Graduate Student Association
Legislative Assembly Meeting

Colonial Room A

21 January 2014

Meeting Call to Order: 7:07pm

Executive and Committee Chairs Present:

Executive Chair – Jake Friefeld
Vice-Chair of External Affairs – Chris Gibilisco
Vice-Chair of Internal Affairs – Anh Do
Vice-Chair of Finance – Kat Shultis
Vice-Chair of Representation – Madeline Hoffer
Diversity Committee Chair – John Fitzpatrick
Vice-Chair of Social Events – Curtis Walker

Absent:
Vice-Chair of Legislative Affairs – Brock Rezny
Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs – Jeff Espineli
Vice-Chair of Graduate Student Committee – (vacant)

Minutes

1) Agenda
   • Moved and seconded
   • Agenda approved

2) November Meeting Minutes
   • Correction: Change Chris Guy to Quint from the Educational Administration Department.
   • Moved and seconded
   • November Minutes & correction approved

3) Administrative Business
   • Jeff Espineli (Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs) has not been showing up to the GSA meetings. Multiple attempts have been made to contact Jeff to inquire about his interest in continuing serving the position. No response has been given. A proposal was put forth to remove Jeff’s name from the position.

4) Executive and Committee Chair Reports
   • Executive Chair Report – Jacob Friefeld:
The Academic Planning Committee had received a proposal to merge the Computer & Electrics Engineering (CEEN) (Omaha campus) with Electrical Engineering (UNL) to a new department call Electrical & Computer Engineering.

A new graduate certificate program was proposed by the Quilt Studies Program for curators and appraisers and academics.

- **Vice-Chair of External Affairs – Chris Gibilisco:**
  - Parking Advisory Committee
    - Increased in fees for parking and transit services
    - Two questions were raised about where the new garages will be built & why East Campus students have to pay for the fees if they are not using the garages on City Campus & transit services.
    - According to Chris, the new garages will be built on 19th & R. All parking lots are considered sites for future building. UNL’s goal is to reach 30,000 students someday, so the university has to build to accommodate these students. It was subsidized by everyone enrolled at UNL as a result of a lot of negotiations. The idea is that the money will go into building these garages which can be accessibly by everyone.
  - Student Advisory Council
    - Incident of racist language within ASUN raised concerns about the climate of campus.
    - Initiative to raise diversity awareness
    - One way is to incorporate into the classes that we are teaching to get students more involved with campus events relating to diversity.
    - Jake asked if there are any concerns about the ACE system allowing students to avoid taking certain diversity related classes.
    - A question was also asked about how these efforts will be manifested (e.g. guidelines, memos).
    - In response, Chris stated that no one has discussed how these efforts will be carried out officially. The classroom integration is a personal idea not an institutional initiative.
    - A question was asked about the ACE requirement & how students can bypass diversity classes?
    - Jake stated that students can take history of the ancient world & have that counted toward their diversity requirement, but it has nothing to do with diversity in the contemporary context that we are in
    - A concern was raised about UNL requiring only one science course for undergraduates.
    - Chris addressed this by stating that the ACE requirements were the results of a lot of negotiations between the departments. There are a lot of politics involved.
• **Vice-Chair of Internal Affairs Report – Anh Do:**
  o Graduate Student Council have not met
  o Nothing to report this month

• **Vice-Chair of Finance – Kat Shultis:**
  o We have a November budget.
  o Everything is balanced.

• **Vice-Chair of Social Events – Curtis Walker**
  o Social event at Cheddar’s (Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>): 18 people participated
  o Next event, maybe Latin Dance, karaoke, etc.
  o If you are interested, please leave your email.
  o Midwest Research Career Fair: March 1 @ the Scott Center on the Creighton campus
    ▪ Collaboration between UNL, UNL, UNMC & Creighton
    ▪ For undergrad & grad students to network with potential employers, vendors, etc..
    ▪ Possibility of carpooling to the event, please contact Curtis

• **Vice-Chair of Representation Report – Madeline Hoffer:**
  o Nothing to report this month

• **Diversity Committee Chair Report – John Fitzpatrick:**
  o Was absent during this part of the meeting – no report was given

4) **Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW): April 7, 2014 – April 11, 2014**
   • Jill & Greg have expressed interest in helping with the events
   • Chris requested the Therapy Puppy session
   • More information to come

5) **Open Forum**
   • Jim Yankech (Health Center Associate Director), James Guest (Health Center Director), Sue Heng (Dental Office Coordinator): presentation on UNL Healthy Option Student Plan
     o Aetna Health Insurance
     o Ameritas Dental Insurance
     o The Affordable Care Act (ACA) & its effects
     o No maximum cap & no exclusion of pre-existing conditions starting August 2014
     o UNL will put out a RFP for a university-wide student insurance plan to respond to ACA
       ▪ All 4 campuses will be under the same plan
       ▪ Increased premium & required benefit uniformity
       ▪ UNL advisory team will be formed
       ▪ Insurance company proposal due Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014
       ▪ Decision by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014
       ▪ GA premium will stay the same
       ▪ Won’t affect international students any more than any other groups of students
- Graduate student employee status: not hopeful, may take a long time & will not likely have an effect on the new insurance

6) Adjourn
Meeting ended at 8:06pm