

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
NOVEMBER 15, 2012
5:30 P.M. – COLLEGE OF LAW ROOM 135

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

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Called the meeting to order at 5:31pm
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (September and October)
 - Minutes approved for both September and October.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - UT specific regalia available beginning this fall.
 - New grad fellowships added with addition funding through Chancellor. Will be accepted soon, due in March.
 - Library – One-stop shop in ground floor of Hodges, coming soon. Renovating ground floor now through next summer. Slated to open June 2013. Cashless service.
 - Commons officially reopened. Starbucks will be open 24 hours. Thinking about adding a P.O.D. market to the library.
 - Major construction and renovations in the stacks over the summer, floors 3-6.
 - GSS Website is live! Review it and doublecheck your information that is listed.
- VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - SGA – proposal of gender neutral housing.
- COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS
 - Travel Awards, Brandon O'Neill: New application is available online. Application for spring Jan. 14. A&S to dean a week before due date.
 - Love Your Libraries 5k, Bennett Adkinson: Requested 5K committee members to stay after the meeting.
 - Equity and Diversity, Ingram Cope: Benefits Equality resolution should be available at the January meeting. Will need to do a lot of research over the holiday break.
 - Communication and Outreach, Joe Brandyberry: Still need to finalize Town Hall.
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Travel documents and data: Will be posted to the website, hopefully by the holidays. Data about distribution is available upon request to deans and department chairs. Also available to grad students upon request, but will not be online.
 - Benefits equality for graduate students: Speak with Ingram. Will discuss at January meeting.
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Graduate Student Family and Medical Leave Policy (Martin Walker)
 - 1) Recognize fact that students are fulfilling faculty roles on campus, yet don't get any of the benefits that they get.
 - 2) Grad students are usually older, have responsibilities, dependents, families.
 - Looking to define: 1) time off allowed, protect and unprotected; 2) benefits retained during time off; 3) qualifications for leave.
 - Would like to be able to vote on it in January.

- Graduate student orientation: online orientation for all grads, and 1 day GTA orientation. Looking to create a campuswide orientation for all grads. Grad school is open to it, but wants GSS to be instrumental in organizing it.
 - Spring meeting schedule: Write down your name and general availability before you leave tonight.
 - 2013 SGA elections: First interest meeting is in late January; first mandatory meeting in February. If you are interested in running, talk to Amanda for more information.
 - Parking issues: Overnight parking b/t 3 and 6am is not covered under commuter permit. Idea about checking out a pass.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - Civility and Diversity tonight.
 - Graduate Student Happy Hour at the Well. Last day of classes. Discounts on food and drinks as well.
 - ADJOURN
 - Motion made, seconded, and approved at 5:51pm.

Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings
Spring meeting schedule TBD by end of semester

Other Events

Civility and Diversity Forum – November 15, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the UC Auditorium
End of the Semester Graduate Student Happy Hour – December 4 at 6 p.m. at The Well
Graduate Student Town Hall – TBD
“Love Your Libraries” 5k – March 2, 2013 at 9 a.m. in Circle Park