TENTATIVE Graduate Student Association Notes

for August 27, 2014 Full Meeting

1) Executive Committee
   - Introduce current executive members/Brian
   - Discuss open positions: Vice-president x2, Activities Coordinator, Technology Coordinator/Social Media Coordinator, Secretary
   - Take nominations for positions
   - Vote on Executive positions - Votes were taken and each position was filled. Thank you to everyone that volunteered!
     - (Positions are listed at the bottom with the attendance.)

2) “Senator” List
   - Name change to “Program Representative”, we are no longer using the term “Senator” as the Representatives do not have voting power on the Executive Committee.
   - Fill out remaining Representative slots-(The new Representative-Elects are listed below in the attendance. Brian will confirm the Representative nominees with Program Directors.)
   - Go over responsibilities of Representatives- Representatives are asked to bring departmental concerns to the GSA for discussion, and report back to the students and department heads in their area. Each area is encouraged to have a first year student and one other person representing their department. This helps continue representation from year to year.

3) Leadership Speaker Series
   - Explain idea for speaker series- These speakers would be successful people from the community or designated areas that would help instill leadership skills for the future in the workplace through speaking engagements or other skill building workshops.

4) Alumni Speaker Series
   - Explain idea for speaker series- We would like to bring alumni to campus to speak with students on different topics for success. We are working with
Dr. Mimi Fenton to connect with WCU alumna and other people who could talk about their journeys.

- **Ask for recommendations for speakers**: Brian suggested lumping the alums with other speakers to create ONE series of speakers instead of 2 separate series. We should get a list from Dr. Fenton soon for further discussion.

- **Ask what dates/times work best for everyone**: We will investigate the use of Doodlepoles to help people vote on times that will work best to attend the speaker events.

5) **Meetings**

- **What times/days work best for regular GSA Executive & Member meetings?**: We would like to try Doodlepoles for this as well. Currently our meetings are at 11am or 5pm once monthly for members, and the Executive Committee meets the week prior to the Member meetings.

- **Special Guests**: Last year the Chancellor came to our last meeting, and hopes to return this year in the spring to see what we accomplish. We also hope the Provost will join us at a monthly meeting once our schedule is finalized.

- **Faculty Senate/Other Committees**: Our GSA President, Elizabeth, is happy to take your departmental concerns to other meetings she attends. It is her responsibility to take what we share at our meetings, and communicate our needs and concerns to the administration.

6) **Review Budget**

We had difficulty hearing Tonya online, but she submitted this budget report to help us understand where we are financially:


Thankfully, we were able to carry over the $1,541.36 overage from last year’s budget into the current year. Also, last year the GSA set aside $5,000 for the research travel grant awards. This number is flexible to the GSA’s wants and/or needs.

After the deduction of orientation costs, the Graduate Research Symposium in the Spring, the $5,000 allocated for travel grants, the GSA’s budget for this year stands at $3,218.48. GSA President Elizabeth Nissly advised that we allocate an extra $1,000.00 to the research travel grants due to the summer applications that came through and were awarded.

Thus, making the GSA travel grants fund $6,000.00, and the final encumbered amount (without a specific budget) is **$2,218.48**.
What other categories do we need to establish for funds? We know we will need money for the speaker series and any other events we host.

In attendance:

Exec. Committee: Elizabeth Nissly (President Representative for English??), Tonya Anderson (Treasurer and Representative for MFA), Brian Kloeppel (Graduate School Asst. Dean), Leigh Ann Parrish (Secretary, MFA), Adam Ray (VP, CSP), Sabrina Teeter (VP, ??), Venice Mason (Activities Coordinator, MHS), Janae McKinny (Activities Coordinator, CSP), Paul Farmer (Social Media Coordinator and Representative for MFA), Jordan Chaires (Technology Coordinator and Representative for MST)

Online: (may have missed someone?) Heather Ridge (Counseling), Darryl Bufford (Construction Mgt), Beth Cassidy (Nursing Admin), Toochikwu Udeninya (Entrepreneurship), Johnny Pack

Present: Laura Courtright, Myranda Floyd (Representative, College Student Personnel), Krystle Thomas, John-Luke McCord (Representative, Psychology), Amanda Bergeron, Emily Butcher, Lynley Hardie, Stephen Scheflow (Representative, HIS), Steven Nickoloff (Representative, HIS), M. Colby McMurphy (Representative, ENG), Josh Anderson (Representative, ENG), Thomas West.

-email address list recorded separately

These minutes were approved by the GSA on September 17, 2014.