

GSA Exec Committee Notes
Sunday, May 16, 2010

Update on GSA Book Drive: Shannon sent 3 boxes to Better World Books, for an estimated \$150. Another 100 books are being sold on Amazon for prices ranging from \$3-\$90.

Executive Committee Decisions:

- At a meeting with Michelle, Emile suggested Grad Studies might automatically enroll new students in the GSA Listserv (as long as it is clear how students might opt out). Michelle said this could work. The Executive Committee decided to pursue this idea.
- In our Spring 2008 Survey, most grads responded that they were either unclear whether student fees were fairly allocated or felt they were not. The Executive Committee has decided to (1) Create a poll for graduate students asking about the specific programs funded by Fund A (i.e., student organization and programming fees) and whether they use those services. Laura will investigate using software that ASUN Elections are run through (perhaps meet with Juan Franco?) and (2) Have Academic Affairs investigate Fund B (i.e., facility fees) for distance ed students and possibly write resolution to CFA to change these fee amounts for distance ed students.
- Who to ask to chair Academic Affairs Committee: The Exec Committee thought LJ (who is involved all over campus and has good insights) or Jared (who was involved in Academic Affairs last year) might be good candidates.

Executive Committee To-Do List:

- Create August Newsletter to all grads (to be dispersed via an email from Dr. Franco providing a link to a pdf newsletter on our website). What should we put into this newsletter?
 - Introduction Letter/Section by Laura about GSA and our accomplishments
 - Social Events Section by Katie & Aleks (plans for this semester/year, how to find out about future/other events, how to get info and stuff)
 - Website Plug (and the resources it does/will provide)
 - Professional Development Info (things we are planning/working on doing)
 - Getting Involved (How you can help, what you can do, how fun it all is!)
- Emails to Incoming Students (Check with Renee in Grad Studies)
 - First, GSA will be part of one of the monthly e-newsletters that go to incoming students.
 - Second, GSA will email all students asking them to check us out at orientation (give them some sort of incentive!)
- Prepare for New Grad Student Orientation
 - Free Giveaways: We have cups, NAGPS conference memorabilia, business card holders. Exec Committee also decided to have Katie

purchase bottle opener key chains with our name/website on it (300 for roughly \$300)

- Beef up our booth: Exec Committee decided to create a poster (to be attached to a science fair type display board) with info about GSA.
- Raffle? We can possibly get prizes from the UNL Computer Store (talk to guy on East Campus and see if they want to donate stuff for our raffle!) If having Grad Studies automatically sign people up for our listserv doesn't go through, we can collect emails for the raffle. [If we do this, mention it in newsletter!]
- Have kick-off event the night of the information fair.
- Create powerpoint presentation for LA reps to give at their dept orientations to give a bit of about us info. We can even do this during the campus-wide orientation, but some students don't go b/c their dept has their own orientation.
 - Include: "who we are", "what we've done", "social events", "how to find out more info", "how to get in touch with us", "how to get involved (and why you should do it!)"
- Create folders for LA Reps and Committee Chairs.
 - LA Reps: Looked at what we can re-use, what needs to be updated/revamped, what needs to go! Add budget page, since we'll be voting on it.
 - Committee Chairs: Emile should work on these folders for Academic Affairs/Quality of Life (Can work with current chairs to create them for next year.) Emile can go through past committee reports and have a list of what each committee did in year X and what they have tried, what they're working on, etc.
- Exec Committee Made Thank you Cards for:
 - Dr. Franco: "We would like to express our gratitude for generously funding leadership conference attendance for three GSA executives and furthering our goal to reach all UNL graduate students via an annual e-newsletter." (Sincerely, The Graduate Student Association)
 - Dr. Bellows: "We would like to express our gratitude for generously continuing to support the GSA with an annual donation." (Sincerely, The Graduate Student Association)

Ideas discussed for Social Events/GSAW:

- Have one BIG Fall event (since we have GSAW in Spring)
 - Maybe one of the weekends there's no game or one of the weekends we're on the road. Try to get in Sept. Maybe do an "Amazing Chase" thing and/or a big social dinner/event.
- Ask for money through UPC (University Programming Council) for GSAW and maybe our big Fall event.
- Have a social event prior to or around the first LA meeting for the LA reps (and campus reps) to get to know each other.

The Executive Committee also discussed the budget and how to keep our food budget for LA meetings under control. Free pepsi products should help and Aleks is working on a database of cheap, but good meals that can be cycled through over time.

Also, individual tasks for committees and executive members were discussed. See the "GSA Tasks" lists that Laura will distribute.

Lastly, Laura mentioned she will set up a meeting with the Director of Student Involvement to address suggestions for improving communication from their office (Student Workers could use better/continued training, Posting/Disseminating Info for deadlines should occur earlier, RSOs should be told their compliance status more uniformly). If you have anything else you would like the Director to know, tell Laura!