

Student Government Association
Graduate Student Senate
Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2012
5:30 P.M. – Law School 135

I. CALL TO ORDER

- GSS President Amanda Sanford called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

- Sit on one of four internal committees
- Report back to your department
- Introduction of representatives

III. GSS SECRETARY ELECTION

- Nomination of Rep. Kate Bashore was made by Amanda Sanford, GSS President. No other nominations were made by the floor. Kate Bashore confirmed by vote.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

- Jordan Smith, UTK Speech and Debate Society
- The Speech and Debate Society is hoping to attract more graduate students and create a strong foothold in the university. The society has resources to teach how to argue and aid with public speaking. They travel to other universities, provide networking capabilities, and compete in tournaments each semester.
- Amanda will forward email from Nathan Johnston, the Speech and Debate Society President.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. GSS has four internal committees. Each representative sits on one of the following committees:
- Travel Award Committee: oversees allocation of funding of travel award for graduate students
 - Love Your Libraries 5K: work with Dean of Libraries to plan the spring 5K that benefits our libraries.
 - Equity & Diversity: fairness and policies to advocate diversity on campus
 - Communications & Outreach: promotes visibility of GSS on campus; newsletter, distribution, and potential for social media.
- B. Appointments to other university external committees. There are still many positions to fill. Sign up at end of meeting.
- C. 2011-2012 Recap:
- Worked last year to create UT specific regalia for hooding ceremonies. Working out details to make them available for Fall 2012 hooding.
 - Travel Awards: over \$68,000 last year. Fully over-hauled travel award process last year. Currently the new process is on Dr. Hodges' desk for advice and will be voted

on at September meeting. New application for graduate travel award is available on the GSS website and should now be the only application available.

- First ever Graduate Town Hall meeting took place last year. This is an event that we would like to continue for this year and are looking at mid-October.
- Thesis & dissertation embargo was created and approved last year. It allows students to withhold work from publication. A one-year embargo is open to all with an option for a second year.
- Last year, GSS began working to create a Graduate Student Leave Policy. The university has no current policy in place. Technically, GTAs are university employees, but do not have same rights as staff and faculty. GSS hopes to create a policy and make it palatable to administration. Those interested should see Amanda. Hopefully the policy can be presented to administration this semester, but definitely by end of academic year.

D. 2012-2013 Goals for GSS

- Hope to reinstate campus wide Graduate Student Orientation. Currently, orientation exists for GTAs, but not all students.
- Continue to increase our visibility. Social media outlets. More participation across campus.
- Seek to restore UT membership in NAGPS. There is \$500 registration fee for all 6,000 students, which we can hopefully get from the SGA president. Our membership should be effective on November 1, 2012. By becoming members of NAGPS, graduate students will have access to benefits, such as health insurance, travel discounts, car rentals, and networking.
- The GSS website is out of date. Will update rep lists & travel award forms. There is someone in the Dean of Students Office who manages our site, but if anyone has web building skills or is interested in revamping our look, please see Amanda.

E. Travel Awards Update

- \$200,000 was made available last year. On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, the decision was made to fuse the Chancellor's Travel Fund and the Graduate Travel Award funding. This increases the amount of money GSS can provide from \$40,000 to \$240,000.
- Because of the recent fusion, we have extended the application deadline to next Friday, September 7, 2012. This deadline is for travel between September 1, 2012 and January 14, 2013. For this cycle, it does not matter which form is submitted since multiple versions currently exist.
- Amanda has Chancellor applications and will honor them all.
- The Dean of Students office is currently not accepting Chancellor's form, but a letter on Amanda's behalf will go out tomorrow, August 31, 2012.
- Maximum funding changed last year from \$500. There is no longer a hard cap. The Graduate Travel Award is need based, not merit based. While we don't like to give less than \$100, we will give smaller amounts of money to tap out the travel funding during each cycle, hopefully to provide more students with some monetary relief.

VI: VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. GSS VP serves as the liaison between GSS and SGA.

- B. GSS VP also oversees the 5K committee. This year's Love Your Libraries 5K will be held on March 2, 2013. Last year was the most participation that event has seen in over a decade.

VII: INTERNAL COMMITTEES

- A. Election of committee chairs:
 - Communication & Outreach: Natalie Manayeva
 - 5K: Bennett Adkinson
 - Travel Award: Brandon O'Neill
 - Equity & Diversity: Ingram Cope

VIII: NEW BUSINESS

- Think of potential guest speakers.
 - o Dr. Hodges
 - o Jim Boyle
 - o Parking board, residency & classification (past examples)
- Graduate Student Town Hall for October. Think of guests and speakers. Pizza will be provided.
- Invite Amanda & Alexandra to departmental meetings!
- Legislation – we will vote on the new travel award application in September. The graduate student leave policy will go through that same process.

IX: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Alexander Waters: Hosting a tailgate for Georgia State game. Either in Circle Park or in front of Neyland. Open to any grad department. Contact Alexander for more information.
- Damien Pitts: GSS should find a day to have a graduate night at Tin Roof Rocky Hill at the Northshore location. They will provide discounts on food, well liquor/beer. Open invite to all graduate students, not just GSS representatives. Meeting to foster interdisciplinary research, networking, and fun!
- Danielle Norman: Landscaping recently received accreditation on the national level and is now the only accredited program in the state of Tennessee!

X: ADJOURN

- GSS President Amanda Sanford adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m., but requested to meeting the membership of the Travel and 5k Committees briefly after.

UPCOMING GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE MEETINGS

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 at 5:30pm (location TBD)

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012 at 5:30pm (location TBD)

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 at 5:30pm (location TBD)