GSA Council Meeting Agenda - June 2012
Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:00 pm
Graduate Lounge, RMC

In Attendance: Anna Saikin (ENGL, GSA President), Niffy Hargrave (ENGL, GSA Secretary), Mariam Nouri (CHBE), Kimberley Orsten (PSYC, rep), Anne Hellebust (BIOE, GSA Parliamentarian), Man Chen (PHYS, GSA Community Service), Kiri Kilpatrick (CHBE, GSA Internal Vice-President), Justin Chen (PHYS & ASTR, rep), Zuolin Lin (ESCI, rep), Amanda Jones (CHEM, rep), Luke Boyer (MEMS), Dan Puperi (BIOE, rep), Tawana Robinson (CHEM), Sydney Boyd (ENGL, rep), Arunima Ray (MATH, rep), Kelly Weber (HIST, rep), Milind Chabbi (COMP, rep), David Shis (BCB, rep), Michelle Downey (EEB), Rachel Hooper (ARTH), Lu Wang (STAT, rep), Mehul Chadha (COMP), Deepti Ballal (CHBE, rep), Gabriel Ceriotti (CHEM), Deepak Majeti (CSE), Michelle Sneck (EEB, rep), John Varghese (BIOC), Mauro Rinaldi (BICB, rep)

I. Announcements and Updates
   1. New Rice Smoking Policy - Kevin Kirby and Daniel Fu
      a. Discussion of the state and national trend toward implementing No-Tobacco Policies on university campuses (UT-Austin and UH have already implemented the same policy); Rice will be following the implementation model established by UT-Austin
      b. Previous policy, implemented two years ago, banned all smoking within a twenty-five foot radius around buildings/entrances
      c. As recipients of Cancer Prevention Funds we have to become tobacco free (look for a more detailed document in next week’s GSA Announcements)
      d. In short, all tobacco use (not just smoking) will be banned; designated zones will be established during the transition period (what would be the criteria--still looking for feedback); push for cessation activities (need increased visibility)
      e. Admin believes that grad students may be the most affected population (especially because of the international student population)
      f. Recommendation for a survey and a grad student task force
         i. Designated smoking zones--how many? where? will be temporary for this year only
         ii. How to enforce? education process, RUPD will only be involved for visitors--otherwise it’s the responsibility of the individual
colleges/departments; complaint based system; not trying to create smoking police

g. Probably will not include graduate housing (RGA, RVA, MSA)

2. IT: Updates to Google Apps/Calendars - Barry Ribbeck and Carlyn Chatfield
   a. Introduced log-in/sign-up process (more details provided in handout, will also be posted in next week’s GSA Announcements)
   b. All documents are internal to Rice (they may be sent out, but cannot be shared with anyone external to Rice)
   c. Promoted the calendars as being user friendly
   d. Promoted advantages to a campus-wide communication tool: easier to find groups and individuals, easier sharing access, not as hard to work collaboratively across campus
   e. More space, more tools -- IMPORTANT: this is a Rice, not a Google tool; Rice Google vs. commercial Google (main difference is protected information)
   f. IT may be working towards course management tools, etc.
   g. Lack of interface between Rice and commercial Google accounts

3. Reminder: Hurricane Season is June 1 — November 30. Check out emergency.rice.edu for more information to help you prepare.

4. Past Events
   a. May Coffee Break
      i. pretty well attended, organized by Heng Ji (External Vice-President)

5. Upcoming Events
   a. T-shirt Design Contest - due June 29
      i. Calling for awesome t-shirt designs for orientation, volunteer events (with GSA and Centennial logos)
   b. Pool Party - July 11
      i. 6-8 PM; more family oriented
      ii. Please sign-up to volunteer (we need ice cream scoopers for 15 minute shifts!)
   c. July Coffee Break: Still to be determined, details to follow

6. Orientation - August 15th
   a. Volunteers needed for breakout sessions, panels, picnic, & activities fair
      i. Still finalizing plans, then we will start looking for volunteers
      ii. Pass forward names of people in your departments who are socially fun, particularly active; organizers want to make the breakout sessions a lot more
fun and improve the quality of orientation

iii. asking for volunteers and suggestions (email in the weeks to come)

II. New Business

1. Grants
   
   a. India’s 66th Independence Day (ISAR) - Deepak Majeti
      i. Grant will be used primarily for refreshments
      ii. Approved for $250.00
   
   b. Swagat (ISAR) - Deepak Majeti
      i. Grant will be used primarily for refreshments
      ii. Approved for $200.00
   
   c. New Late Policy
      i. Discussed, Council Approved Policy

2. University Committees
   
   a. Center for Career Development Advisory Committee (2 positions)
      i. Luke Boyer (elected)
      ii. Milind Chabbi (elected)
      iii. Zhenjia Gao
      iv. Shirin Sardar
   
   b. Graduate Council (1 position)
      i. Michelle Downey (elected)
      ii. Thomas McNeese
   
   c. Rice Council on Diversity and Inclusion (1 position)
      i. Michelle Downey (elected)
      ii. Elisabeth Urtado-Holzheauer
   
   d. Parking Committee (2 positions)
      i. Kelly Weber (elected)
      ii. Michelle Sneck (elected)
   
   e. Teaching Committee (1 position)
      i. Zhenjia Gao
      ii. Mariam Nouri Dariani
      iii. Tawana Michelle Robinson (elected)
      iv. Shirin Sardar
   
   f. Texas Medical Center Advisory Committee (1 position)
      i. Luke Boyer
ii. Elisabeth Urtado-Holzheuser (elected)
iii. Amol Rajmane

3. University Committees - The rest of the committees will be filled during the July council meeting.