Below are the official minutes of the January meeting of the GSA Legislative Assembly. The meeting was held in the City Campus Union on the 18th of January 2011.

Call to order 6:36

A motion was made to approve the minutes from last month with one change. Emile Salame’s name had been misspelled. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously

**Committee Reports**

Report from Exec chair Laura

- Brief report on meeting with vice chancellor.
- Briefly mentioned the open committee positions.

Report from L J from academic affairs

- There is a movement to remove the special fee for engineering students and instead just raise the tuition for engineering students. The president is willing to entertain a motion would like gsa to have an input
- Next at Nebraska – GSA is looking at setting up a version for grad students. Recently the emails have not dealt with grad student information much and so we would like to insure that grad related stuff is covered. LJ said that it should be easy to get our stuff submitted but in the past there has been issues so we want to check on this issue

Diversity Committee will have report next month

Social Events Committee will be changing the date of the free ice skating to work around the super bowl.

**New Business**

Resolution 1.18.11 & Resolution 1.19.11

These were past resolutions that had been passed but the documentation is missing. We are introducing the resolutions so that we can have documentation for passage.

1.18.11 – Resolution saying that the GSA supports reading the names of master students at commencement

- LJ commented that part of the reason the university does not read the names is because the administration wants to avoid issues involving reading the wrong name. Sometimes people get out of order. Also they want to insure that all names are pronounced correctly, and it takes a lot of time to learn names and practice.
• On average there are 100 PhD students 2 to 5 times that number of master students. The status quo will not likely change in the near term but if we state how important the issue is to us in time it might change.

• Motion to approve was made and seconded. The LA voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

Resolution 1.19.11 – open access

• Because of this resolution we joined the Right to Research Coalition and if we do not pass we might run into some difficulties with our membership.
• Open access means free and immediate online access to journals and articles. Anyone associated with UNL can upload their scholarly works, published or not. Then anyone in the world can access that material.
• There were some questions about who the right to research coalition was. Laura described how they work to promote open access to scholarly journal publications at the national level.

• Motion to approve was made and seconded. The LA voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

Returning to the recycling resolution from last month

• Eric Hunt from Quality of Life Committee gave a presentation about the resolution. His committee has not met since last month given the Christmas break. However, Eric did speak with Dr. Don Wilhite the director of School of Natural Resources about the imitative. Chancellors Commission on Sustainability created in 2008. We are starting to fall behind our comparable universities in the Big Ten. The prospects for affecting near term changes in the university’s policies is somewhat grim.
• Eric recommended a joint resolution with ASUN simply given the greater number of undergrads.

• A motion was made to postpone the resolution until the committee can reintroduce a new resolution. Motions seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Open Forum

Eric Hunt gave a presentation about grad students right and responsibilities
• The current document that outlines our rights and responsibilities is in the form it was last approved around 16 years ago. Most universities have a short document listing bullet points of rights and responsibilities.
• Currently there is nothing stating our rights with respect to: accessing student records, judicial procedures, class enrollment issues (undergrads getting enrollment priority in some cases), country of origin (discrimination issues).
• There is a question about whether this information is covered in the Graduate Student Handbook. Some might be. There was discussion about how the information is very disparate and located in many places.
• One of our city campus reps recommended that the GSA write a resolution that would suggest departments append the general UNL rights and responsibilities to their own individual R&R documents.
• LJ recommended coordinating with Dr. Hecker the dean of students because academic affairs doesn’t focus on Grad student issues currently. Perhaps if we approach the issue through student affairs and prepare a document like the student code of conduct project a couple years ago.

Elections

• Elections are next month. If you are interested in running for a position the committee chairs and the execs will stick around after the meeting if you have any questions please ask after the meeting. If you want to be elected you must have been a GSA LA member for at least one semester. You can nominate yourself.

Services Survey

We want some input on what is most important. We will put a survey on the website we would like you input first

Should we add anything? --- Some suggestions from the LA included.

  Eye Exams (there is an opt in policy for university health)
  Study rooms 24 hours.
  Legal Issues – Tenant/Landlord issues
  Union Services – Rental info
  Parking meters on campus – Changing the hours and not getting rid of the hours

Motion to adjourn 7:50 unanimous.