

GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting Minutes 9/9/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, in the City Campus Union's Heritage Room. Cookies were served before and during the meeting. Attendance included 15 departmental representatives, 7 executive committee members, and 1 sponsor.

Orientation packets were given to all Legislative Assembly (LA) members as a guide for joining GSA. Packets included various items: a primer on resolutions, Robert's Rules of Order, meeting times, officer roles, and a welcome letter.

- Executive Chair Brenda Pracheil called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.
 - Executive Chair Pracheil started with a brief introduction of your organization and the importance of you as representatives to your departments. In addition, we quickly discussed the format of the meetings, times, date and place.
 - Executive Chair Pracheil illustrated the Accomplishments made through last years legislative assembly- including reformed health care initiatives, improved child care initiatives (Resolution 3.2.08), the resolution maintaining of library fees (Resolution 4.1.08), and GA fee deferment (Resolution 2.2.08).
 - Executive Chair Pracheil also emphasized ongoing initiatives- example given Travel and Research grants.

- Dean Ellen Weissinger was than given introduction.
 - Dean Weissinger gave a brief introduction on the office of Graduate Studies as a student oriented office. She emphasized the aid that can be given to students through the office.
 - Dean Weissinger led an empowering discussion on the importance of the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate Student Association Legislative Assembly, and the Graduate Student body as a whole.
 - Dean Weissinger emphasized 3 reasons the Graduate Students of UNL are important to the University and University Systems:
 - Faculty should and do hold Graduate Students to a higher standard
 - Faculty mentoring should be held to a high standard as we will eventually be faculty mentors
 - We have the duty and responsibility to maintain complete and unwavering dedication to honesty and integrity
 - Dean Weissinger asked for all legislative assembly members and executives to give an introduction of themselves, their backgrounds, and their program. This to illustrate the depth and array of collective knowledge established through an organized Graduate Student Association.
 - The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors have taken notice of our organization as a rational, goal oriented, University oriented association of the best part of the student body.
 - Hence, Dean Weissinger closed with an emphasis of generating and maintaining representation from all departments.

- Each Executive Officer introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role.
 - Executive Chair- Brenda Pracheil, PhD Student, School of Natural Resources
 - Vice Chair of Internal Affairs- Kristin Javorsky, Masters Student, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education
 - Vice Chair of Public Relations- Elizabeth Andrews, Masters Student, Department of Textiles, Clothing, and Design
 - Vice Chair of External Affairs- Leslie Martinez, PhD Student, Department of Psychology
 - Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs- Benjamin Blackford, PhD Student, Department of Management
 - Vice Chair of Finance- Russell Hendrix, PhD Student, Department of Nutrition
 - Vice Chair of Information- Avery Paulson, PhD Student, Department of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences

- Sign-up sheets were passed around the group for committee chairs and members. The final lists will be available on the web as soon as possible.

- Old Business-
 - Campus Level Travel and Research Grants- Members of the executive committee went before the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors to explain the proposal. The administration liked the initiative and agreed to develop a task force to look into funding options. Executive Chair Pracheil explained the snare of using ASUN fees as a “Sticky Wicket!”
 - Better World Books- There were a little over 2000 books collected, of which 250 were not accepted by the company and were donated to area school libraries. \$500.00 was generated for GSA from this program.
 - Graduate Student Survey- Trish Hill has taken on this initiative. It is a survey to define the Graduate Student Body through a collection of demographics. NEone experienced at survey development and analysis, please contact Trish.

- New Business-
 - Kristin Javorsky introduced Committee Chairs that had been filled at the time of the LA meeting-
 - Trish Hill (Sociology) is the Chair of the Quality of Life Committee
 - Ashley Barnett (Geography) is the Chair of the Diversity Committee
 - Chairs needed at the time of this meeting: Academic Affairs, Joint ASUN Committee on Committees, and GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

 - Leslie Martinez introduced the NAGPS meeting OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 2, 2008

 - Russel Hendrix emphasized the financial problems that the GSA is facing and implores individuals interested in securing additional funding contact him.

- Elizabeth has posted some social events that are upcoming. Please check out the web page at www.unl.edu/gsa
- Ben Blackford is working on recruiting additional LA reps and asks current representatives to help in this regard
- Teresa Grosserode (Nutrition & Health Studies) is our representative to the Committee on Campus Wellness and is part of the Campus Wellness Initiative. She asks NEone in the GSA interested in helping promote Campus Wellness and Health Care Reform, please visit the website www.wellness.unl.edu to learn more and then get into contact with her.

➤ Trish Hill motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ashley Barnett.

The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2008, at 6pm in the City Campus Union. Food will be served. Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson.