GSA Legislative Assembly Meeting

Minutes 11/11/08

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Student Association (GSA) met on Tuesday, November 11th, 2008, in the City Campus Union’s Ballroom. Pizza was served before and during the meeting. Attendance included 21 departmental representatives, 6 executive committee members, and 1 advisor.

* Executive Chair Brenda Pracheil called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
  o Motion to approve the October minutes: Jessica Colton; Second by Ashley Barnett, Motion Approved

  o Discussion of Committee reports: No discussion.

* National Association of Graduate and Professional Students Annual Meeting Report
  o Representatives Leslie Martinez, Ashley Barnett, and Emile Salame attended the Annual Meeting October 29th through November 2nd
    o They presented and successfully gained the bid for the Annual meeting next year
    o The Finance Committee is now charged with the responsibility of gathering funds for the NAGPS Annual Meeting- Estimated at $1,000.00 minimum
      o An ad hoc committee will need to be formed in the near future to make sure all plans, meeting places, and other arrangements are met by next fall
      o The trophy for our association is on display in our office

* Better World Books
  o The program sponsors areas of need in Literacy
  o This year the books we collect will benefit the National Center for Literacy
  o Russel Hendrix and the Finance Committee have formed the ad hoc committee but are still looking for assistance to collect, pre-sort, and package books
    o A packing session will occur after our January LA meeting
    o Questions Raised:
      + How did we collect the books? – Boxes lined with plastic are placed at designated locations and volunteers determine when the boxes are full
      + What books are accepted? – All books from the past 10 years are taken by the company, however only certain books do we receive the incentive from. These books can be found on their website, and it is to our benefit to pre-sort as we will receive extra for this extra work

* Resolution 11.05.08  GSA position on academic integrity
o The resolution was presented to the LA by Ms. Courtney Quinn, Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs
o This resolution simply stated is that GSA supports academic integrity in all aspects of a graduate student’s career.
o Questions Raised:
  + Who’s going to see it? – This is a great PR opportunity for the Graduate Student Association. Our position will be disseminated with orientations, the TA workshop and at other events where the office of Graduate Studies and we see appropriate.
o Motion to Approve by Ashley Barnett, Second by Jessica Colton
o Resolution adopted unanimously

* Res 11.03.08 GSA position on the graduate student use of library proxies
  o The resolution was presented to the LA by Ms. Courtney Quinn, Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs
  o This resolution calls for a library policy allowing the use of Library proxies by Graduate Students
  o Questions Raised:
    + How does it (Proxies) work for faculty? – They designate their authority to another and that person has the ability to check out material in their name from any of the campus libraries
    + What is the library policy now and are there any feelings from the library against this initiative? – As it stands now, proxies for students are given (hush, hush) on an individual case by case basis. The library may want to set something like that up in response to this resolution. They would not want any more than 2 individuals designated as proxies.
    + Is there a system in place to assure that the proxy is not abusing the system in the name of the faculty member? – There are extended due dates, and the ability of the faculty member to check if materials were checked out and/or back in.
o Motion to Approve Jessica Pritchard, Second by Ashley Barnett
o 1 against, 2 abstentions, Resolution adopted by majority vote.

* New Business -
o Courtney Quinn has change Committee Chair positions from Academic Affairs to Quality of Life and is looking to expand membership
  o Tareq Tawaiha has stepped up to Committee Chair of Academic Affairs
  o The Finance Committee would like to have a fundraising brainstorming session
  o The Elections Committee is looking to expand membership
  o ASUN is having a Town Hall style meeting Wednesday, November 19th.
o Question was raised as to why can’t GSA have a Grad Student List – The office of graduate studies is concerned about spam and abuse of the system. Alternatively, we already have the list serve in place, and LA members are encouraged to tell their fellow graduate students to sign up for it through our website!
o Goals for the rest of the Academic Year -
  + Leslie Martinez (VC of External Affairs) has organized a gathering of Executives from Department Graduate Student Organizations and the Executive Committee – December 3rd
Sequester Graduate Student fees for Graduate Students is an ongoing issue. There are senate seats still available to be filled by Graduate Students—Please contact Teressa Grosserode if you are interested.

Insurance coverage for Graduate Students and/or Dependents is an ongoing issue that the Quality of Life Committee will be working to increase.

Transportation after 6 pm is an all-campus issue.

Student Legal Services does not/is not able to address legal issues Graduate Students could face.

Perkins VIP tags were distributed to distribute to fellow graduate students. Perkins may be approached as a corporate sponsor to host the NAGPS Annual meeting.

Proceedings from NAGPS will be made available through Blackboard and the Web.

Please be looking for additional materials/meetings about the Ayers talk that was cancelled, and Academic Freedom in general.

* Motion to Adjourn by Jessica Colton. Motion seconded by Ashley Barnett.

The next Legislative Assembly meeting is scheduled for December 9th, 2008, at 6pm in the City Campus Union. Food will be served. Minutes submitted by Avery Paulson.