Council Minutes for August 11th, 2015 - 6:00pm

Meeting Opened: 6:01pm

In attendance:

- Officers: Cat Majors, Emily Thomas, Lynn Fahey, Alessandra Forcucci, Peshal Nayak, Nick Trenton
- Directors: Mehbuba Tanzid, Jesse Choe, Eric Lewis
- Departmental Representatives: Nathanael Vlchos (Anthropology), Jennifer Burnett (Applied Physics), Evio Isaac (Architecture), Rachel Harmeyer (Art History), Bárbara Magalhães (Biochemistry & Cell Biology), Sam Paulsen (Bioengineering), Blake Sutherland (Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering), Derek Mikesell (Computational & Applied Mathematics), Ronnie Chatterjee (Computer Science), Shasha Liu (Economics), Christina Regelski (History), Diane Glick (Master of Liberal Studies), Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics), Eleazar Marquez (Mechanical Engineering), Santiago Sosa (Political Science), Stephanie Zajac (Psychology), Bradley Johnson (Religious Studies), Jonathan Stewart (Statistics), Kareem Mehrabiani (Systems, Synthetic, and Physical Biology), Victoria Finlon (Teaching, Master of Arts)
- Cultural Representatives: Souptik Barua (Indian Students at Rice)
- Grants Representatives: Navya Vishnu (EERI-RU), Unrecorded Representative (Rice Chinese Student and Scholars)
- Guests: N/A

- Welcome New Reps:
  - Rachel Harmeyer - Art History
  - Evio Isaac - School of Architecture

- Updates from Last Meeting
  - Women’s Resource Center
    - Concerns about it being undergraduate focused and volunteer-based
    - Meeting with undergrad directors
  - Gym hours
    - Contact with Evan - Facilities Director
    - Gym hours are due to budget issues
    - Data issues, maybe we can show that late night grad gym goers are a significant portion
      - Can get data from Souptik Barua’s lab mate
  - RVA routes changes
    - Will run inside Rice instead of outside of Rice
    - Potentially can be quicker

- Open forum
  - Zipcars now at Brockman and all over campus
    - Could we get more trucks? Currently have one at Lovett
    - We are getting more cars on campus, but uncertain if will get more trucks
  - Billing deadlines
- Only charged late fees for part of the bill you are expected to pay, not the expected aid
- Need any help from cashier’s office can email us as gsa@rice.edu
- GSA working to make the bill due date after we’re paid
- Can we also get a reminder to pay for bills from cashier’s office?
  - Individually, each rep can send an email to the cashier’s office about requesting to get a reminder for bill due date

**Grants**
- Rice Chinese Student and Scholars Association - Welcome New Students Airport Pick up
- Rice Chinese Student and Scholars Association - Mid-autumn Gala - September 22nd
- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute - Seminar
- Bioengineering - BRC Symposium Professional Development - September 11th

**Upcoming Events**
- Orientation - August 19th
  - Breakout session training tomorrow
  - New changes
    - New information panels
      - Masters Information Panel
    - New bus tour
    - Coffee break ongoing during information panels
- Discover Research - August 27th
  - Dinner with Dean afterward
  - Professional photographer will do headshots before
  - Reception with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Mentorship Mixer - September 11th - 6pm to 8pm
  - Pizza party outside Valhalla
- Oktoberfest - Friday, September 27th
  - Bratwurst, beer, etc.
- Fall Picnic - Diwali - First or Second Week of November
  - Dancing, lights, food, and singing

**Past Events**
- ROPE Coffeebreak
  - Successful event
  - Slackline and tent were well-received
  - People really liked the jerky
  - Healthier snacks in the future
- Mentorship Panel
  - Had presentation on how to find various mentoring services
  - Had a panel on how to mentor

Meeting closed: 6:36pm