I. Announcements and Updates

1. Past Events
   a. Pool Party - July 18
      i. Approximately 70 attendees
      ii. Good event, lower attendance than anticipated (due to weather, rescheduling, etc.)
   b. July Coffee Break - July 25
      i. Good attendance, particularly for a summer coffee break
      ii. Olympic theme (with bagels, iced coffee, etc.)
   c. GSA Department Coordinators Luncheon - July 31
      i. Approximately 30-35 departments represented
      ii. Good enthusiasm for GSA, continues to be a lack of knowledge about GSA activities, programming, purpose
      iii. Importance of Rep-Coordinator Relationship
   d. New Student Orientation - August 15
      i. Huge thanks to Anne, Kiri, and Michelle for a very successful orientation!
ii. Overall smooth day thanks to great breakout leaders and panel participants
iii. Two coffee breaks (first one was packed with people spilling into the area outside the lounge; second one (American theme) was also a success with delicious pie)
iv. Lots of positive feedback from new students (expressed at activities fair)
v. Despite the high temperatures, the Orientation Picnic and Activities Fair combination was a success: we actually ran out of food (!!!) and received great feedback from the administrators

e. Welcome Back Concert - August 18
   i. Continues to be poorly attended by graduate students (despite the presence of a beer garden this year)
   ii. GSA co-sponsored the event for $3500: considering the poor attendance we may need to reconsider the amount of funding we provide in future.

2. Upcoming Events

   a. Student Activities Fair - August 24, 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM
      i. Looking for volunteers! Need help from department reps!

   b. Rice vs. UCLA - August 30, 6:30 PM
      i. First football game of the season
      ii. Rice students get in for free (guest for ½ price)
      iii. GSA still working on a tailgate (free food and maybe free beer); tailgating contest with other colleges (with $200 prize to use for future tailgates)
      iv. Really want to motivate grad students to attend

   c. GSA Department Representative Retreat - September 7, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
      i. Business meeting for the first half (learn about GSA and department reps’ responsibilities) with dinner to follow.
      ii. Please RSVP via MachForm (invite already sent to reps earlier in August)

   d. SA/GSA Research Mixer - September 12, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
      i. Introducing undergrads and grads from other departments to our research
      ii. Held in the central quad by Brochstein Pavilion, this event really works to bring together the campus
      iii. Look out for future invites this week (via the reps list-serv)

   e. Fall Picnic - September 14th

   f. CCD Career Fair on September 11th (with over 200 companies represented)

3. Centennial Committee: Still Need Volunteers!
   a. Aru Ray (MATH) is our GSA Centennial Representative
b. Really need more volunteers, a lot of the events are already planned (minimal time commitment, will work primarily as the point person for a variety of activities)

4. Rice Ring Ambassador
   a. need a person to promote the official Rice ring (which is available to grad students); ambassador will receive a discount.
   b. Volunteer: Mario Bencomo (CAAM)

5. Passport to Houston Representative
   a. Issue not discussed (Steven Wolf has already volunteered)

6. Food Truck update
   a. New dinner option! Variety of food trucks will be on campus Monday through Friday evenings.
   b. Location: Close to Physics and Valhalla

II. New Business

1. New Clubs
   a. Rice University OSA Student Chapter (Jennifer Burnett)
      i. Professional society, mostly for those interested in optics
      ii. Small organization with two events (traveling lecture series; professional development and outreach) in their inaugural event
      iii. Will function under the umbrella of the national organization (which also organizes conferences)
      iv. No fees will be associated with the Rice chapter
      v. VOTE: APPROVED

2. August Grants
   a. Black Graduate Student Association (Anthony Simms), Kristen
      i. BGSA New Student Welcome, original request $887 (dropped to $787)
         1. Sammy’s, Friday, 6:00PM, open to all graduate students
      ii. 3% of students are black, easy for them to get forgotten
      iii. Event will provide academic and social support for new students
      iv. ODI will also be participating in this event
      v. Event will be fun, but also informative--an extended welcome to Rice
      vi. BGSA wants to develop their role in the Rice community
      vii. Asking for a larger amount to help buy materials that will be recycled to future events.
      viii. AMOUNT AWARDED: $500
b. Rice Chinese Student & Scholars Club (Lei Fu)
   i. 2012 Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival & National Day (Sept. 30), $1000
   ii. Traditional annual festival (important family event in China, trying to make students feel welcome and at home both at Rice and in the US)
   iii. Great tradition of hosting this event at Rice in past years (with GSA support)
   iv. Great attendance from not only Chinese students, but also American students
   v. Intended publicity: Facebook, posters, RCSSC and OISS list-servs
   vi. Will be a free event (about 500-600 attendees, located in Grand Hall)
   vii. Additional funding will be requested from a variety of sources
   viii. AMOUNT AWARDED: $1000

c. Indian Students at Rice (Deepak Majeti)
   i. Fresher’s Day, $250
      1. A variety of games and performances will bring together new and current Indian graduate students (closed event--applying for an activities grant)
      2. AMOUNT AWARDED: $250
   ii. Deepotsav, $1000
      1. Annual Event, GSA has supported this event in previous years
      2. Dinner and performances celebrate a traditional festival
      3. Open to all students and the greater Houston community
      4. Because of the expense associated with professional performers and Indian food, this event will have an admission fee of $10 for graduate students (lowered from $12 in previous years, $25 is the admission charge for non-grad student attendees)
      5. AMOUNT AWARDED: $1000

d. Rice University English Symposium (Alanna Beroiza)
   i. English Symposium 2012: “After Queer, After Humanism”, $1000
      1. Organized symposium that is open to numerous disciplines
      2. Includes a range of topics (enters into sciences, social sciences, humanities)
      3. Symposium will also include a theatrical performance and art display
      4. Two-day event (using Farnsworth and the Kyle Morrow room)
      5. Hoping to bridge humanities/sciences with this event
      6. Also providing meals/cocktail party for participants and supporting departments
7. Includes a key speaker as well (topic will even address contemporary events)
8. Increased number of panels, participants despite a decreased budget
9. AMOUNT AWARDED: $650
e. Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering GSA (Maria Rodriguez-Moya)
   i. Centennial ChBE Networking Dinner, $1000
      1. Lecture and Networking event, had event in past but at a smaller scale whereas this will be one bigger event that combines undergrad and grad students
      2. Oct. 11 is the lecture in Duncan Hall and followed by a poster session
      3. Important because of the networking opportunities for grad students
      4. Will invite students from other departments
      5. Dinner is only for the department
      6. Asking for money from companies (just received $1000), also SAPP and GAC
      7. AMOUNT AWARDED: $250
f. Latin American Graduate Student Association (Emilian Nica)
   i. Spanish Corner, $975
      1. On behalf of LAGSA, main outreach program of LAGSA
      2. Opportunity to learn the language and culture of Latin America
      3. This will be the second semester--quite successful in the Spring Semester, esp. Spanish one-on-one tutoring that occurred during Spanish corner
      4. More successful at the beginning, grew a bit smaller throughout the semester
      5. Held in the GSA lounge
      6. Would like to enhance the program by bringing in speakers from each country represented
      7. Budget is only for the one semester, will request additional funding from SAPP
      8. Want this to reach a broader audience (need to target more departments, increased advertising needed)
      9. AMOUNT AWARDED: $600

Total amount requested in August: $6,225           Total currently in Grant’s Budget: $13,000
Total amount granted in August: $3,250