

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting September 13, 2011

The inaugural meeting of the UNL GSA convened at the CityCampus Union at 6:35 PM the 13th of September. There were 30 voting members in attendance and the agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved. At the outset of the meeting the LA adopted a new standing rule to limit debate to 5 minutes with 2 additional minutes for questions.

At the outset of the meeting we had brief period of introductions. Dr. Edwards the faculty advisor to the GSA spoke briefly about herself and how she looked forward to a new year. After Dr. Edwards spoke, the current executive committee members and committee chairs introduced themselves and briefly outlined their duties.

Sylvia Jons the executive chair outlined some of the GSA's goals for the coming school year.

1. We are looking at joining a Big 10 wide collaborative advance the agenda of graduate students. Later this year a representative from Michigan will visit UNL to see if there are some specific goals the two schools can work on together. Namely, the possibility of offering legal services to students in a collaborative way, and also a joint funding initiative aimed at research and travel funding for grad students.
2. At the close of last year the GSA formed an AD hoc committee to evaluate how the GSA might better serve grad students. The committee has spent time looking at the GSA's sister organizations around the Big 10 in order to better understand what we might be able to do here at UNL. As part of this process we will be moving forward with a survey on how grad students perceive student government at UNL. Please encourage participation
3. There is an upcoming NAGPS conference. Sylvia Jons, Grant Forsberg, & Jared Leighton will attend. Contact them if you have questions or you would like them to address at the conference.

Ran through social events: Monday September 26th Ethics seminar. Tues Sept 27th meeting. Friday 28th appetizers & social hour at Lazlo's

The other members of the Executive Committee and the various committee chairs introduced themselves and their roles. Information about the committees and executive positions can be found at: <http://www.unl.edu/gsa/exec.shtml> and <http://www.unl.edu/gsa/allcommittees.shtml>

Approval of budget

Annika Denkert the VC of the Finance Committee presented this year's budget to the LA. There was brief discussion of where the GSA gets its funds. Annika explained that most of our funds come from graduate studies (\$2,000) and the bookstore for our services in the annual GSA book drive (~\$700).

There was a typo on the budget. The executive committee's budget last year was incorrectly stated as \$5205.84. The correct figure was \$2055.84. An amendment was proposed and approved. The original and amended budgets are presented as an appendix to these minutes.

Special Elections

There was a special election to appoint Audra Nuru as the new VC of Social Events. Sylvia spoke on Audra's behalf. Audra was elected unanimously. Congratulations Audra we are glad to have.

New Business

Bill-FA2011-1

Notification of introduction. Bill-FA1011-1 would make the Internal affairs the presiding officer at LA meetings. Currently the Executive Chair is designated as the presiding officer. The bill is not up for discussion at this time. After the mandatory 30 day waiting period the bill will be considered.

Bill-FA2011-2

In the UNL Graduate Student Association Legislative Assembly, a bill to ensure a strong response to the Association of students at the University of Nebraska's graduate student survey.

There was a motion to amend line 12 of the bill. The proposed amendment would remove the #18 from said line. This would require LA reps ensure emails encouraging response to the survey be sent out prior to the end of September rather than by September 18th. The bill was so amended and passed.

Resolution-FA2011-3

A resolution to support the adoption of employee plus one benefits. This would allow faculty to add another adult to qualified health plans. The resolution says that GSA will work actively in favor of this plan. UNL is the only big 10 school to not have this. UNL is also the only CIC school that doesn't. This legislation would encourage the board of regents change policy for all Nebraska schools. This has been adopted by the faculty senate at each of the four Nebraska system schools.

The resolution only applies to full time faculty. It does not directly affect grad students. If passed the called for changes could lead to higher premiums across the board equal to about 1% - 2% of current premium values. The resolution passed.

There was a motion to suspend the rules and move the open forum forward before debate on the final resolution. The motion passed.

Open Forum

Steve Schwartzer from the Ethics Center spoke to the LA about the monthly ethics seminars put on for graduate students and about the Ethics Center in general.

The center helps teachers and students incorporate ethics into their classrooms. More information can be found at: <http://ethics.unl.edu/>. The center also puts on the Grad Student Ethics Forum on the last Monday of each month. The first meeting will be Sept. 26th, and the topic will be: "into the deep end... starting off right and helping other as well"

Audra will be sending out notifications to GSA members

12:30 to 1:30 ... potentially will stream or record in the future

Natalia Santos came and spoke to the LA about ASUN and openings in ASUN for graduate students. There are currently openings on the Diversity, Student Fees, and Judicial affairs committees.

Returning to New Business

Bill FA-2011-4

Notification of introduction. Bill-FA1011-4 would change the way the LA can amend the By Laws. The bill is not up for discussion at this time. After the mandatory 30 day waiting period the bill will be considered.

Bill FA-2011-5

Notification of introduction. Bill-FA1011-5 would change the way that executive committee members are elected. The bill is not up for discussion at this time. After the mandatory 30 day waiting period the bill will be considered.

LJ McElravy and Kat Shultis were appointed as VCs of Academic Affairs and Quality of Life committees respectively. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Appendix A ... 2011-2012 Budget

Budget as presented.

GSA Budget

- Budget \$4737.28 (last year: \$5205.84)
- Proposed split
Exec \$1737.28 (last year: \$5205.84)
Food for meetings \$800
Orientation \$200
Emergency/Misc \$737.28
Social \$1000 (last year: \$1000)
GSAW \$2000 (last year: \$2000)
Finance \$0 (last year: \$150)

Budget as amended

GSA Budget

Budget \$4737.28 (last year: \$5205.84)

Proposed split Exec \$1737.28 (last year: 2055.84)
 Food for meetings \$800
 Orientation \$200
 Emergency/Misc. \$737.28

Social \$1000 (last year: \$1000)

GSAW \$2000 (last year: \$2000)

Finance \$0 (last year: \$150)

Total

\$4737.28