GSS Senator

Meeting

April 25, 2018

5:30-7:00 PM

Haslam 201

1. Meeting Called to Order by Rachel ; Minutes Recorded by Erin Rowland
2. Opening Remarks
3. Attendance
   1. Use the link: https://tiny.utk.edu/GSSApr2018
4. Minutes from Previous Mtg
   1. Available online
   2. Motion was made to accept without reading. Seconded. Voted on and approved.
5. Officer Reports by President Sergio Bedford
   1. GPSAW was a success. Sergio asked if the senators felt anything was missing we would like to add in the future. There were no additions.
   2. The new GSS Travel Awards schedule will be coming out soon.
6. New Business
   1. Officer Stipends – Jamie
      1. At comparable universities, elected GSS officers are receiving $17,000 to $29,000 per year in graduate student stipends. However, some universities, like the University of Florida, are also in the same situation as us where no money is offered to GSS elected officers.
         1. Jamie discussed the roles and functions of the President and Vice President, explaining why these positions were chosen to receive stipends if voted on by the GSS body.
         2. Erin Rowland motioned to table the bill for discussion and it was seconded.
         3. The bill received unanimous approval, but it was discussed that perhaps the officers’ stipends should be part of a yearly proposed budget.
         4. https://tiny.utk.edu/StipendProposal
   2. Retroactive Fellowships for Current President and VP
      1. It was proposed and recommended (the latter by Dean Thompson) that the stipends be retroactively given to the current VP and President as fellowships.
      2. Sergio and Jamie left the room for the vote. The proposal was unanimously approved. The President will receive a $3,000 retroactive fellowship and the Vice President will receive a $2,000 retroactive fellowship.
   3. Clarification on GPSA
      1. A senator asked for clarification on what exactly GPSA is and another senator asked how additional students can get involved.
         1. GPSA is in charge of GPSAW week and helps handle travel awards.
         2. There are opportunities for this group of students to expand next year if GSS sends out reminders for the graduate student body to get involved. It is recommended that this be done.
7. New President and VP
   1. Sergio and Jamie conducted the Transition Ceremony for the new officers, Cara Sulyok as President and Jack Ryan as Vice President.
   2. Sergio and Jamie also gave out certificates for Outstanding Service in GSS for the 2017-2018 academic year.
   3. Cara offered thanks to all who voted for her and wishes that senators would continue on to serve next year. She also encouraged senators to express any concerns they might have for the upcoming year to her through GSS’s general email account.