

## **GSA Executive Committee Meeting**

### **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Official Minutes**

The Exec committee met at the Starlight Lounge. The meeting began at 7pm with Aleks Stein Grant Forsberg, Sylvia Johns, Brandon Locke, Jared Leighton, Paziljan Tursun, Ana Marie Vex, LJ McElravy, and Jared McEntaffer present. Minutes recorded by Jared McEntaffer.

The Exec committee began with discussing the upcoming events on our plate; namely the GSO orientation and social event to follow as well as the upcoming executive social. First up was the orientation and social event. Sylvia told the execs about our flier for the event and how we would be posting it in the Union during orientation and that we would be handing it out at our orientation booth. Also, in order to let current grad students know about the social event, we will be emailing the flier to department secretaries so that they can forward it to students. At the orientation booth we will be giving away prizes / knickknacks to new students and we need volunteers to help contact businesses about donating stuff. Sylvia, Grant, and Jared McEntaffer will contact businesses in the coming week to see if there is any interest in them participating. The social event following orientation will be held at Yia Yias. We are budgeting around \$100 for the event.

Next on the agenda we started to finalize plans for the executive social. Thanks to Grant we have names and contact people for all of the relevant parties. We decided to invite all officers for the departmental GSA's (DGSA's) to the social. It is scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We are hoping to have the social in the Jackie Gaughan multi-cultural center. Sylvia will check on getting a room. We are thinking about serving light snacks so we are trying to get access to the kitchen in order to keep costs down.

There was a lengthy discussion following Jared Leighton's committee report about the ad-hoc committee investigating the GSA structure at other schools and what we want to do there at UNL. Jared wants to conduct a survey of graduate students in an effort to gauge student interest in governmental issues. The impetus being, that if the GSA moves forward with attempts to become the actually governing body of note for graduate students, we need to know that grad students are willing to take on the increased responsibilities necessary to have a functioning student government overseeing graduate students.

The main issue with the survey is timing. We are not sure when we can get the survey out such that we will get timely and meaningful feedback. There were suggestions to send it out with the fall newsletter but also suggestions that we send it out prior to that. No decision was made on this point. After much discussion it came to light that previous surveys had been conducted in the past on issues similar in nature. Aleks and Sylvia will check for these.

A somewhat related discussion began about the commitment of current LA representatives. Everyone had done a great job and we value everyone's participation. However, the exec committee has realized that should changes be made with respect to the GSA's status it will be necessary to hold more meetings and for the LA to take on a larger workload. We therefore started discussing several issues about what we might do as a current organization to be more productive and see if these changes might go over

well or be met with resistance. Some ideas floated were to meet on a more regular basis, bi-monthly, and whether or not we should serve meals at the meetings.

With respect to meeting more often, it has been noted for some time that LA meetings have been getting rather lengthy. Bi monthly meetings might help counter this trend. With shorter meetings we might also be able to cut out food service and move to snacks and drinks. The food issue is mainly budget related but we figured it might also help keep meeting times down. No decisions were made on this issue at this time. The execs hope to make some decisions on these matters by the October LA meeting.

The exec committee adjourned and the next meeting is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined.