

# **Graduate Student Council**

## **Open Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2007**

1. Introductions
  - a. Kyle has GSC officers introduce themselves again
  - b. Kyle asks each person to introduce himself to his neighbor.
  
2. Course Evaluations Update
  - a. Guests: Rise Shepsle (Assistant Dean of Student Affairs) and Karen Pearce (Registrar's office)
  - b. New ideas to increase response rate
    - i. Only ~73% of graduate students participate
    - ii. Mandatory TF evaluations will be put into effect this year. Other improvements will be implemented to make course rankings accessible to students as they make up their schedules.
    - iii. "CUE" evaluation discussed, which incorporates opinions from undergraduate and graduate students.
    - iv. Publicity will be sent in the form of postcards to inform students about the surveys. This is meant to cut down on emails.
    - v. Someone asked whether TFs of graduate-level courses will be evaluated. The answer is not known. Someone asked whether the evaluations can be made mandatory. This is in the works. Table tents at Dudley were well accepted by the quorum. Opinions about sending postcards were mixed, particularly due to concerns about wasting paper.
  
3. Office of Career Services – Robin Mount (Senior Associate Director)
  - a. Offerings and Services. Drop-in time is 1-4pm on Mondays. The "Becoming Faculty" series and events in Longwood are sponsored.
  - b. GSC Collaboration – Host author Susan Basalla May who will be talking in April about alternative career paths in addition to academia for PhDs.
  - c. Budget and Funding Committee approved funding for this event (Wonyoung Kim). She does not charge a fee for speaking, only lodging costs. There were no objections about bringing her to speak.
  
4. Totally Awesome Harvard-MIT 80's party
  - a. This Saturday 11/10 (9pm-12:45am)

- b. Dudley House Dining Hall. GSC will be in charge of food and decorations.
5. Conference Grant Updates (Sofia)
- a. Decisions on grants will be made tomorrow morning and announced soon thereafter.
  - b. For the Winter Round, eligibility is based on the attendance of the department representative during at least two meetings during the Fall term.
6. Elections (No objections were raised.)
- a. FAS Public Service (Fatin Abbas, Adrian Kwek)
  - b. University Library (Meredith, Altin Gavranovic)
  - c. Standing Committee on Pedagogy (Sarah Carter, Kyle Brown)
7. Student Group Funding Requests – Wonyoung Kim (Treasurer)
- a. Report from Budget and Funding Committee. Wonyoung went over the summary of the main reasons why funding was rejected.
  - b. Vote on funding requests. No objections were raised. Attendance was taken to make sure that all groups receiving funds were present, which they were.
8. Improving Reimbursements – Concern and Actions
- a. Concerns: timeliness
  - b. Action: Wonyoung will improve communication with Chad
  - c. Action: reduce GSC processing time by half
  - d. Action: quickly inform reimbursee of problems
  - e. Someone suggested that students email Wonyoung as soon as they receive their checks so that he has an idea of when reimbursements come in.
9. Open Forum – issues and concerns
- a. Where should we focus our attention?
  - b. What are the current needs of your students?
  - c. Suggestion: Parental Leave Policy (similar to Leave of Absence Policy). HGWISE is also on top of this issue.
    - i. Women
    - ii. Foreign students