



MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
September 8, 2014
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Voting members present: J. Balaes, J. Bergfalk, C. Best, A. Bybee-Finely, A. Gardner, J. Goldberg, W. Nicholson, K. Schlauraff, I. Small, T. Snider, A. Thompson, R. Walroth, K. Weng Wong, L. Xu, C. Yao

Voting Members Absent: P. Berry, A. Jones, I. Roberts

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. September 8th, 2014, 1 min.

There was a grammatical error on page 2. Minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Presentations

1. Jan Allen - Financial Literacy, 10 min.

J. Allen announced the upcoming Fall Financial Literacy Festival held on October 7th. If students have any ideas for the Festival, or for a table, go through the GPSA leadership to reach J. Allen.

She informed everyone the department has created a website that has links to useful financial information such as saving, budgets, and retirement.

2. Tarn Susumpow - International Students Boards, 5min.

T. Susumpow introduced the International Students Board which is an byline funded umbrella organization. Since it is funded by both SAFC and GPSAFC, the Board funds both graduate and undergraduate clubs and events that promote multiculturalism. They only have a few graduate clubs that turn to the Board for funding. She requested the members to ask any clubs looking for funding to contact the Board.

3. Christine Yao - 2012–2013 Resolution 17 Update, 10 min.

C. Yao presented Resolution 17 from 2012-2013 to update the new members of the GPSA on the history and timeline for putting together a policy that will bring about change. She shared information on options for financing graduate student education after funding runs out. This is especially a concern for international students, who make up a significant part of graduate and professional students. Resolution 17 addresses this concern. C. Yao was one of the authors of Resolution 7. A reduced tuition for self-pay students is in place as of Fall 2014.

W. Nicholson asked where the tuition money goes. The University administration did not share full information regarding that concern, according to C. Yao. N. Rogers asked about NSF. J. Goldberg asked about relative endowment and its relation to tuition.

4. Finals Schedule Review, 5 min.

R. Walroth talked about finals schedule review. The GSA officially recommended Schedule 1. The scenarios were more concerned about undergraduates rather than graduate student timings and conflicts. He said there will be future conversations about this issue.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 15 min.

1. Executive Committee (R. Walroth)

R. Walroth said the GPSA will be hearing from B. Knuth at the next meeting about worker's compensation and injuries.

2. Appropriations (I. Small)

Will share updates while discussing the Budget.

3. Communications (M. Daniels)

The Committee is getting ready to send out the first buzz and if anyone has information they would like to be included in the buzz, send it to her by the end of the week.

4. Finance Commission (C. Wider)

The first meeting of the year is next Thursday. They will review financial requests and proposals.

5. Student Advocacy (P. Berry)

No updates.

6. Faculty Awards (D. Citron)

No updates.

7. Diversity and International Students (K. Herleman)

Diversity office in the Engineering Department is phenomenal, but that is not the case across the university. Diversity Initiatives are getting communicated to all students. This semester's goal for the Committee is increased communication about what is going on.

V. New Businesses

1. Election of Programming Board Committee Chair, 5 min.

A. Bybee-Finley described responsibilities of chair and advocated for the Board. The responsibilities include organizing monthly events and a Grad Ball in the spring. It is a great way to connect with people across fields and is not a very large time commitment. T. Snider nominated L. Munguia for the Chair position. She was elected Chair after a vote by affirmation.

2. Election of University Assembly Representative, 5min.

N. Baran nominated T. Bollu. He was elected UA Representative after a proposed motion to vote by affirmation.

3. Approval of Bylaws, 5 min.

The Bylaws were updated to reflect the change in term of Office for the Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Finance Commission Chair. T. Snider proposed an amendment to correct position to positions. Resolution 1 passed with a vote of 13-0.

4. Approval of Budget (I. Small), 15 min.

R. Walroth yielded the floor to I. Small, Appropriations Chair and Treasurer of the GPSA, who talked about the Internal Budget of the GPSA for the academic year. He shared the projected revenue generated from the student activity fee. Since the graduate school will be paying for the Ivy Summit, the GPSA need not allocate money to that cause in each budget.

He spoke to most committee chairs about their budgets and showed the GPSA past and current budgets for the committees. D. Citron asked for an additional \$50 for the Faculty Awards Committee for the physical awards.

The GPSA is in deficit but there's ample rollover since usually only 80% of the projected revenue is used every year. The floor was then open for discussion. C. Yao asked if money for Let's Talk, a program hosted by the Diversity and International Students Committee, could be removed from the budget. K. Herleman, Chair of the committee, said she would get back to GPSA after talking to Chavez, the previous chair.

T. Bollu asked about breakdown of student activity fee. This information can be accessed on the GPSA Wesbite. I. Small has contact the Office of the Assemblies administration to ask if Ivy Summit reserve is available to the GPSA and how it can be accessed. Resolution passed 15-0 following a motion to vote on the amended budget.

VI. Open Forum, 4 min.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa**