

GSA minutes 11-9-11

Dinner was served before the meeting. Attendance sheets were passed around prior to the call to order as well.

Call to order 6:43

Motion to approve minutes was made.

Second by Jamie Volz of Economics department.

Approved with 2 abstentions

Discussion of committee reports

- Laura Lynch

Laura Lynch, Executive Chair of GSA, made a few statements about the upcoming NAGPS conference

Q – Andrew Brown asked whether or not we were still members of NAGPS.

A – Laura Lynch responded that no we are not members but the costs of our attendance are being covered by the university. Funds will not come from the GSA budget.

Q – Aleksandra Stein asked if the big 12 have anything to do with the NAGPS conference

A – Laura answered that the big 12 does not have anything to do with NAGPS.

Laura Lynch spoke briefly about the GSA Facebook page. She reminded everyone to visit it and join so that they can receive communiqués from the GSA about activities and events.

Q – Someone asked for clarification between liking the GSA Facebook page vs. joining a Facebook group.

A – Laura responded that if you “like” the page then you will get all the updates on your wall, but you cannot actually “join” the page.

Q – Andrew Brown asked we are doing for people who are not on Facebook so that they know about events etc.

A – Laura responded that they will we always send out notifications via email, but Facebook will allow users to see if friends are going etc.

Laura brought up the issue of open positions within the LA. She asked if any reps know of people that might be interested in joining the GSA. There were no responses at the time.

- Finance committee - Bethany Murray

Book drive

Bethany informed the LA that there will be no more better world books drive. The book drive will now be run by the book store but the GSA will receive a portion of the proceeds in line with revenues from previous years when the GSA ran the book drive. We can still attempt to collect extra books and we can sell them if we want but we do not have to.

Q – Eric Montgomery, Vice Chair of legislative affairs, asked if the book bins would be locked.

A – Bethany responded that she did not know but that it would be in the book store's interest to ensure that all donated books were collected.

T- shirt sales

Bethany said that T-shirt sales would be done through the book store. Grad school alum will be able to order shirts through the book store, and GSA will get a portion of the proceeds. If we sell shirts on our own we would need money up front and orders of 20 or more.

Bethany asked if there was any interest in selling shirts on our own... around 10 people expressed interest. The idea of a teaching polo was floated.

Q – Maliha Zuberi from actuarial science asked if we could see a design first, as it is hard to say yes or no without seeing a design.

A – Bethany agreed and said if anyone has ideas please email her. *(see the exec page on the UNL GSA webpage for her email if interested <http://www.unl.edu/gsa/exec.shtml>)*

- Diversity Committee – Ashley Barnett

Ashley informed the LA that the diversity committee is trying to ensure tribal flags are displayed during commencement. If any reps or grad students have one they would like to make sure is displayed send her an email. *(see the exec page on the UNL GSA webpage for her email if interested <http://www.unl.edu/gsa/exec.shtml>)*

- Academic Affairs Committee – LJ McElravy

Campus wellness referendum passed. 20% of the student body voted. 72% of the voting students voted for the referendum.

Election of city rep position

At last month's meeting the LA postponed voting on the election of a new city campus representative. The LA returned to the issue this month.

Ashley Krause the Vice-Chair the Graduate Student Appreciation Week committee spoke as Brandon's advocate. Brandon works with her committee. She advised the LA that she thought he should be elected.

The motion to hold the vote was made and seconded.

Votes for ... All reps in attendance minus one

Votes against ... one

New business

None

Announcements

Katie Wilson Vice-Chair of Social Events advised that Saturday (11-13-10) at the dock behind Embassy Suites the GSA will sponsor a tailgating party. Katie also spoke about the ethics seminar Monday November 29th. The seminar is led by Steve Schwarzer from Center of Applied Ethics. We can submit topics of interest. Also, bowling and brownies in East union in December

Aleksandra Stein, Vice-Chair of Representation, spoke about LA representative posters she advised that we should make informational posters about our reps so that your departments know who to contact with issues. Rep will submit photo and a short blurb about themselves to Aleks. Her committee will add general info about GSA. Aleks volunteered to be the photographer.

The timeline for this project is TBA

OPEN FORUM

Drew Schulz the ASUN internal president gave a short presentation about open positions within ASUN that either must be filled by graduate students or that can be filled by grad students. Committees with open positions are listed below. (** indicates a position that must be filled by graduate students)

judicial and appeals board
parking **
honors committee **

publications board **
fee allocation **
grading **

Applications can be found in the ASUN office. At this time there are no Senate positions open

Eric Eager, ASUN graduate student senator serving on the Committee for Fees Allocation spoke to the LA

Q – Andrew Brown asked how the new health center referendum will affect allocations in the future.

A – Enrollment at UNL is trending upward by 600 a year ... CFA is trying to find ways to use expanded enrollment as a way to mitigate increased fees ... CFA potentially has a plan to could allow for a 5 year freeze in fee increases.

Q – Aleksandra Stein asked if differential fees for Grad/ Undgrad students were possible. (with respect to the new health center)

A – In short no.

Eric Eager again emphasized that there is an open position for a grad student on his committee and that it is very important that grad students have that representation.

(here is a link to an application for the open CFA position - <http://asun.unl.edu/sites/asun.unl.edu/files/applications/CFA.pdf>)

Eric Hunt from the Quality of Life Committee spoke about legal representation for students that is proved by the University.

Some student legal services provided:

1. Divorces but not if involve children of property
2. Advice in legal problems for misdemeanor crimes but not felonies
3. Will recommend attorneys
4. Will advise students on questions with leases or landlord issues

They will not enter into issues between students and advisors

Motion to adjourn – Ashley

Chris Harris from Finance seconded the motion.