Graduate Student Organization

Fall Meeting #2: 18 October 2017

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to order
   1. 4:33PM
2. Welcome Dean Dr. Mary Farmer – Kaiser, Dean of Graduate School and Dean Margarita Perez, Dean of Students.
   1. Acknowledging the high turnover rate of reps and executive council
   2. What is the purpose of the gso?
   3. Review the obligations and duties of the rep and officers and get feedback from us.
   4. Officer transitions 🡪 margarita will help with and also provide continuity.
   5. Wants GSO to be as strong as possible and also to support us.
   6. Dean Perez
      1. Also a grad student
      2. Constitution and bylaws
      3. Website
      4. How would we describe this organization?
         1. Governing body of grad school – Linda F.
         2. Advocacy and funding – Ted R.
         3. Funding more than anything – Marissa Y.
      5. Purpose of organization? What are we here for? What is our role? Thinks there is some complacency. Losing focus of main goal of organization
      6. Highlighted the website
         1. Exists to empower and assist all grad students at ull.
         2. We advocate on behalf of grad students
         3. Meet regularly to address issues important to all students
         4. Reps from each dept and an executive council
         5. Great website
         6. How do we market ourselves?
            1. Support

Advocacy

Funding

* + - 1. Will be adding an application for representative
         1. Reps. Interest of each dept.
      2. Represent the voice of students in dept, all graduate students, advocate for all students, and assist through funding.
    1. Maybe we can do it better
    2. We are one of two voices for grad students
    3. Help in doing it more widespread and doing more than just funding.
    4. Linda F.
       1. Education is all over campus.
       2. Pulse on what her students need versus what they are getting right now.
       3. Talks with Dean to discuss this.
    5. We are more than just funding. We represent the needs and interests of the group. How can she help us facilitate this role?
    6. Believes it is the most important. Executive Council is for grad students. Rep is for dept.
    7. Improving the quality of life for grad students in that prog. – dept rep/gso purpose.
    8. Trying to take us back to our purpose
    9. We do matter. Wants to make this a better environment. Make sure that grad school/students are not forgotten. Our voices are so important.
  1. Dean Kaiser
     1. Constant voices are even more beneficial so that she can help us with advocation for ourselves and issues. It allows her to give this info to her bosses more easily and frequently.
  2. Dean Perez
     1. Being voice of grad program.
     2. Make sure we have environment that allows for discussion and debate on topics and issues.
     3. Allowing people to agree/disagree/give evidence/etc. is important as a process as a group.
     4. Environment where everyone feels heard and respected.
     5. Need to express our opinions and listen to one another. That’s how we come to resolutions and make differences.
     6. Roberts rules helps us do this in a professional way.
     7. We are stronger together than individually by dept.
     8. Office is on first floor of student union.
     9. [mperez@louisiana.edu](mailto:mperez@louisiana.edu)
  3. student affairs
     1. help with leadership, advocacy, etc.
     2. help tailor to your needs

1. Request both the deans for some words of suggestions and guidance to the council and graduate students.
2. Approval of FALL 2017 Meeting #1 Minutes
   1. Minutes were approved
3. Report from Advocacy Committee
   1. Focused on letter that we received.
   2. Representing international students who have not been fully represented or respected by some of faculty/staff, aka. Stipends and other things.
4. Report from Communication Committee
   1. Sat for 1.5 hours
   2. Worked on bylaw clean up.
   3. Signed up for web ambassador training. For helping the website.
5. Current Budget
   1. Initial Budget

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| --- | --- |
| Travel | 31,601.41 |
| Research | 13,543.46 |
| Operational | 500.00 |
| Total | 45,644.87 |

* 1. Amounts Approved in 1st Meeting

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Travel | 19,158.40 |
| Research | 4,211.25 |
| Total | 23,369.65 |

* 1. Amount Remaining:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Travel | 12,443.01 |
| Research | 9,332.21 |
| Operational | 500.00 |
| Total | 22,275.22 |

1. Review Applications for Funding/Report from Funding Committee.
   1. Duties of rep to review funding applications and make sure that they are complete.
   2. Ana C. – incomplete apps will not be accepted. Reps signed the document when it wasn’t complete and then we had to not accept it
   3. Funding app break down attached
2. Election for the position of secretary
   1. Layla Touchet resignation letter read before the Council.
   2. To accept my resignation
      1. Marissa first motion, Ana seconded, unanimous.
   3. Any nominations:
      1. Linda Fairchild – unanimous
         1. Interim secretary-treasurer/interim chair of funding committee.
3. Old business
   1. Vote on bylaw amendment and finalizing the draft “cleaned-up” by the communication committee.
      1. First motion – Jonah M.
      2. Seconded – Linda F.
   2. These bylaws are being followed from now on.
   3. Bylaws on website need to be disregarded. It will change after Bylaws have been approved by Dean Perez’s office.

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1. Old Business:
   1. Funding Committee
      1. Funding Concerns and Long-term Solutions
         1. Looking at other funding opportunities (Update about the meeting with Dr. Kolluru)
            1. Defend argument strongly so we can have higher chance of being awarded additional funds.
            2. Nothing heard form Dr. Kolluru’s Office.
            3. Any particular cases in dept that need more funding, please let us know.

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* 1. Advocacy Committee
     1. Creative Writing Students Concerns
        1. Tabled to next meeting with motion by Patti P. and seconded by Jonah M.
     2. Transparency Concerns

1. New Business:
   * 1. Letter to graduate school about the stipend issue.
        1. Advocacy committee
        2. Brian D. gave more description about letter and issue.
           1. How to move forward
        3. Discussion about where is the money going if a research assistant is not paid.
        4. Being specific about oversight of outside professors
           1. Such as being paired with another dept, etc.
           2. How many people are being affected?

They need to come forward.

* + - 1. Fear of retribution
      2. Contract/grant for research assistant/money.
         1. Use this to set a baseline of money not being received and is it being moved or is the professor saying they did not reach objectives?
    1. Next step:
       1. Vote to send letter to Dean of Graduate School.
          1. First motion – Jonah M.
          2. Seconded – Marissa Y.
          3. Unanimous vote among Council
    2. Election of officers for the spring 2018.
       - 1. Subhash Subedi (President) stepping down.
         2. Brian C. Dye (VP) planning to continue.
         3. Istiaq Hossain (PR officer) planning to continue.
         4. Final Nominations at next meeting
         5. Need a Permanent Secretary-Treasurer Nomination for next meeting
    3. Ana C. brought forward a concern.
       1. Dropped health insurance for American students
       2. Huge gap of students who have lost health insurance are not eligible for marketplace due to marriage/job/etc.
       3. Is this an issue?
       4. Bring to advocacy/Subhash

1. Adjournment
   1. At 6:24PM.
   2. First motion – Marissa Y; Seconded – Ana C.