Minutes

Submitted Feb. 6, 2011 by VP Clausen

President Da Silva called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Centennial Room of the UNL Student Union.

ATTENDANCE:
Absent were ALEC, Biological Systems Engineering, Interdepartmental Nutrition, Law

Agenda with Bill #20 was approved with no objections.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Minutes from December 5, 2017 were approved as submitted.

OPEN FORUM
Tami Strickland from the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance, the Universities’ Title IX Coordinator: her office is located in 128 Canfield, on the north side of the building. She welcomes anyone with concerns or questions to reach out. They are a resource for the campus community. They investigate any form of discrimination or harassment based on a protected status such as marital status, race, national origin, or sexual misconduct. They are also responsible for fair hiring practices with an eye toward diversity and inclusion. The website is unl.edu/equity, a tab on the UNL homepage. The most common inquiries recently have been regarding sexual harassment and assault. The office is a neutral, fact-finding office; investigators—not counselors. The University has a zero-tolerance policy on retaliation. The office is pretty new. She requests that GSA members spread the word about her office. There has been a recent uptick in reporting, part of a nationwide trend. We are on par with our Big 10 peers. The University policy on mandatory reporting: there are three categories of employees. Confidential resources, responsible employees (Deans, high directors, and supervisory roles), and “other” which includes staff and faculty, who are encouraged but not required to report. Responsible Employees display an RE logo clearly. The office is currently working on a campus climate survey. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance currently has no established methods for assessing their performance and the satisfaction of students with respect to the service they provide, although they do sometimes receive feedback from students, mainly in the form of emails.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS
President Da Silva: GSA distributes a desktop computer that can be rented for free. Elections are coming up at the end of the term. President and Vice Presidents will be elected in a general election on March. Internal elections will take place in April. She requests that representatives help their committees

Executive Vice President Clausen: I created the Bill best practices sheet. It’s not policy it’s just best practices. That’s pretty much what I did over the past month.

Vice President of Student Affairs Reilly: No Report

Vice President of Representation Poudel: Requests that anyone with concerns about their attendance or their programs’ attendance contact her.

Vice President of Finance Twedt: Enclosed the financial erratum that was discussed in the past meeting.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee Co-Chairs Ziara and Martin: Recognized the hard work of their committee members. The Stipend Survey progresses, they have made modifications on the earlier survey. Dr. Tim Carr and Prof. Christina Falci. Jerry Timbrook is helping to finalize the survey. The reason for all these changes is to have results that are respected by the administrations. The plan is to distribute the survey in February of 2018. Both co-chairs request that members spread the word on the survey in order to boost turnout. Collaborated with ASUN, boothed on AWARE booth spreading the word about academic rights. Also worked on the HuskerOut campaign which played a role graduate tuition waivers not being included as taxable income. Rami also plans to create a GSA welcome packet for representatives, they request that people with useful skills contact them (graphic design and videography, specifically). They will also be participating in a Coffee & Chat with GSA event in March.

BUSINESS

Bill # 19 A bill authorizing the creation of a survey to assess matters relating to graduate and professional students' quality of life and campus safety. Passed unanimously.

Bill #20 Bill allocating funding to the Career Fair. Passed unanimously with amendments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GTAP: Another successful around of GTAP Awards, they notified winners on Dec. 20th. They had seventy applications, 17 faculty reviewers and 27 peer reviewers. Awarded eight grants. Four students from hard sciences, four from soft sciences. The next application cycle begins at the end of January when applications are available. They would like to hear feedback.

TLTE: Thanks to all the GSA members for their work on Husker Out.

ADJOURNMENT

7:58