Graduate Student Organization

Fall Meeting, 4:00pm Wednesday 20 November 2019

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Attendance
   1. Quorum met
3. President’s Report
   1. Students are encouraged to attach to their GSO applications a full budgetary accounting for the expenses associated with the request in question. This would be in addition to the budget that is to be listed on the application. The rationale for this is that it would allow for the full needs of the graduate students to be assessed.
4. VP’s Report
   1. No report
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. Secretary’s Report
   1. Secretary Jones is currently on pilgrimage in Israel and will return after Thanksgiving. Y’all may notice that the website has not yet been updated to reflect current membership. I am aware of this problem and am working with IT to obtain editing privileges for gso.louisiana.edu.
7. Old Business
   1. ILL Article Resolution “A resolution to enhance research access”
8. This resolution has passed the SGA senate unanimously. Secretary Jones has contacted Mr. Keith Guillory, who has clarified that STEP printing -balance funds may not be directly utilized to secure ILL articles. However, Mr. Guillory has offered assistance in drafting a proposal to that effect. More information on this proposal should be ready by the start of next semester.
   1. Student Employee Pay
9. See attached amendment for full text. This resolution has passed the SGA unanimously with one amendment. Following input from Dean Farmer-Kaiser, the student pay resolution was amended to eliminate “undergraduate student employees” in favor of “student employees.” The change is now inclusive of graduate student workers. It was also accepted by the GSO council.
10. New Business
11. Anti-Hazing Constitutional Amendment
    * 1. See attached text. This amendment is required by the University in order that the GSO remain in good standing. The Preamble of the GSO Constitution already makes a clear statement against activities of a hazing nature. The following constitutional amendment is an addition that incorporates the University’s policy language verbatim. No existing text will be amended or altered. The council voted to accept the amendment and send it to a general vote of the student body.
12. Secretary/Treasurer
    * 1. It was pointed out that the GSO Constitution prohibits Executive Board members from simultaneously serving as senators for the SGA. This directly affects current Secretary Jones. However, the Secretary and Treasurer offices were originally held by one individual under the Constitution and split by the by-laws. Thus, the council voted to revise the by-laws such that the two offices would be rejoined into the Secretary/Treasurer. It was also suggested that the Constitution be amended so that senators for the SGA may serve as members of the GSO Executive Board provided they disclose their status when nominated, or in the event a member of the GSO Executive Board becomes a senator for the SGA, a vote may be taken to remove that individual from the GSO Executive Board. The council also voted to make these changes to the Constitution and submit them to a general vote of the student body.
13. Representatives as proxies
    * 1. The question was raised as to whether a representative for a department could also be a proxy for another department. There being no explicit rule in the Constitution or by-laws, the council voted to change the by-laws to allow for this occurrence.
14. Election
    * 1. Secretary/Treasurer Justin Lesser announced that he would be stepping down from the Executive Board
      2. Jung Tae Hwang from the English department nominated himself and ran unopposed to become the next Secretary/Treasurer of GSO
15. Adjournment

**A Resolution for Equitable Student Pay**

*A request on behalf of student-employees*

**WHEREAS** student-employees are paid, and have been paid, the federal minimum wage since

2009 and said wage represents only the absolute floor for earned compensation; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of attendance at this university has increased significantly within that same

ten-year period meanwhile the rate of inflation has depressed the purchasing power of wages;

and

**WHEREAS** the University has an ethical obligation to equitably compensate all its employees.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that this Student Government hereby implores the

university to fulfill its obligations by meaningfully exceeding the federal minimum hourly wage

for all student-employees.

**A Constitutional Amendment to Define Anti-Hazing Policy**

*An amendment made in accordance with University policy and GSO policy*

**WHEREAS** the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) has already made a statement

condemning activities of hazing nature; and

**WHEREAS** the University requires specific language be incorporated into the constitution of

each student organization.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the preamble of the GSO be amended to include the

following:

“Furthermore, this organization will adhere to all policies and regulations set forth by the

University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana System, and State Legislature

regarding hazing. The policy regarding Hazing can be found here:

https://studentaffairs.louisiana.edu/sites/studentaffairs/files/UL%20Lafayette%20Hazing%20Pol

icy%20-%20with%20Act%20443%20updates%20-%20OpRvw%202019%2008%2016v2.pdf"

And that the concluding paragraph of the GSO Preamble now read: “This organization will

adhere to all policies and regulations of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the

University of Louisiana System. Activities that result in undue physical stress or any subtle or

covert technique that will impair, make captive, or destroy an individual’s freedom or thought

will not be tolerated. Furthermore, this organization will adhere to all policies and regulations set

forth by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana System, and State

Legislature regarding hazing. The policy regarding Hazing can be found here:

https://studentaffairs.louisiana.edu/sites/studentaffairs/files/UL%20Lafayette%20Hazing%20Poli

cy%20-%20with%20Act%20443%20updates%20-%20OpRvw%202019%2008%2016v2.pdf"