 - Ashley Barnett & _____ commented on this effort, and both concurred that it is a noble program.
- Question 5- What is the distinction of Qualified vs. Non-Qualified Books?
 - Qualified books are accepted with a 50 cent rebate for us. All books will be accepted, though there is no incentive for some books.
- Question 6- Do they sell the Books?
 - Yes. Some of the books are donated as is and used by individuals. Others are sold for money, and the money is in-turn used for educational purposes.
- Brenden Rensink (History) motioned an amendment to the proposal “that all proceeds be donated back to literacy programs within Lincoln”. Motion was 2nd by Tamy Burnett (English). Discussion ensued.
 - Question 1- How much are we expecting to get?
 - We cannot tell & this type of detail is not in the Proposal. Though with a 50 cent rebate for each qualified book, one would not expect large profits. 100 books translates into \$50.00.
 - Marcus made the argument of “Why not use the funds for our organization?”
 - We don't have dues. We don't have a large budget. Our organization does more than just social events, and this program could benefit those initiatives.
 - Question 2- Is there cost of advertizing that we must front or is taken out of our rebate?
 - There is no cost to advertizing.
- Motion was sent to vote: yes-4 No- 30; Amendment fails

- Question 7- What do we need from LA at this time
 - Time commitment is the biggest investment to us as students.
 - We should also form a committee to determine collection, packaging, shipping.
- Question 8- Again, a question was raised as to what we would do with the money?
 - We could use the money/we do use our budget for more than just Social events
 - We have GSAW, Meetings, Advertizing, and overhead costs involved with GSA as examples.
 - Dr. Hanna (Advisor) made the point that “once we get the money, we can figure out what to do with it.”
- Sandra Potter (Educational Psychology) motioned to amend Title to “A proposal to request that the UNL GSA initiate and establish a Better World Books Program”, leaving out wording regarding only “Books for Africa” (a division of the BWB program) throughout the proposal. Brenden Rensink (History) seconds the motion.
- Motion Carries unanimously
- The Executive committee will place renewal of BWB on annual agenda, and benefiting division will be ascertained annually.
- Vote on the Proposal: 32 yes, 1 opposed, 1 abstention; Proposal Passes

- Motion by Erica Larsen (Art & Art History) that an ad hoc committee be formed for initiation of BWB program, as well as recruitment of help with collection, packaging, and shipping of books. Kim Minnus (Statistics) seconds the motion.
- Motion carries unanimously

Announcements

- Sunita Gupta (Social Committee Interim Chair) – Upcoming events include a social at the Starlite Lounge, and Basketball at the Rec. Center.
- Amber Epp, Frank Moore, and Marcus Natta are going to meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to 1.) Convey GSA’s mission and goals, 2.) describe the travel grants initiative, and 3.) request committee positions designated specifically for Graduate Students

- Brenden Rensink (History), moved to adjourn, _____, seconded, and the motion passed. Executive Chair Amber Epp closed the meeting at 7:06 pm. The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for February, 12th, at 6pm in the East Campus Union.

Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson, VC of Information.