

Graduate Student Association Meeting

Minutes

April 11, 2013 – Butler 208 – 6:15 pm

Present	Absent
Jacquie Schneegold	James Lutz
Valjeta Ahmeti	Leah Dreier
Hanne Bratsberg	Kristy Bigouette
Jeff SaintDic	Roxanne Roland
Kristopher Moseley	Roy Bakos - Excused
Charles Mays	
Justin Nagy	
Kevin Railey	

CALL TO ORDER: President of GSA Jacquie Schneegold called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda was approved.

ADOPTON OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the March 14, 2013 GSA meeting were approved as distributed. Senator Mosley moved and Senator Nagy seconded.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS:

President Schneegold: I would like to say thank you to all of you who attended tonight's meeting. We will follow up with the absent senators. Thank you all for the support you have shown the GSA thus far. At this point we are relying on you more than before to spread the word as most of us will graduate this semester. The committees that were formed are a very important part of the GSA as it moves forward and I am looking forward to your reports tonight. Next week, vice president Bratsberg will facilitate the meeting as I am expecting a new born and will not be able to attend.

Remarks of the Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: I will start off by saying that you should all be talking and encouraging your classmates to be a part of GSA. It is imperative that this momentum of making a difference for the graduate students not stop. It is a challenge and we do have a fast turn over, but part-time students can run as well. As of right now, we have one nomination on file and we should think about possibly amending the by-laws on the senate e-board. Make a change that says you can be an officer for a semester, etc. Also, we should think about the matriculated students that have been accepted and possibly allow them to join for a broader potential pool; for both senate and e-board. The number one thing we should focus on at this moment is encouraging people to run and second, change the constitution.

Treasurer Report: Jeff SaintDic updated everyone that the budget as of today, April 11, 2013 is \$13, 287. 34. This is the ending budget with all proposals approved. Also, one of our very own fellow classmates is presenting her work twice and her work is being recognized internationally. This is what we strive for and greatly like helping students achieve their best. We are also starting to think about using the budget to fund different organization.

Committee Reports:

Student Welfare Committee – There is a significant increase in fee just for a gym membership. The first thing we have to do is ask people if they would in fact use the facility. The cost is \$160 for a full year and \$120 for half of a year for graduate students.

Treasurer SaintDic – I have a suggestion, maybe we can contact local gyms for deals and that in turn will give them clients. If a graduate student does not want to go here, they will have other options. Most graduate students are not on campus often or live out of state – Best fitness and LA fitness are in other states and cities as well.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – Will they charge all graduate students \$160?

Senator Mosley – I do not think so. However, even if we were to pay half price, it is \$26,000 and will require us to increase the fee. It is still very high.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – We should still talk to them and also find out if students are interested.

President Schneegold – We should work on getting a great deal and sending around a survey to the students.

Senator Mosley – We should talk to them and get a deal that will be a good alternative

Vice President Bratsberg – The gym is getting rebuilt and opening in 2014. It will be very good to have this in the works for the next generation.

Old Business:

President Schneegold – Nomination forms have been posted and there were new committees formed last meeting.

New Business:

President Schneegold – I recently spoke with a woman that works with Buffalo State and publishes around campus and off campus. She interviewed Dr. Railey and me and it was published on the daily 04-10-2013. I am hoping people will read it and get involved. I have also reached out to the library and had a discussion on

how happy the students were with the library. Majority feel that it is geared towards undergraduates and the library does want to help graduate students.

Treasurer SaintDic – Lisa Forrest and Ken Fujiuchi are great with helping graduate students. Also, the Academic Skills Center is willing to help graduate students improve their writing skills. I will get in touch with them to hold workshops. The writing center has undergraduate students helping and it is not up to par with master's writing.

President Schneegold – I have spoken to several departments on campus and they are anxious to help graduate students.

Vice President Bratsberg – How are we moving forward with this?

President Schneegold – I can designate this to the student welfare committee.

Vice President Bratsberg- I can help the committee with this

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – I would let graduate students know who is available to help. For example, if Ken Fujiuchi is good, go directly to him for assistance.

President Schneegold- When the committees get together, they should brainstorm on different workshop ideas. Set 2-3 over the course of a semester and have it set for every year. If we plan ahead, we can e-mail students and let them know.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – You can spend a lot of time on these workshops and nothing comes out of it. Be very thoughtful and plan on what people want, not what you think is good.

Vice President Bratsberg- It will come down on what the students said on the survey the library sent around. We can also see the types of workshops other universities set up.

President Schneegold- I think it is also important we create official names for the committees and charges.

Treasurer SaintDic – I think constitution and budget committee should be two separate committees and the treasurer should be chair of the budget committee. I make a motion for this change. Senator Mays seconded the motion.

President Schneegold- We can discuss this, but we cannot vote on it as we do not have enough senators present.

Treasurer SaintDic –My stand on this is, say a committee needs one hundred dollars- we are able to budget that out for now, but we need more order for the future.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – Everything you are talking about has to come to the senate. Right now, according to the constitution, you are very limited. I think it will evolve in that way and we will eventually need a budget committee. Right now, it is very limited and each one of the steps will involve in changing the constitution. Therefore, it makes sense to have the constitution and budget committee together.

Treasurer SaintDic – I agree one step at a time.

Vice President Bratsberg – I would like to encourage the constitution committee to have some progress be made.

President Schneegold- My thought on it are that our constitution right now is very budget oriented and it makes sense to have the constitution and budget committee.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – I would like to ask the committees to come back with names and charges for their committees. This should be present at the next meeting and you can vote and solidify that.

Treasurer SaintDic – I have some suggestions for the names: Constitution committee – policy and allocation, Student welfare – GSA talk force, and Communication committee – Public relations.

President Schneegold- We will come back to this discussion full circle at our next meeting. Potentially, we would like to have an annual report of what we have accomplished and a list of goals for the next e-board. Maybe we can e-mail it around to the graduate students or post it on our website. We feel that we owe the students this and what is happening with their money.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey – Who will take on the responsibility of writing up this report? It has to also be changed in the constitution. I suggest you go on the college senate website and look through the committee reports; they are there for

the public to read. Once you have committee reports, the graduate students can do the same and know what is going on. This might take away the need for an annual report. Also, who do you think is the right person to deliver this report?

Vice President Bratsberg – the more transparency and information we give them, the more effective it will be and the more inclined they will be to read it.

President Schneegold – I think a lot of students will be intrigued to get that e-mail and will be interested and more likely to get involved.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey- a committee has to bring this forward and it has to be voted on.

President Schneegold – at the last e-board meeting, we discussed funding for the GSA itself – for needs such as food, business cards, etc. It is something to consider, for example \$500 to market ourselves better. Also, I spoke to Andy from USG on allowing us to have official seats on the college senate. He said that it will have to go through student welfare committee and he will get back to us. He is hoping that in the beginning of 2015, everything will be implemented.