

Minutes from the GSA meeting on Thursday - December 6, 2012

Persons who attended: Valjeta Ahmeti, Leah Dreier, Hanne M. Bratsberg, Jacquie Schneegold, Jeff Saint Dic and Ryan Frost from (NSTA)

Ryan Frost from (NSTA) National Science teacher Association. He said they are a new group formed on campus and was wondering how to work together and how to get funding.

Jacquie- Explained that we are new and the funding depends on how much we have as we are working with single and group of students going to professional conferences.

Ryan – Had a question about separating the club into two. One consisting of graduate students and one for undergraduate students. He also wants to talk to USG to see if they will allow this or if it is possible.

Jeff – Advised that as long as they can separate the budget and check for all the criteria they should be fine. He also said that it would be wise of Ryan and his club to get in touch with GASPA for even more information.

Hanne – Would you want the GSA to fund your club?

Ryan – Wants to check options and see what we can offer at this point and what USG can offer.

Jacquie – USG does have the advantage at this point since we are so brand new.

Valjeta – Individuals from the club can apply for professional conferences they wish to attend that will further enrich their studies and help for the future. This will be available to them in the spring.

Hanne, Jeff, Jacquie – The club members should keep close contact with the senator member from their school for updated information.

Jacquie – In the spring we will contact you with updated information.

- Update on GSA budget – It has been approved by the college and it did not have to be sent to SUNY for approval. It will go through in the spring and we will have funding

Hanne, Leah, Roxanne, and Roy attended the Graduate School Faculty senate meeting and the notes following are provided by Hanne from that meeting.

Minutes from Graduate School Faculty meeting

- NCBI workshop January 25 from 9-5 in Butler 210. Please sign up and tell you classmates
- ESLP – English as a Second Language
 - If international students do not have a high enough TOEFL score but professors/chair see potential in the student they can still accept the student
 - BUT the student has to take 6 months to 1 year of ESL-classes before being able to start the degree
 - Student will have to pay tuition for this year
- IRB forms
 - When you are doing research using human subjects you MUST make sure that the form is filled out correctly
 - There are now many students that do not fill out the form or fill it out incorrectly
 - Ethical to you and the school that this is done correctly
 - It will hurt the school if studies are conducted but no form is filled out and the word of this comes out
- 120 students not admitted this fall
 - Enrollment down
 - Applications up/same
 - Dr. Railey would urged the faculty to go through their enrollment procedures again and find out why student that are accepted do not show up
- The budget for the Graduate School has been static for the last 15 years
 - Grew a little this year
 - Dr. Railey hopes to receive 1 – 5% from the Transforming Lives Campaign
- Writing Help Center
 - Nothing directed at Graduate Students right now
 - Would really like to offer that, but budget is tight
 - Use some of the funding from GSA? → This came up as a suggestion at the meeting from a faculty member
 - Grad students need more than 20 min
 - Faculty discussed a possible Literature Review class because they are not happy with their students writing abilities
 - They especially mentioned Buffalo States undergraduates as not being good enough → Dr. Railey will take this up with the school

After the meeting was discussed, there were a few ideas passed around on how to improve Graduate School at Buffalo State College.

Leah – We should have a writing center for graduate students

Jacque – The concern with that is the budget and employees working late hours as most graduate classes are later on.

Jeff – Suggested that faculty can approve a strong writer to correct and approve papers.

Jacque – Students can run the program and receive certificate or money at the end.

Jeff – Maybe gift card or gas card

Jeff – Talk to the English department and have the professors implement into the syllabus that students get extra credit or something for helping other students.

Leah – Set up a meeting with the head of the writing center

Jacque – Make a subdivision of the writing center geared towards graduate students and have ideas flowing.

Leah – Have a handbook for each school and make it more departmental for creative writing, different qualifications you have to reach, and a basic structure for a handbook.

- She also suggested a grad club for public speaking, tiered speaking, something like toast masters international.