GSA Meeting Agenda November 12, 2014

Attendees: Brian Kloeppel, Elizabeth Nissly, Leigh Ann Parrish (MFA), Paul Farmer (MFA), Keaton Bolick (SGA), Samir Hafiz (MBA), Sabrina Teeter (PSY), Krystle Thomas (MHS), Janae McKinney (CSP), Steven Nickollof (HIS), M. Colby Murphy (Eng), Joshua Anderson (Eng), and Aaron Pantenberg (Social Work)

1) Events Updates
Jack the Dipper Contest sponsored in Sylva last week to sponsor a literacy program. Alumni Speaker Series is not happening until the spring. Leadership Academy will begin in spring.
3MT Competition. ... need info from Elizabeth and Brian
The 3 Minute Thesis event in the Spring will have prizes: $200 first, $100 second, $100 peoples' choice awards
Looking for volunteer opportunities. IDEAS: Valley of the Lillies 5k sponsored by the Nutrition Program, Relay for Life is a good opportunity also. Community Table and Community Garden (Adam Biggelow) always need help, the River Cleanup, (Adam Biggelow also does Trash Pickup) adopt a highway, food drives (need grocery bags also), Toys for Tots or Christmas donations, Cards for Soldiers, Wounded Warrior. LOTS OF GREAT IDEAS!

2) Budget Update
Tonya: Travel spent $2083.80/$3,000.00 for fall 2014. Approved the 3MT awards & Jack the Dipper Ice Cream Contest.
Total funds now including travel grants=$7349.68. We are now out of travel grant money for fall 2014.
We have almost $3,000.00 for events in the spring plus another $3k for travel. We will need to discuss how we want to use the $3k. There are other funds already set aside for awards for the 3MT and Research Symposium. We need to decide how much we are going to spend on Aramark for the Symposium Thursday March 26. We over-spent at these events last year, so we are trying to plan ahead, and we will discuss this with Roxanne and the Executive Committee.

3) Library Survey
Closed last Thursday with 175 responses, which is great! Tomorrow Elizabeth is working with Tim to award the prizes.

4) Travel Grants- We revised the application and documents have been updated online. The requirements are more detailed, and specific. Please follow directions closely before submitting.
5) **Student Government Association**
Keaton Bollick, Grad Student Representative for SGA. Wants to make a by-law where a GSA member could serve on SGA also. Keaton is not a graduate student, but represents us. We need to resolve this.
Samir Hafiz, Association of Student Governments Senator travels state-wide to meetings. We'd like to build this relationship because they have the rights to vote that we don't have. They are a governing body and we aren't, so this relationship is crucial for our voice. Student advisory committees for Deans are also working to strengthen this relationship with GSA, too, to strengthen the collective student voice!

We need as many voices and as much representation as possible. We can bring our concerns the SGA as well.

6) **Department of Student Community Ethics**
Janae McKinney, working on a project for making sure undergraduate students have understanding of academic dishonesty and the academic integrity code along with the WCU Community Creed (Know the Code). Janae told us about some resources on campus like the Writing and Learning Commons, and some other helpful places for us to go for assistance.

7) **WCU Graduate Student Assistants Association**
Colby Murphy, English Department GSA Representative, Teaching Assistantships discussion. He is working towards creating a community of TAs and opening discussions about our challenges living, working, and learning at WCU. We could possibly have a GSA sub-committee for this, or have a TA or GA representative from each department as well to incorporate these issues in the GSA. Brian suggested utilizing a meeting next semester to discuss our issues and needs in relation to TA/GA responsibilities. The Provost and the Chancellor will attend our meetings and we can present ideas to them if we can organize our thoughts.

8) **President Elect Nominations**
Vote= December 3rd. This person will take over the Presidency for the GSA in Fall 2015. This will create a legacy for GSA so we can continue the great work we are doing seamlessly.
9) **Provost Attending December 3rd GSA Meeting, Please Attend!!!!**

It's a time for us to justify our spending and show off what we are doing. We can also bring up our issues to the top people at these meetings. What do we want to showcase and tell Dr. Morrison-Shetlar? Email ideas to Elizabeth. We should talk to her about GA/TA issues, (Colby and Sabrina could help maybe?), strengthening the graduate community and the grad student voice, we are involved in more committees, and funding more events. Please encourage lots of folks to attend this meeting! Include a GO TO MEETING LINK!

10) **Committee Updates**

   Tuition and Fees- Alecia is attending the Tuition and Fees meeting NOW, representing us. Surveys sent out, voting will occur in a few weeks, then it will go up the chain.

   University Awards- Sabrina- no update.
   Graduate Council, Financial Advisory- creating rubrics for evaluating job descriptions for each departments' GA/TA positions. These will hopefully be attached to our evaluations so we can compare what we are doing to what the needs are.
   Catamount Stores Task Force-No decisions were made, just lots of brainstorming and discussion. Presentation of the textbook industry was given to explore different types of texts in the future. Instructors make the final decision.
   Quality Enhancement Plan- QEP for SACS, creating the topic of focus will be voted on next fall.
   Chancellor's Committee- working on the WCU website, needs lots of changes.... any other updates here Elizabeth??

11) **Website**- need to set up a page of grad accomplishments so we can show off the great work we are doing. Students could submit their accomplishments for publication on the site. Need to add a Go To Meeting link on the main site too!

12) **Elizabeth Frazier**- Student Support Specialist for Grad Assistants. She would be happy to come to a meeting where we could ask her about financial and administrative rules and decisions. She may be able to help us understand or find ways to opportunities. We’ll ask her to come in the spring.

13) **Department Heads**- It would be great to ask them to come also! When our spring dates are finalized and topics for meetings are discussed. Brian could invite them for certain meetings. Maybe a mingle/snack or meal.