

Graduate Student Association  
Meeting of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015  
Ketchum Hall room 219

Meeting Called to Order at 5:39pm by President Christine Matos.

- Remarks of the President, Christine Matos
  - Christine stressed that there is a need for more student involvement in the GSA and that we as senators should try and recruit our friends and classmates to participate.
  - She also believed there to be a large disconnect between the different departments in the Graduate School. This creates a situation that makes it feel like multiple different schools and not a single united Graduate School.
- Remarks of Administrative Liaison, Dr. Kevin Railey
  - Dr. Railey believed we as an organization need to begin seriously thinking about organizing events in order to show progress that the GSA is making and also to keep our name out there and relevant.
    - Proposed idea of having one of our meetings be short and have an event to follow it.
      - These events need to cross major lines (echoing Christine's ideas presented in presidents remarks.)
      - Presented idea of hosting an event at the Campus House
    - Dr. Railey as well as members of the E-Board believed we need to increase the number of E-Board meetings in order to all stay on the same page, and also to make sure we keep moving forward with ideas.
- Remarks of the Faculty Advisor, Dr. Andrew Nicholls
  - Dr. Nicholls proposed we act as a focus group for Dr. Kimberly Jackson in order to figure out the most successful and least successful way of teaching by using our knowledge as students.
- Treasure Report, Danielle Delia
  - We currently have a budget of approximately \$60,000
    - Thus far we have received four different requests for funding this fall semester that total about \$4,000.
      - Have not allocated the money yet but they are all currently under review and the time line for completion is about a week.
  - Danielle proposed a funding packet that we did not review because of time constraints but it was concluded that there needs to be a budget allocation meeting, as well as an E-board meeting scheduled ASAP in order to work out the details of the plans prior to it reaching the senate floor.

- Status of the Student Welfare Committee
  - Danielle spoke with Marc Bayer in the Library about expanding the space in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library to better cater to graduate students.
    - This included creating a space that was more exclusive to graduate students in the Graduate Student Commons as well as scheduling events to be held in the Graduate Commons.
- Status of the Budget Allocation Committee
  - Danielle and Courtney have not yet met but plan to in the near future.
- Old Business
  - None was discussed.
- New Business
  - President Matos had at the last meeting proposed that organizations be allowed to apply for funding the same way in which graduate students can as individuals.
    - She created a tentative plan that laid out criteria for funding as well as division of funds.
      - The key points are as follows
        - The request must, support professional development or foster community engagement for graduate students on campus.
        - Each organization would be eligible to receive a finite amount of money each academic year.
        - There would be a percentage-15% in the proposal-of Academic Line Funds that would be allocated for organizations.
      - Issues would be monitoring what the spending is going towards and making sure that all requests are being made by legitimate organizations.
        - The organization needs to prove to the GSA that they are worthy of the funds they are applying for.
      - GSA Treasurer Danielle Delia believed that the funding requirements for organizations should remain the same as for individuals.
        - This created the issue of what sets an organization's request and an individual's request apart. What need is there for organization requests if they are no different than individual ones?
          - The language for the proposal needs to be cleaned up and made clearer before it is to be voted on or discussed further.
  - There were member of The Graduate Association of Student Personnel Administration (GASPA) in attendance who were reaching out to the GSA in order to create a more unified Graduate School voice from the students.
    - The divisions that exist in the Graduate School are not only hampering the students abilities to voice their opinions but it would also look much better for Buffalo State to have a multilateral organization or at least one made up of multiple different groups.

- Dr. Railey proposed that in the future it could be possible to reserve a seat in the senate for members of student groups like GASPA.
  - These ideas transitioned into further discussion of hosting a GSA event in the very near future.
    - Questions arose of what would be a good location. There was nothing that was completely settled on but location places ranged from the Campus House, Coles, the Graduate Student Commons, the Burchfield Penney, the History Museum, the Albright-Knox, Kleinhan's Music Hall as well as number more.
      - Need to understand not only how many people will be attending but also whether or not it will be a cash bar and also the food that will be purchased by the GSA
    - President Matos was even proposing that even if we cannot get two large events scheduled in the remaining fall semester that we hand out coffee or do something during finals week in order to stay relevant in people's minds.
    - There was an event organization committee that was formed that is made up of President Matos and Vice President Tucceri. (I believe that we were the only two appointed but cannot remember)
  - President Matos has reserved a display case in the Student Union to be decorated with GSA themed decorations.
    - This will be put together on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
      - One of the GASPA members is attendance also proposed that if we are in need of SWAG than we could check out a place called Greeks and Sneaks.
        - It is located at 3230 Main Street, 14214
        - (716) 833-4913
  - Commencement and Graduation were discussed next
    - The idea of creating an honor program in the Graduate School also received attention.
    - There was also discussion on expanding and promoting the Graduate School Reception following commencement.
      - We could extend invitations to the families of the graduate students and have the GSA sponsor the event to promote our organization even further.
      - There was also the idea brought up about organizing an event prior to graduation around campus so families can come and explore the campus.
        - These are meant to create a more inclusive experience to surround graduation for not only the students but also their families.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm by President Matos.