GSA Council Meeting Agenda — January 2013
Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 6:00 pm
Graduate Lounge, RMC

Attendees: Michael Sinai (Architecture), Niffy Hargrave (English), Anna Saikin (English), Kiri Kilpatrick (ChBE), Anne Hellebust (BIOE), Kelly Weber (History, Mayada Coleman (MLS), Jacob Wahlen Strothman (Physics), Zuolin Liu (ESCI), Evgeniya Poluektooe (Linguistics), Mauro A. Rinaldi (BCB), Sydney Boyd (English), Michelle Sneck (EEB), Kenya Gillespie (Shepherd), Dan Puperi (BIOE), Yu Jun Leong (CEVE), Xin Zhao (RCSSC), Xiwei Yi (RCSSC), Deepti Ballal (ChBE), Jeanette Pasuizaca (Jones)

Pre-Meeting Informational Session: Becoming a GSA Officer
Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 5:30 pm

Jennifer Wilson, Center for Visual, Oral, and Written Communication
jsw@rice.edu  cwovc.rice.edu

- Rice has not had a writing center/communication center in the past, at least not in a formal sense. Faculty senate unanimously approved the creation for the center last academic year. Another requirement was that all Rice students must complete a writing class component for graduation.

- New this semester are Workshop Series (4-5 weeks, ask for people to attend the entire seminar). These workshops are geared toward or are open to graduate students: Creating Podcasts (creating a digital identity); Oral Presentation Skills (only for graduate students); Writing about Empirical Research; Grammar and Writing (ESL directed)

- How does the Center work? Core service is individual consultants. To make an appointment go through the Center’s website. Open from 8 am to midnight. There are roughly 53 consultants. Walk-ins are welcome, but there cannot be a guarantee that someone will be present. Consultants can provide feedback on any kind of communication. Grad students have received feedback on conference talks, job talks, essays, etc. Center does encourage you to go to your department for specific feedback that’s more relevant to your field. Able to bring your project at any stage, even the initial brainstorming process if you need to simply bounce ideas off someone. Grad students have brought in articles that they have submitted for
Questions?

○ Undergraduate consultants? Are they able to provide adequate feedback on graduate work? They will not be able to provide field specific feedback, but they are trained to recognize basic structures of academic feedback. A lot depends on the individual’s expectations from a consulting session.

○ Consultants in your field? Center is actively recruiting students from the STEM departments. However, reiterated that a lot goes back to expectations.

○ Will be recruiting for new consultants in approximately six weeks.

Dissertation Writing Group with CWOVC and Wellness Center

I. Announcements and Updates

1. Past Events
   a. 10 Days of Service: December 3-12 - Huge thanks to everyone who participated!
      i. Congrats BCB for donating over 500 points!
      ii. Slow start, but a lot of goods were donated (food, clothing, toys)
      iii. Will be contacting BCB to organize a party at Valhalla
   b. Charlie Brown Coffee Break: Wednesday, December 12, right after finals
      i. Approx. 150 attendees
      ii. Lots of French croissants and coffee

2. Upcoming Events
   a. GICN: Friday, February 1 - POSTPONED!
      i. We need to reschedule once Heng Ji is able to return from China.
      ii. We are currently working on finding an alternative date/space.
   b. GSA Coffee break, January 24, 3–5 pm
      i. email Kaushik if you’re interested in volunteering
      ii. Chinese Spring Festival will be the theme
   c. GSA 2013–14 Officer Elections: March Council Meeting (Tuesday, March 19)
      If interested in a position, please email Niffy Hargrave (jlh12@rice.edu) so that she can invite you to Informational Luncheons to be held in February/March.
      9 of 10 positions are available
      Applications will be required two weeks before elections
   d. Beer Bike: Saturday, March 23
Coordinators and Captains will need volunteers as Beer Bike approaches!

i. Beer Bike Coordinators:
   1. Melissa Gallagher, melissa.ann.gallagher@gmail.com
   2. Ben Langford, benjamin.langford@rice.edu

ii. Beer Bike Captains:
   1. Pit Crew: David Solis, david.e.solis@gmail.com
   2. Women's Bike: Eva Dyer, eva.l.dyer@rice.edu
   3. Men's Bike: Jan Zimack, jan.zimak@gmail.com
   4. Still need Men’s & Women’s Chug Team Captains! If you’re interested please let us know! There are time trials; you’ll host these at Valhalla.

   e. Elevator Pitch Competition: April 12th - Abstracts due February 22nd
      i. Shout out to Pei who has been coordinating this event.
      ii. We will need volunteers to help with the event on April 12. We will need lots of help with some of the more logistical issues. There will be workshops helping to guide people in the creation of 90 second “speeches.”
      iii. What is the competition? We will get a bunch of people, hopefully one per department, to give a 90 second pitch about your research. There will be some general guidelines. There will be cash prizes involved.
      iv. Great opportunity to share research across departments

3. GSA Survey update
   a. Meetings were held last semester with John Cornwall (OIE, Office of Institutional Effectiveness)
   b. Goal of having the survey out by Spring Break

4. Campus Security - New Safety Measures to be Announced Soon!
   a. Discussed safety issues extensively at the December Council Meeting.
   b. The GSA recommended that an additional stop be added so that members of the community going to the RVA could board the bus in a more populated area. After feedback from graduate students Transit has agreed to create an additional stop at the rec center. An announcement from Eugen Radulescu will be made soon. We continue to schedule police officers and security specialist evenings on an overtime basis. They are focusing on bus stops,
parking lots and isolated areas of the campus. Dr. Kirby has provided funds to hire a consultant to assist with an evaluation of the personal and physical security systems in place at Rice. The assessment will include our physical infrastructure including lighting, security cameras, building security and perimeter security. The goal is to prevent, deter or mitigate crimes against persons and property.

c. Complaints and suggestions and feedback--Kelly Weber and Michelle Sneck are on the Transportation Committee and can translate these ideas to the appropriate parties.

5. Wellness Center and Counseling Center: New University Committee. *If interested, please email us (gsa@rice.edu) with a brief statement of interest.*
   a. Title is still in the works.
   b. This is in reaction to the Thresher editorial written by a former undergraduate student. Undergraduate body voiced a great deal of concern over the situation. Dean Hutch proposed that a new committee (2 undergrads, 2 grads, WRC reps, staff from Wellness and Counseling Center, and other relevant members of the univ. community). Addressing whether or not and how better to address Sexual Assault components and Mental Health components that were voiced in the Thresher article and the consequent fallout.
   c. Likely that this will be relatively heavy workload (attend regular meetings, for example) up through April, but we are looking for grad volunteers for this Committee. We need committed and passionate individuals for these positions. NEED NAMES BY NEXT WEEK!

6. Annual GSA Awards: Nominations begin January 28th - *Don’t forget to nominate faculty, staff, and peers!*
   a. Nominations will be open until mid-March.

### III. New Business

1. Grants
   a. RCSSC - Chinese Spring Festival: $1000 requested
      Stipulation that all money will be lost if not advertised in GSA Announcements; passes for $550
      i. Unable to meet December deadline; asked that the Council approve
their grant a month early

ii. Chinese New Year Gala: Important, especially for Chinese students, to celebrate this festival when they are so far away from home. It’s a great opportunity for non-Chinese students to learn about Chinese culture and performances.

iii. This festival has been held every year for about one decade.

iv. There will be extensive publicity. Free to Rice community, charge of $5 dollars.

v. Why is the budget increasing this year? Increase in Chinese student body.

vi. It will be held in the Grand Hall.