

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 12/9/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, December 9th, 2008, in the City Campus Union's Ballroom. Pizza was served before and during the meeting. Attendance included 18 departmental representatives, 6 executive committee members, 1 guest, and 1 advisor.

- Executive Chair Brenda Pracheil called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
 - Motion to approve the November minutes: Doug Oxley; Second by Ashley Barnett, Motion Approved; no amendments
 - Discussion of Committee reports: No discussion.

- Better World Books- VC of Finance Russel Hendrix
 - Bins are in and Department Reps are in line to check the bins for books
 - Some buildings are the same as last year- eg. The City and East Campus Unions; some are different eg. Veterinary Basic Sciences, East Campus

- Graduate Student Survey- VC of External Affairs Leslie Martinez
 - We are waiting for IRB approval and permission from the Graduate Chairs to distribute the survey
 - Funding for the survey is still in question
 - The Survey should be distributed the beginning of February

- NAGPS- VC of External Affairs Leslie Martinez
 - The Final NAGPS report was distributed to the LA in word document format entitled FINAL NAGPS 22nd Annual Conference Report
 - A summary is found on page 3 and the table of contents links the daily sessions so interested readers may easily find information about the conference

- Black Graduate Student Association- Jakari Griffith, Executive Chair, BGSA
 - Jakari expressed his appreciation of our GSA and gratitude for allowing audience to him at the meeting
 - The BGSA is a small organization of loose structure as they are relatively new
 - The BGSA has the primary role as a social support network for African American Graduate students and Graduate Students in general
 - A recent highlight for their organization was a meet and greet with City Officials
 - They have read our Mission Statement and would like to partner with our organization on sponsoring events throughout the coming years

- Executive Social- VC of External Affairs- Leslie Martinez
 - The GSA Executive Committee hosted a social December 3rd at Old Chicago with Executive Officers from Department Graduate Student Associations and Organizations
 - The event was a Great success and developed relationships with the GSA and the departments

- 12 of 25 Departments with graduate GSAs/GSOs
- Graduate Student Library Board- VC of External Affairs- Leslie Martinez
 - Associate Dean Westbrook would like to convene a Board of Graduate Students, Faculty, and Administration to communicate needs and maintain library services
 - All interested are encouraged to apply to serve
- Constitutional Amendments- VC of Legislative Affairs Ben Blackford and Doug Oxley, Political Sciences LA Representative
 - The Constitution Committee in conjunction with the Elections Committee believe it would be in the best interests of the GSA if elections were opened for nominee's in February and elections held in March.
 - This would allow for a longer transition period for Executive Committee members with having 2 LA meetings and additional Executive Committee meetings to execute business
 - However, in the Constitution it is written that Elections will be held at the April meeting with inductions occurring at the May meeting, specifically.
 - In order to amend the Constitution, there is a required 10% approval of all Graduate Students of UNL. This results in essentially 450 approved petitions.
 - Moreover, those 450 approved petitions need to be written signatures, and we do not have access to verification records that those signatures are from full time Graduate students of UNL
 - Much discussion ensued as to how this would happen and whether it would be better to change the Constitution on how the Constitution is amended or Amend the Elections portion only.
 - The consensus was to create an amendment for amending the Constitution and revisit the issue at the January LA meeting
- Announcements-
 - The Executive Committee is in the process of evaluating the goals of the GSA established at the November meeting
 - The Associate Dean of Libraries will be at the January LA meeting
 - Dr. Hanna asked about the status of University Wide Travel and Research Grants- Avery Paulson, VC of Information, met with Vice Chancellor Franco, Dean Weissenger, and Associate Vice Chancellor Wilson in November and has a meeting with Dean Kostelnik set for January to start establishing College level assessment and need.
 - The University Child Care Center is to open in August and we are concerned about the structure still
 - Food Science generously donated \$100.00 to the NAGPS fund for the 2009 annual meeting
 - Doug Oxley appeared on the Daily Show.
- Motion to Adjourn by Ashley Barnett. Motion seconded by Emile Salame.

The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2009, at 6pm in the City Campus Union. Food will be served. Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson- VC of Information.