

## **GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 2/10/09**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the City Campus Union's Colonial Room. Pizza was served before and during the meeting. Attendance included 17 departmental representatives, 5 executive committee members, 2 guests, and 1 advisor.

- Executive Chair Brenda Pracheil was absent to attend a conference. Avery Paulson, VC of Information, filled in and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
  - Motion to approve the January minutes: Emile Salame; Seconded by Ryan Talley, Motion Approved; no amendments
  - Discussion of Committee reports: No discussion.
  
- Constitutional Amendment- VC of Legislative Affairs, Ben Blackford
  - To date, 110 signatures were collected, well short of the needed 400
  - Recommendations to gain more signatures:
    - Use the TA workshop in the fall
    - Recruit the Teachers College which has an active e-mail list of 800+ students
  - Signatures would be needed by the March 10<sup>th</sup> LA meeting to vote on approval of the amendment at the April meeting. Otherwise the amendment would be tabled until the Fall of '09 and a new LA would need to take on the initiative if they so choose.
  - Question about collecting student ID numbers: Student ID numbers should not allow anyone to access anything, and is used to have Grad. Studies help verify registration status of the student.
  
- Better World Books- VC of Finance, Russel Hendrix
  - 408 books that qualified were collected for a total fund raiser of 400 dollars; a little less than last spring, \* but still a good source of funding. \*(not discussed at the meeting: Last spring was the first opportunity to work with BWB and over 2000 books were collected, thus proportionally we did as well as with this drive)
  - Thank you to those who remained after the January meeting to screen and pack books.
  - Recruitment for this spring's drive, as we do not have a meeting in May. We could use some volunteers to come back/get together after finals week to screen and pack books again. As demonstrated after the January meeting, it doesn't take very long if enough are involved.
  
- GSAW- Co-Chairs, Sharon Zumbrunn, Educational Psychology, and Emile Salame', Agricultural Economics
  - GSAW is set for the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, with a BBQ on East Campus for the kick off, Bowling at the East Campus Union Tuesday, New Faculty Panel and Awards ceremony Wednesday, Trivia Night at Buzzard Billiards Thursday, and Kickball, Massages, and BW3's Friday!

- The GSAW committee is recruiting Volunteers for all events, and New Faculty that we know of that can sit on the panel.
  - Everything is free except BW3's.
- NAGPS 2009- VC of External Affairs Leslie Martinez
    - The Hotel is signed on and booked- The Holiday Inn Suites
    - The committee will meet soon and is asking/looking for more volunteers
- Campus Wellness Committee- LJ McElravy, Agricultural Leadership (MS)
    - The Recreation Centers and Health Center are getting major overhauls at the cost of \$40 million in total to the University
    - Results in an \$80.00 per semester increase in student fees
    - The Health Center will have the benefits of privacy, energy efficiency, patient efficiency, quarantine, and handicap accessibility
    - The East Campus Rec will be a whole new building with increased capacity and equipment
    - The City Campus Rec will get new rooms, CV equipment, and renovations to reduce crowding during peak hours
    - The total bill will be paid over 20-30 years and the fee would start when "work" starts (ie assessments, blueprints, etc.). Also, they are hoping the fee increase will be graduated so that those who will never use the facility as a student will burden less of the cost.
    - The ASUN vote by all students on this initiative is March 4<sup>th</sup>. LJ will welcome any questions/comments [lj\\_mac@hotmail.com](mailto:lj_mac@hotmail.com) and asked us to sign an organizational endorsement. Vote of this will be done via e-mail.
- BGSA Black Love Night- Ashley Barnett, Diversity Committee Chair
    - The Diversity Committee purchased 12 tickets at \$8.00 per from their budget
    - First come first serve
    - Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- Graduate Student Commencement- Avery Paulson, VC of Information
    - The Executive Committee would like feedback about reading the name of Masters Degree attaining graduate students having their name read at commencement.
    - Several graduate students that attended the commencement in December for Graduate Students felt that having the names of students receiving Masters Degrees would have added to the commencement. We as the executive committee received a complaint that this was less formal than it could have been.
    - Brenda discussed this with Dean Weissinger and would like more feedback.
    - It was unanimous that we (GSA) agree that reading their names would be an honor and not overly burdensome for to the Commencement exercises.
    - Shannon Cummins and Avery Paulson will draft a resolution to this effect.
- Executive Committee Nominations- Ben Blackford, VC of Legislative Affairs
    - Elections will occur in March and nominations are now officially open.
    - Anyone whom has served on the LA or in a committee position is eligible

- Please send an e-mail to Ben at [blkfrd@unlserve.unl.edu](mailto:blkfrd@unlserve.unl.edu) to nominate or self-nominate
- Ben will in-turn e-mail the individual for acceptance of the position and to attain a biographical sketch.
  
- Announcements
  - Tareq Tawaiha: The Academic Affairs committee is working with the Libraries on two initiatives
    - Open Access Journals
    - Library Goes Green
  - If anyone wants to help on this Committee, Please contact Tareq
  
- Motion to Adjourn by Ashley Barnett. Motion seconded by Katie Cook-Wilson.

The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 6pm in the City Campus Union. Food will be served. Minutes recorded by Leslie Martinez, VC of External affairs, typed and submitted by Avery Paulson- VC of Information.