Council Minutes for December 15th, 2015 - 6:00pm

Meeting Opened: 6:08pm

In attendance:

- Officers: Lynn Fahey, Alessandra Forcucci, Catherine Majors, Nick Trenton, Peshal Nayak, Emily Thomas
- Directors: Jesse Choe, Eric Lewis, Mehbuba Tazid, Sarah Kim, Andrea Miranda, Josh Hill
- Program Representatives: Nathanael Vlachos (Anthropology), Josh Hill (Applied Physics), Rachel Harmeyer (Art History), Ruda Cui (Biochemistry and Cell Biology), Sam Paulsen (Bioengineering), Alicia Mangubat (Chemistry), Lexi Malouta (Earth Sciences), Shannon Carter (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), John Alred (Material Science and Nanoengineering), Eleazar Marquez (Mechanical Engineering), Jacob M. Wahlen-Strothman (Physics and Astronomy), Santiago Sosa (Political Science), Stephanie Zajac (Psychology), Jonathan Stewart (Statistics)
- Guests: 9 registered

The Wellbeing Center created STRIVE and is looking to serve graduate students, for which it needs our help

- Alexa Solazzo (als20@rice.edu) from Sociology is representing STRIVE for us grad students
- STRIVE stands for Students Transforming Rice Into a Violence-Free Environment. The group seeks to promote healthy relationships and connect students with resources on campus and is hoping to enact change following the release of results of the Survey on Unwanted Sexual Experiences.
  - In addition to these goal, STRIVE is also focusing on Title IX at Rice
    - Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity
    - STRIVE can help assist in cases of sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, stalking, etc.
- STRIVE is looking for graduate liaisons
  - The liaison would not be expected to be a counselor, but a peer point person.
  - Unlike faculty members, liaisons are not legally required to report anything they hear from people that approach them to the school, meaning that people may be more honest with them
  - Liaisons would be especially useful if the they lived in graduate housing
  - Liaison would begin next Fall in 2016
  - Liaison application would be opened in the Spring
    - Applications would be online plus an interview component
    - Potential liaisons would also be reviewed by the GSA
    - The opening of the application will be announced through the GSA Announcements and the GSA Facebook Page
STRIVE will advertise about liaisons, mention at orientation, have a GSA coffee break, make GSA announcements, put on the website.

See attached memo from Alexa for more details.

- **Important Announcements**
  - **Beer Bike**
    - Coordinators: Nick Trenton, Eric Lewis, Jesse Choe, and Ian Kinstlinger (from BioE)
    - The coordinators are still looking for a theme for Beer Bike
    - If you would like to be involved in Beer Bike, email Eric (eml5@rice.edu)
  - **Graduate International Cultural Night (GICN)**
    - Now International Cultural Night (ICN)
    - Open to both undergrads and grads and will include all interested international club
    - 1500-2000 people are expected to attend
    - Contact Mihika for more information mt37@rice.edu
  - **Events calendar for grad students**
    - Nick is working SA to rework events.rice.edu
    - The long term goal is to work with IT to create an events and social media hub
    - This project is on-going, more updates next month

- **Open Forum**
  - BRC has a third floor outdoor space
    - Perhaps the GSA could make a grad student area?
    - We could offer to beautify the space.
    - Cat Majors will bring it up at the next BRC space meeting.
  - Latin American Graduate Student Association is hosting the January Coffee Break for Tres Magos.
    - Fun and food.
    - If you want to join in with LAGSA, email Santiago Sosa (sansosa@rice.edu).

Meeting closed: