GSA Council Meeting Agenda - April 2012
Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:00 pm
Graduate Lounge, RMC

Attendees: Eman Bahrani (Middle Eastern Club), Char Wickremashghe (Chemistry), Mario Bencomo (CAAM), Anne Hellebust (BIOE), Hubert Tseng (BIOE), Niffy Hargrave (English), Eric Frey (Physics), Justin Chen (Physics), Kelly Weber (History), Arunima Ray (Math), Yu Jun Leong (CEVE), Heng Ji (Physics), Milind Chabbi (Computer Science), Kamal Sharma (CS), Zuolin Lin (ESCI), Kaleb Underwood (Honor Council), Trey Burns (Honor Council), Sam Kwiatrowski (BCB), Chinh Nguyen (ESCI), Michelle Sneck (EEB), David Shis (BCB), Olivia Wolf (HART), Sydney Boyd (English)

I. Announcements and Updates
   1. New Reps: Encourage new enrollment
      a. Sydney Boyd (English)
      b. Milind Chabbi (Computer Science)
      c. Zhoulin Lin (Earth Science)
      d. Olivia Woof (Art History)
   2. GSA Awards Winners
      a. new winners selected; went through list of awardees
      b. announcements in Rice News and in the Thresher this week
   3. Meeting Updates
      a. new officers meeting with coordinators on campus
      b. Housing Meeting with Beth Rafferty
         i. keep housing costs down: announcing new program for 1st and 2nd years--rent freeze; new housing initiatives to include people in community
      c. Athletics Meeting with Rick Greenspan and Chad Kocian
         i. bring grad students to athletic events
         ii. will be posting more in GSA announcements
         iii. first football game against UCLA, televised event, trying to publicize these events
         iv. possible GSA night
         v. contact GSA if you’re interested in being a possible grad liason
   4. Event Updates
      a. Beer Bike (3/31)
         i. sold out of t-shirts; recap of places; very successful
b. Crawfish Boil (4/6)
   i. relatively successfully (300-400 people in attendance)

c. Blood Drive (4/6)
   i. 25 volunteers; most international students can also donate blood (email Man Chen if you have further questions); another event in two months

d. Rice Relay for Life (4/11 and 13)
   i. fundraising event sold t-shirts, bubble tea, raised $158 dollars

4. Upcoming Events
   a. Taiwanese Coffee Break (4/18): 3-5 pm
      i. Check out the twitter account! yay to Jeanette’s marketing skills!
   b. Spring Picnic (4/20)
      i. Centennial theme (should be some swag); KTRU will be providing some DJs for the event
      ii. short of the volunteers: we need security and grillers for the event (check out information in the GSA announcements); earn privilege to cut in line!
   c. Food Bank (4/24?)
      i. is confirmed; last Tuesday of every month
      ii. will be sending out information about carpool, etc.
   d. Academic Networking Event sponsored by GAC (4/26)
      i. background on GAC (new structural changes--want to be more involved in GSA events)
      ii. how to get a job in academia? (opposite approach of the CCD)
      iii. contacts for sciences and humanities

5. Call for Honor Council Reps
   a. Fill out GSA Committee Application - link on GSA webpage
   b. Submit application by May 11th
      i. speakers to encourage honor council participation, contact officers if you have questions
      ii. time commitment (late afternoons and evenings--couple of times a month); busy time around finals
      iii. four spots open for graduate students
      iv. application via GSA website

6. University Committees
   a. recruitment will occur throughout May and June
   b. keep an eye open for announcements
II. New Business

1. New Student Organizations
   a. Rice Empower (Kareem Ayoub) Trenton?
      i. undergrad and grad organization
      ii. science and society bridge (K-12 dialogues)
      iii. panels of civic scientists (discuss motivation with students); hands on activities with Rice students
      iv. 1st year connected with 1200 students
      v. community dialogues as well
      vi. leadership is foundational to the organization Engineering, Baker Institute, etc.
      vii. wants to foster a better relationship with graduate students
      viii. thinks this organization is instrumental in helping change conceptions of the sciences
   b. Black Graduate Students Association, BGSA (Marx Mbonye)
      i. club that’s existed until 3 years ago; attempting to revive this club
      ii. professional and informative social network
      iii. partner with Rice’s undergrad association (encourage grad school applications)
      iv. assist the office of diversity
      v. less than 50 students of African descent at Rice
      vi. APPROVED

2. Grants
   a. Rice University GSA Dragon Boat Team (Hubert Tseng)
      i. GSA enrichment grant asking for the full $1000
      ii. past three years always placed in the top 12; last year one the university award (best of all universities)
      iii. team of 21 people (20 rowers and 1 drummer)
      iv. changing GSA commitment over the years (consistently asks for $1000 from GSA)
      v. will submit to GSA announcements (occurs on May 5)
      vi. Grants Committee Recommended Min. $750 / Max $1000; Awarded $1000
b. Rice University Ruz Middle Eastern Club (Ahmed Elnably) Imman
   i. Largest event since the club was first founded 12 years ago
   ii. event has been publicized through GSA Announcements, posters, facebook event
   iii. completely open to all students (min. of 40 grad students signed up; 190 seats reserved for Rice)
   iv. $500-800 ($5000 contract--ALFA, SAP funding already given)
   v. dinner will be provided--free dinner buffet
      1. food at 6, comedy at 7 (works better with schedule)
   vi. Grants Committee recommended Min. $500 / Max. $1000; Awarded $1000

c. Indian Students at Rice (Arunima Ray)
   i. asking for an activities grant--okay that it is organization specific
   ii. farewell picnic--all funds will go towards food (asking for $150)
   iii. Grants Committee recommended $150 dollars; Awarded $150