

GSA Notes from September 17, 2014

Thanks for coming! We appreciate your involvement! :) Introductions of Executive Council members present today. Next meeting October 8th at 11am for all members!

1. Approve Minutes from Aug. 27th meeting

Passed around notes for review- will be approved at end of meeting. Notes will be posted online and a link will be included in a mass email to all graduate students. End of meeting- any edits? Elizabeth's name. Add that Colby Murphy is the representative for English. Motion to accept, approved.

2. Review of Budget

Allocation of travel grants- 1 grant approved for \$500.00 about \$5000.00 left in the travel budget. Review from Brian of the GSA budget. Requests are approved by GSA Executive Members. Here is the budget update from Tonya, our Treasurer:

GSA Budget Report 9/17/2014

Last week the Executive Committee met to go over travel grants and other matters.

One travel grant was awarded in the amount of \$500.00. Leaving our current travel grant budget at \$5500.00.

The remainder of the budget remains at \$2,218.48.

Total budget for GSA: \$7718.48

3. Library Survey

Explain purpose of survey: We have been working with the library to improve the graduate student experiences in the library. Look at wording, clarity, needs, etc. for any changes that might be helpful. Please take about 5 minutes now to take the survey, please.

Conduct Survey: The library needs us to take these surveys- What would be good enough incentive for us to take the survey? Coffee cards, Catamount gift cards, one or multiple awards? They have about \$250 for awards- Amazon would be good, but many folks thought the more chances to win, the more I might ACTUALLY win! The more awards the more people will probably respond, for example "the first 25 people win a \$10 gift card", but someone the next day might feel they don't have a chance, so random might be best!

Survey Feedback: Ranking portion (p.3)- 8 options, but wants you to rank 1-6. Terminology is confusing (most important currently? or if we HAD the resources we wanted, which would be the most important?). Also confusion with journals or online journals? Duplicate- p.4 If applicable please describe a positive experience you have had with Hunter Library. (maybe have positive AND negative- is this why it's duplicated?) Point brought forward: "How often..." -NEVER always goes first in the formatting. Anonymous or not? It could be optional! "If you wish to be considered for the gift card, please leave your information here..."

Elizabeth meeting with Tim Carstens on Friday and make changes to the Survey to be delivered to all grads October 1st. Elizabeth will send the survey on behalf of the library. Please pass your surveys forward. Thanks!

4. Events Updates

Leadership Academy & Alumni Speaker Series: Events Coordinator- Venice: working with Elizabeth and Mimi Fenton to have a list of potential speakers for the series. Elizabeth working with Mimi and Laura Cruz about the Leadership Academy.

Other events: Do we want to tailgate? We can get a tailgating spot through a couple of different people. One was reserved for us by Venice already. There are 4 game dates left, including the Homecoming date. We need to announce this to Biltmore Park students as soon as possible so they can join us as well.

MBA program has a leadership speaker series already- we could join forces with them, but Elizabeth said the speakers are all in Cherokee or Biltmore Park. Would you go? The response was quiet, so maybe give it a try to cross advertise and co-fund these events.

Are there certain arenas people are interested in hearing about? What would it take to get you there? Food? Comments: Undergrad straight to grad school- talk about job apps, resources to find employment- what's the first step? Give advice about getting ready (Michael Despeaux and Marty Ash WCU employee- where is this guys???-mock interviews, info, etc. he met with GSA last year). Real world, job, skill building. Not a sit down dinner- not a big time block! An hour or less! Presentation, snack or brown bag lunch idea, Lunch n Learn. Food could be included, but then we have to do registration so we don't have too much or not enough food. WE MUST have good attendance at these events. Get buy in from some Grad classes. Grants information (Andrea Mosier Research sponsor office). Leadership skills, communication skills.

5. Office space in UC

Interview set up for next week. Elizabeth applied for an office in the UC. Must have 10 hours at least to use the space.

6. Three Minute Thesis Competition

National competition started in 2008 in Australia as a way to teach students to present their research in 3 minutes (excel at jobs, grants, meetings, etc. when you can talk about your work quickly and thoroughly.) Last spring we had our first event with a cash award for the winner (from Psychology Dept.) This will happen in November and maybe online for distance, and a Biltmore Park event as well. This time would allow for the winner to go to the national competition. Last year there were 17 universities, with a great mix of Master's AND Doctoral student winners.

Funding for winner to travel to New Orleans should be about \$800.00 total to fund this. How do we want to do this? It was great to see the GSA present last year in awarding at the awards dinner! We thought if the Graduate School could co-sponsor this, we could fund \$400.00.

7. **Dec. 3rd meeting Provost** Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar will join our meeting and help advocate for us. We are asking the Chancellor to come in May so we can update him on what we are doing.

8. **Call for volunteer to help Venice with events**- Thomas West volunteered!!! THANK YOU!! If anyone else wants to get more involved, get on a committee, or be an officer, please let Elizabeth know!

9. **GSA is newly popular at the Biltmore Park** office (they got a Keurig!). Advocation- cups and condiments for the coffee machine are needed. Faculty lounge is HUGE, but student lounge is tiny and cramped! Let's switch spaces! Kevin Frazier Also, to find away to work with Alumns and Library to gain access post graduate for online data-bases and access to journals, etc. Tie this to Alumni Association. GREAT IDEA! Could be good question for Tim Carstens, and would help boost Alumni connection. Would be a big help! Can we get a budget for the cups/ etc? Executive Meeting will have to vote on this funding for Biltmore/Social Work Dept.

10. **Summer Writing Center**- was not good for a grad student. Don't hesitate to ask for the director! The summer is not always covered the best, but should be solid during the year. This IS for Grad Students.

Thanks for your participation and support!

Please email any correction to the notes to Leigh Ann Parrish at leighannparrish@gmail.com