GSA Meeting
16 January 2014

Meeting Schedule: Twice a month
- Every other Thursday at 12 pm
- Suggest: Biltmore Park suggested having every other meeting after 5pm. They will remote in online.

Webpage for GSA: will begin development next Thursday. – Projected time is this semester (no specific dates).
- Asked that they be emailed about what we as grad students would like to see on the page
  - Resources
  - Travel grants
  - Current officers, senators, etc.

Travel Grants: Decided on $500/student
- Can suggest desired amount needed, must be defended by grad as to why they need more.
- Fill out form and submit.
- Pay money upfront and it will be reimbursed. (keep receipts)
- Must be a student to be reimbursed.

Senators-
- Responsibilities: you are the spokes person and should information your program.
- Can be formal or informal.
- Suggested to contact directors of program as well, create a relationship with them, ask them questions and let them know what you are learning at these meetings.

Strategic Plan: Met before thanksgiving. Based off of the WCU 20/20 plan.
- Updated over break
- Notes and suggestions are accepted
- Biltmore Park suggested financial aid for them to be added.
- We must be proactive as an association. Don’t just say we want it, go talk to people and have your voices heard.
- As we complete something on the plan, take it off and add a new goal.
- Suggestions: Some goals have already been declined by WCU administration; they should be removed. All items on plan should be feasible and attainable.
- Rewrite some of the wording
- Treat students equally. (Parking passes, etc).
  - GSA cannot control parking; we can see what options we have if we are proactive.
  - Perhaps visitors parking for those who come from Biltmore Park instead of a stipend.
- Additional Suggestions are appreciated at every meeting. (possible meeting just about strategic plan is needed)
  - Planning trip to Biltmore Park to discuss with nursing students.

OTHER:
- For Graduate assistantships benefits (where is money coming from)
  - Grad school is discussing adding pay for GA’s. (Not all programs will get a raise)
- Possible tuition increase and budget roll over will add to funds.
- Suggestion: Advocate for increased benefits. Go and ask for it, talk to the higher ups. Be proactive.
- Lack of professional development programs
  - Intro to Blackboard
  - Grant writing
  - Possibly work with Coulter faculty commons to have workshops.
  - Plan on promoting these programs (when/if available) on the GSA website.
- Strategic plan- 4.4: Reword so all graduate students can feel connected with it.
- 2.2 – 2.6: Advising opportunities
  - Some programs have detailed plans, course to be taken, etc
  - Some find it out that semester (which classes to take).
    - We need consistency.
  - Grade work expires after 6 years. Student will need to complete their degree in that time frame or they cannot graduate.
- 4.2.1: Concern about lack of graduate scholarships. Interns travel a lot. Some kind of compensation and stipend would be appreciated.
- 2.1.1: Increase in GSA presence at Biltmore Park?
  - Tailgating
  - Website: so they are more aware of events
  - Biltmore Park events- GSA website link.
  - Other links to GSA website (facebook, etc)
- Positions for next year
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Adding/creating new positions (someone who keeps up with the technology)
- Chancellor is interested in attending a GSA meeting
- Mimi will be attending as well
- How to prevent segregation between the campus grads, the online grads, and the Biltmore Park grads.
  - Try to identify a common need
  - Assist with individual needs for success
- Some goals in the strategic plan are repeated.
- Next meeting will be on a Thursday. Did not decide whether it would be at 12 pm or 5 pm.