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 8th of February 2011.

Call to order 6:38 pm

The minutes from last month were approved unanimously

**Committee reports**

Report by Executive Chair – Laura
- Newsletter was sent out. Very pleased with the response. Many grade students have joined the Facebook page and the list serve. LJ said that the newsletter also went out to the law school as well. Laura said that she had noticed that some law students did contact her about it. We will check with student accounts to clear up any double registration.
- T-shirt contest running right now until this Friday. Open to all. Winner gets design on our shirt that we will sell in the union.

Report by Vice Chair of Social Events – Katie
- We are working on some development seminars.
- March 1st 3:30 on non-academic positions. Check the website all of the details are there. Also Ethics seminar at the end of the month.
- March 10th swing lessons First 20 students free after that $5.
- End of March we will have the Chipotle bike ride.

Report by Vice Chair of Representation – Ashley
- Still working on list of activities and resources in Lincoln for new grad students.

**Resolution 2.9.11**

Andrew Brown moved that we reorder the agenda to consider resolution 2.9.11 right now given that we have a representative from the Daily Nebraska (DN) here and we do not want to take up too much of her time.
- Seconded and carried unanimously.

The resolution would show our support for making the DN fee an opt-in fee, as opposed to its current opt-out status. In the event that this change would not be possible, this resolution advocates that the fee be eliminated entirely.

Andrew reported some figures:
- DN printing costs $123,000 this year; last year $122,000. The DN total budget is $753,000
- The DN is asking for an increase $5,000 for next year

Jenna Gibson, the Editor-in-Chief of the DN spoke to the LA on behalf of the DN. In brief, some of the points she made are outlined below.
• Student fees make up roughly 20% of the DN’s budget. The other 80% is generated through advertizing.
• Student fees are only allocated toward printing costs. Salaries, equipment, and distribution costs etc are covered by advertising revenues.
• The DN has a staff of around 150 students that get valuable work experience through working for the daily Nebraskan.
• We have a very strong journalism college and it is a very important recruitment tool that we have, and NU have produced very successful professionals that have gone on to such organizations as the Washington Post and the New York Times.
• The DN provides a valuable service because no one else provides the campus coverage that we do. If the DN goes that resource will go as well.

In response to claims that the DN should become an online paper in order to save money:

• If the DN goes to online only it will in effect kill the paper, or force us to increase amount we ask for in student fees.
• The company that currently hosts the DN takes a portion of from online revenues as hosting fees.
• While not 100% certain Jenna was confident that the DN makes less than ten percent of its advertizing revenue from its website.
• The DN is currently trying to improve its online offerings by starting blogs and hiring a videographer but this costs money as well.

L. J. made a couple points
• In surveys conducted over the past 2 years, grad students have given higher approval ratings for the DN than undergrads. Therefore grads on the whole seem to approve. (57% vs 51% campus average)
• Under current Board of Regent rules, you cannot opt out of only one fee. It is all or nothing.
• Under current Board of Regent rules, the DN fee can only be eliminated, or have its status changed, as a result of a campus wide vote. The GSA cannot force the issue through any other channels that the yearly campus wide vote.

Andrew moved that we strike the resolved clause pertaining to the opt-in issue.
• Motion seconded. 14 for, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions. The motion carried

L. J. moved to vote on the resolution
• Seconded. Unanimous approval for voting
• 1 for, 20 no, 1 abstention. The motion did not carry.

Resolution 2.8.11
Many committees on campus either require graduate students have representation, or have spots graduate students can fill. This resolution would say that the relevant committees should come to the GSA to appoint people to said positions.

The resolution as presented contained a resolved statement that could that would require an amendment to the GSA’s bylaws before it could be passed. Therefore a motion to strike the relevant clause was made.
  • Seconded. Passed unanimously

Andrew made a motion to amend resolution further by adding another resolved statement.
  • “Therefore be it resolved that the GSA elections committee have the additional task of appointing grad students to university committees”
  • Seconded. Passed unanimously

Elections

Eric Montgomery asked if there were any other nominations.

Sylvia Jons spoke on her behalf for position of Executive Chair

Voting commenced

Our current Vice Chair of Finance Bethany has stepped down. She will be missed. There was a motion to elect Annika as the new VC of Finance.
  • Seconded. Annika was elected unanimously. Congratulations.

Open forum

Laura –
  • Next meeting elections for campus representatives.

Sylvia –
  • Committee on Institutional Cooperation. Joining the Big Ten there will be some new opportunities for us. We will be meeting with some admins about what we think they should advocate for. An official email will follow.
  • Members are the current Big Ten schools, University of Chicago, and us.
  • Benefits we will receive are: distance classes online but pay UNL fees and get credit. Also traveling scholars program abroad, still pay UNL fees. www.cic.net

At 7:50 there was a motion to adjourn.
• Seconded. Unanimously approved