Graduate Student Association
Legislative Assembly Meeting

Food Court B

20 November 2013

Meeting Call to Order: 7:05pm

Executive and Committee Chairs Present:

Executive Chair – Jacob 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 Legislative Affairs – Brock Rezny

Absent:
Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs – Jeff Espineli
Vice-Chair of Graduate Student Committee – (vacant)
Vice-Chair of Social Events – Curtis Walker

Minutes

1) Agenda
   • Moved and seconded
   • Agenda approved

2) October Meeting Minutes
   • Moved and seconded
   • October Minutes approved

3) Election of Campus Representatives
   • Eric Rodine: (Computer Science): City Campus Representative
   • Melina Flores: (Entomology): East Campus Representative
   • Ashley Bernstein: (Food Science): East Campus Representative
   • All representatives have been approved with no oppositions

4) Executive and Committee Chair Reports
   • Executive Chair Report – Jacob Friefeld:
     o Love Library renovations have been approved & will proceed
The renovation proposal will include a new entrance, removing books to storage, etc...

- Health Center: renegotiating graduate students healthcare plan
  - RFP will be sent out soon
  - Maggi Sliwinski will be a graduate representative on the committee
  - Anyone else interested?

- Employee status: unclear
  - Awaiting response from Dean of Graduate Studies (Dr. Perez)

- **Vice-Chair of Internal Affairs Report – Anh Do:**
  - Nothing to report from Internal Affairs.
  - Request to have a meal for every meeting if feasible & if there’s enough money in the budget
  - Kat will look at the budget and respond

- **Vice-Chair of External Affairs – Chris Gibilisco:**
  - Meeting with ASUN president & chancellor
  - Employee status & rights: maternity, paternity & bereavements
  - According to the Bylaws of the Regents, we are employees & are guaranteed some of the most general rights
  - Parking Advisory Committee
    - Fees will go up from $10 to $15.46 and eventually to $25
    - Dan tried to control to increase but it’s difficult
    - Due to building of garages (ex: 18th & R St.: goal = 3,000 students)
    - Reaching saturation point
  - Student Advisory Council
    - Student Affairs, GLBT Resource Center, Women’s Center

- **Vice-Chair of Representation Report – Madeline Hoffer:**
  - Representation for the November meeting has improved
  - Encourage everyone to come and bring more graduate students

- **Diversity Committee Chair Report – John Fitzpatrick:**
  - Transportation to the airport for international students
  - UNL currently offers a shuttle service but only for first time arrival
  - Resources are well-hidden
  - Survey to assess what international students know about the different programs and what they think about the fees?
  - Who gets to use the service, when, etc...
  - Making the resources more transparent & easier to find
  - Draft of survey will be sent to International Studies before next semester

- **Vice-Chair of Legislative Affairs – Brock Rezny**
  - We need to vote on the new Constitution & bylaws

- **Vice-Chair of Finance – Kat Shultis:**
  - Our yearly budget is usually around $4,700.
  - This year’s budget needs to be approved
4) New Business

- Approval of the 2013-2014 GSA Budget
  - We have quorum with 20 voting members
  - Book store money status from book drive last year: we still do not have the money. The manager will look into it
  - Should we continue working with them for the next book drive?
    - Yes – if it’s not too difficult
  - Challenging the $1,000 budget item of “food for meetings”
    - Concern: $1,000 is a lot of money
  - Discussion relating to the budget
    - The majority of our budget is for Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW) in the Spring, food for meetings and social events
    - For GSAW, we usually spend around $3,000 to bring in a speaker, but in previous years, we did not have enough attendance to offset the cost
    - Last year we did not have a chair to run this event, so the Exec Committees got together & planned some events
    - We need to spread the words & provide incentives for meetings & events
    - Was the low attendance due to a lack of PR or the topic?
    - What can we do different for our upcoming GSAW events?
    - How much did we spend on the food for tonight’s meeting?
      - Approximately $70
      - $70 x (4-5 meetings) = $400/yr.
    - We also can allocate any leftover amount
    - Goal: to get maximum attendance
    - Food offset the time graduate students commit to coming to the meetings
      - Graduate students are busy with teaching responsibilities, research and other work
      - It is a good incentive if food is provided
  - Budget approved unanimously with 20 votes

- Vote on New Constitution and Bylaws
  - Jacob gave a brief overview of the new Constitution and Bylaws. For more information concerning the changes, please contact Jacob or visit Blackboard.
  - GSA would also like to reduce the number for quorum from 15 to 10. Executive titles have also been revised to match ASUN. For example, Executive Chair is changed to President.
  - We need at least two-third of the votes to pass the New Constitution & Bylaws
  - New Constitution & Bylaws passed unanimously with 20 votes
5) Open Forum & Announcements

- Chris Gibilisco made an announcement about the Ethic Center’s lunches
  - Discussed & presented topics relevant to graduate students
  - Must sign up in advance, a free lunch is provided
  - Lunches alternate between East & City Campus
  - 1 or 2 per semester

- Is it different from the Ethic Bowl?
  - Yes, the Ethic Bow is university-wide

- Quint shared positive news & achievements of the Educational Administration Department
  - Dept. has expanded from a cohort of 6 to 21 students
  - Won second place in the regional conference
  - Won first place in last year’s regional conference
  - 50 new applicants for the January deadline

- Kat Shultis made an announcement about Math Day on Nov. 21st in the Union
  - UNL will host around 7,000 high school students on campus
  - Will be crowded in the dining halls
  - What is Math Day?
    - It is a scholarship competition for high school students
    - There will be different events & exams & the winners will receive a scholarship to UNL
    - It is a recruitment tool & is co-hosted by the Math Department, who will help to administer the exams, give campus tours, etc.
    - Should avoid the union & dining hall: will be congested

- Chris Gibilisco made an announcement about some achievements in the Philosophy Department
  - Students won the Ethic Bowl & will be going to Florida in February

- Jacob Friefeld made an announcement on behalf of the Social Committee
  - Social event on Friday from 8:30 pm to midnight
  - Blazing Piano at Brewsky’s in the Haymarket
  - What is blazing piano?
    - It’s not a piano on fire.
    - It’s dueling pianos. Pretty exciting stuff. Everyone should come.

7) Adjourn
Meeting ended at 7:50pm