

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
OCTOBER 25, 2012
5:30 P.M. – COLLEGE OF LAW ROOM 135

Amanda G. Sanford, GSS President
Alexandra Brewer, GSS Vice President
Kate Bashore, GSS Secretary

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order by GSS President Amanda Sanford at 5:31pm.

- II. GUEST SPEAKERS
 - Donna Braquet and Bharat Mehra from Faculty Senate and Jenny Moshak from the LGBT Commission spoke about the Bill for Benefits Equality. Received a unanimous approval from the faculty senate in April 2012 and are currently awaiting a response from the Chancellor in the next few weeks. This is not just an LGBT issue, but will impact anyone who is not/chooses not to be married
 - How GSS can help: working with other groups; working with Vice Chancellor for Diversity; pursue a resolution specifically targeted at Graduate Student Benefits separately but in conjunction with Faculty initiative.
 - Feel free to contact any of them for more information or to collaborate!

- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - Graduate Council updates: Passed embargo option for thesis and dissertation. Option available for second year. Addition of concurrent Master's degree with PhD. Looking into video conferencing for thesis and dissertation defense for faculty and staff on committee. Now there is an official conditional admission for international students requiring a one year English instruction class. UT specific regalia for hooding ceremonies will be available for Fall 2012 graduation ceremonies.
 - University updates: No plans for graduate student housing. Dead last in the country for recreational space. First Transit will replace KAT next summer. Changing routes and adding routes out to the new rec fields and looking at creating more efficient routes. Adding GPS apps for phones to track where the buses are and when they will arrive at each station. Cimino spoke about a one-stop-shop in Hodges Library and looking at going cashless.
 - NAGPS membership: officially in. Affective next Thursday, Nov. 1. Login information will be made available by Amanda once our membership is active.
 - GSS website: changes have been submitted. Should be public in a week or so.

- VI. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - SGA Undergraduate Senate update: addition of new water fountains.

- VII. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS
 - Travel Awards, Brandon O'Neill: updates were covered under travel award issues.
 - Love Your Libraries 5k, Bennett Adkinson: in negotiations for sponsorship packet; lowest level of donation is \$100 – if your department wants to help, or individuals. Also gets you 2 entries to the race and name on the t-shirt.
 - Equity and Diversity, Ingram Cope: no news.
 - Communication and Outreach, Joe Brandyberry: Town Hall meeting will be next semester. Rooms available in UC. Please email Joe with ideas about location or thoughts on how to organize the event.

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - Travel award issues
 - Concern about fairness of process.
 - Awards are need-based. Cost is the most important factor for awarding funding, followed by location/distance and role at conference.
 - Top reasons for rejection: 1) if a student is just attending conference versus those presenting at a conference and 2) lack of financial need.
 - Students can only receive one award per year.
 - Email Amanda with specific questions regarding process
 - Request for transparency of process
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - Benefits equality: craft resolution on behalf of GSS. Aim to model resolution on what faculty is pursuing, using similar criteria. This would be a piece of legislation that would go before the Chancellor.
 - Motion made by Brandon to push discussion of Benefits Equality to the next meeting. Motion seconded and confirmed.
 - Please contact Kate Bashore (kbashore@utk.edu) with questions and/or concerns regarding Student Health Policies by Monday, 10/29.
- X. ADJOURN

Motion made for adjournment by President Amanda Sanford at 7:01pm. Motion was seconded and confirmed.

Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings
Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. College of Law Room 135

Other Events

Library Dean's Luncheon – October 30 at 11:30 a.m. in Hodges Library 605

Graduate Student Town Hall – TBD

“Love Your Libraries” 5k – March 2, 2013 at 9 a.m. in Circle Park