

# GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting

## Minutes 4/12/11

What follows are the official minutes of the April meeting of the UNL GSA LA. The meeting was held March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 in the east campus union.

Call to order 6:31pm

The minutes from last month's meeting were approved unanimously.

### Committee reports

Laura gave her year in review presentation. She reviewed the goals the GSA set at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year to strengthen the GSA and to help graduate students.

- strengthen GSA
  - We passed the new constitution, and it was fully ratified by ASUN. Some of the major changes brought about by this included the splitting of the VC of Public Relations into two positions: VC of Social Events and VC of Representation, and creating new positions as city and east campus reps.
  - We increased overall representation in the LA. The bulletin at the beginning of the year helped immensely. We have increased the representation of grad students on external committees across campus, and are working to expand this further
  - We have improved student outreach ... who we are what we do etc. We did this by better informing the LA members and also through our greatly improved website (thanks Aleks) and newsletter (thanks everyone especially Laura)
  - We have improved our funding situation. We are not guaranteed any money from Graduate Studies or any other departments. Grad Studies has given us money every year ~\$2,500 but it has been a gift. The rest has been self generated. Now we have deal with book store. Guaranteed \$700 a year. Now also selling T-Shirts (alum shirts) (teaching polo). GSAW also raised lots from UPC funds and Vice Chancellor of Student affairs ~\$1,800.
- Help grad students
  - We have worked to extend the fee deferral to fellowship recipients. It is seems likely we have convinced the administration to implement for next semester.
  - Our proposals for family medical leave for grad students are under review by the university's lawyers. If given thumbs up it will go to the board of regents.
  - We completed our research on travel funds. We contacted every degree granting department, and now have information on all departments. We have

spoken with Ellen Weisinger about situation and she encourages us to present results at a dean council meeting.

- Graduate student bill of rights. We have decided to work with academic affairs and ASUN to just rework the general student bill of rights and not focus on a bill specific to grad students.

### **Awards**

- Eric Hunt – award outstanding GSA committee chair rep. Way to go! Eric is also nominated for student impact award (campus wide). Top finalist
- Grant Forsberg and Brandon Locke were both given the award for outstanding member. They have both been amazing new member to the LA helping with GSAW and improving representation in the LA.

### **Elections**

- VC of SE – still open ... Open east and city rep positions.
- Shant Karakashian (computer science) and Ela Celikbas (Math) both ran for open city campus reps.
- The vote was unanimous, and both were reelected for next year.

### **New Business**

- Resolution 4.12.11 against discrimination against international students.
  - Background – An UNL abd (all but dissertation) grad student from Thailand was picked up by immigration and detained. Her visa and passport were taken. She was forced to return home country and cannot return for 5 years. It seems that racial and gender discrimination played a part in the actions taken by boarder control agents.
  - The resolution was passed unanimously

### **Open Forum**

- Emil spoke about the ad hoc committee to examine separating student governments. This is a committee that will examine the issue from an internal perspective - what needs to be done to bring about change and whether it is a good idea. Will provide findings to Exec com and LA next year. He asked if anyone would be willing to sign up and passed around a signup sheet.
- The Gov. will be signing the proclamation declaring GSAW at 10:30 on 4-13-11.

- Sylvia asked everyone to take a look at the handouts that describe open campus committees, and let her know if you are interested.

Meeting adjourned shortly after 7pm.