

Student Government Association  
Graduate Student Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2012  
5:30 P.M. – Law School 135

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 5:31pm by President, Amanda Sanford.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

III. GUEST SPEAKERS

A. Dr. Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School: Dr. Hodges spoke about the university's move to electronic forms, the increase in Graduate Student Travel funding, and process for application for graduation. Feel free to contact Dr. Hodges with any questions!

B. Jim Boyle, Director of Student Health Services: Jim Boyle spoke about the new student health center, plans for adding a pharmacy on campus, and eligibility for benefits and health insurance.

Concluded with a Q&A with Jim Boyle.

1) Have gynecological services provided at UT had been removed from campus? No. We switched from the Family Planning clinic to a Women's Clinic when we moved to the new building.

2) Where can women get information about family planning? Contact our new NP Anita, the Insurance department, Elena Yo, or Jim Boyle

3) What changes might we see with Affordable Care? Boyle and Hodges are working hard to keep cost changes away for graduate students' pockets.

4) What efforts are being made to get information about oral contraceptives to students? Student Health tries to post info on the website, send emails to students, and publish information in the school newspaper in order to spread the word.

5) How can we get information to the student body faster and more efficiently? Check with the clerical person in your department to learn more about your coverage.

6) What should students do if they have not received their new insurance card? Can go online or call the Insurance Department.

7) Why is the new center not more accommodating for urgent care? For urgent situations, in the acute care center there is a triage nurse to assess whose health needs are most severe at that moment. For non-emergencies, you can go online to schedule an appointment.

C. Donnie Ross, UT Police Department: Officer Ross emphasized the importance of safety on campus, highlighting services such as the T Late Night, Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) for women, "Operation Identification", and the Safety Walk coming up in October. Call 974-3114 if you ever feel unsafe on campus.

D. Cassie Watters, United Campus Workers: Watters highlighted the benefits of joining UCW. Membership is \$8/mo for graduate students.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

## V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Graduate Council updates: Working toward Top 25. Lobbying for more funding to increase stipends and increase graduation rate. Crafting a policy for Video Defense of Dissertaion.
- B. Library Dean's Advisory Council: The library will be extending hours in the stacks and implementing a library use fee to procure funding for extra security, cameras, and a PA system that will reach throughout the entire library. Construction should be over in mid-October.
- C. Faculty Senate: Martin Walker highlighted changes on the horizon from the Faculty Senate meeting. Office of Research is going to cut school-wide subscription to one of two funding search tools: SciVal or COS. Contact Martin if you have information regarding either search engine.

## VI: VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. No news to report.

## VII: INTERNAL COMMITTEES

- A. Travel Awards: Received approximately 300 applications for the Fall Cycle. Application reviews and monetary awards will be determined by the end of the week.
- B. Library 5k: Meeting last week with administrators of library to look at PR and sponsorship.
- C. Equity and Diversity: Met with Intercultural Department and received a survey that highlights our student body profile.
- D. Communications and Outreach: Joe Brandyberry volunteered to take over as the new chair. There were no oppositions and Joe was confirmed as the new chair of Communications and Outreach.

## VIII: NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adoption of new Graduate Travel Award Amendments:
  - I. One academic award per student per academic year. Students that have not been previously funded need to take precedence.
    - 1. No objections
  - II. Remove line about hard cap. There is no longer a hard cap. Change it to reflect fact that we won't give less than \$100.
    - No objections

Roll Call for voting was taken by GSS Secretary. Unanimous vote of "yay" by 25 representatives in attendance. 17 representatives not in attendance.

- B. Date for Fall 2012 Town Hall: We are looking at late October/early November. Amanda and Joe will meet to set a date, time, and location.
- C. Appointments to university committees: Dean of Students needs us to fill the following committees: Technology; Transportation; and Calendar. Talk to Amanda after the meeting about filling these seats.

## IX: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Damian – Graduate Student Happy Hour at Tin Roof Rocky Hill on Oct. 17 at 6pm. Lots of awesome deals! Spread the word!
- B. Career Services – Upcoming Workshops: Resume on Oct. 2; CV on Oct. 3.

X: ADJOURN

- A. Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and approved at 7:04pm.
- B. Amanda asked for those interested in serving on a university committee to see her following the meeting.

UPCOMING GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE MEETINGS

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012 at 5:30pm (College of Law 135)

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 at 5:30pm (College of Law 135)

OTHER EVENTS

Graduate Student Happy Hour: Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 6pm, Tin Roof Rocky Hill

Graduate Student Town Hall – TBD

Love Your Libraries 5k – March 2, 2013, 9am in Circle Park