GSA Council Meeting Agenda - September 2012
Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 6:00 pm
Graduate Lounge, RMC

Attendance

Officers: Anna Dodson Saikin (President), Anne Hellebust (Parliamentarian), Nify Hargrave (Secretary), Kiri Kilpatrick (Internal Vice-President), Heng Ji (External Vice-President)

Representatives: Lynn M. Fahey (Sociology), Kelly Weber (History), Christopher Dohna (Philosophy), Amanda Goodman (Jones) (Chemistry), Arturo Vargas (CAAM), Michelle Sneck (EEB), Sydney Boyd (English), Evgeniy Poluektova (Linguistics), Dan Puperi (BioE), Likeleli Seitolheko (ECON), Kenya Gillespie (Shepherd), Mauro Rinaldi (Biochemistry), Justin Chen (P&A), Yu Jun Leong (CEVE), Zuolin Lu (ESCI), Lu Wang (Statistics), Deepti Ballal (ChBE)

Other Attendees: Jaclyn Kettler (Political Science), Nathan Kim (MBA-Jones), Tyler White (MBA-Jones), Mega Breitenwischer (MBA-Jones), Marcel LaFlamme (Anthropology)

I. Announcements and Updates

1. Past Events
   a. Student Activities Fair - 24 August
      i. Primarily undergraduates
      ii. Not as successful as the Activities Fair held during Orientation
   b. Rice vs. UCLA Tailgate and Game - 30 August
      i. Leftover beer; pizza all gone; 50 seat cushions given away (remaining 200 will be distributed during the Centennial/Homecoming game)
   c. GSA Department Representatives Retreat - 7 September
      i. Wellness Retreat (theme with presentations from Emily Page and Kate Noonan)
      ii. Brainstormed future programming ideas (i.e. Creating OwlSpace page for “academic want ads”—creating a safe and confidential space wherein research could be shared across the disciplines)
   d. SA/GSA Research Mixer - 12 September
      i. Located in the RMC/Ley Student Center Cloisters (Rain forced us off the quad)
ii. More than thirty graduate students volunteered (with a new tables from the humanities!)
iii. Not as well attended by the undergraduate body (probably because of the location)
iv. A lot of freshmen attended and were enthusiastic about future research
ev. Graduate International Leadership Summit (GILS) - 18 September
   i. Leadership from cultural/international clubs met over lunch with GSA officers, Arnaud Chevallier (Associate Vice Provost, GPS), Adria Baker (Associate Vice Provost, OISS), and Ben Colson (OISS)
   ii. Discussed improving GSA collaboration with international clubs
   iii. Began brainstorming for GICN; will create a sub-committee for this event

2. Upcoming Events **PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDARS!**
   a. Fall Picnic - RESCHEDULED - 21 September, 5:00 PM
      i. Will be giving away nice steins!
      ii. Kelly Weber volunteered to be a wristband from 5-6. Thanks Kelly!
   b. GSA Tailgating - 22 September, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
      i. Will always be in the white tents (far end closest to Entrance 17)
      ii. GSA google calendar has the PDF with a diagram for the tailgate.
   c. Houston Food Bank - 22 September, 2-5 PM
      i. Look in this week’s “Weekly GSA Announcements” for more information.
   d. GSA Wellness Coffee Break - 25 September
      i. Kate Noonan and Emily Page—brief presentation about available programming
      ii. Also listed in the calendar of events at wellbeing.rice.edu
   e. Centennial - 10, 11, 12, and 13 October
      i. Wednesday, Oct. 10: GSA Centennial Coffee Break, 3-5 PM, GSA Lounge
         1. GSA-Centennial coffee mug give away
      ii. Thursday, Oct. 11: Glass Night at Valhalla, 5-7 PM
      iii. Friday, Oct. 12: Academic Procession, 9:30 AM, Academic Quad
      iv. Friday, Oct. 12: Centennial Picnic, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, Central Quad
1. Poster session in Grand Hall in afternoon
   v. Friday, Oct. 12: GSA and GAC Picnic, 5-9 PM, outside Valhalla
   vi. Friday, Oct. 12: Esperanza, 10 PM - 2 AM, Centennial Tent, Founder’s Court
   vii. Saturday, Oct. 13: Rice vs. UTSA Tailgate and Game, 11 AM, West Lot
   viii. Saturday, Oct. 13: Spectacle, 8:45 PM, 9:45 PM, 10:45 PM, Academic Quad

3. Centennial Committee: Still Need Volunteers! (Contact Aru Ray for more information!)

4. Family Committee: Still Need Volunteers! (Contact gsa@rice.edu for more information!)

5. Dean’s Cup Committee Report
   a. Summarized the issue that was raised last year (undergraduate concern that GSA was awarded the President’s Cup; wanted to create the Dean’s Cup to be awarded the top undergraduate college, in the event that GSA won the President’s Cup again)
   b. Gathered data from grad students to collect concerns/opinions
   c. Official report to be emailed to all of the department reps (with this week’s minutes)

6. Looking for Beer Bike Coordinators (contact gsa@rice.edu)

II. Presentation: Dr. Matt Taylor, Director of the Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication

Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Information: In the past eight months, 75 new courses for first-year students have been developed along with the Center (located on the 2nd floor of the library, mezzanine level). The Center is comprised of a three-person professional staff as well as numerous tutors (15 graduate students; 40 undergraduate students). Services for undergraduates, graduates, and faculty are provided. At present, the Center is still trying to understand the needs of the community (in particular, services grad students and faculty are still in development). Service that already exist to meet graduate student needs: three ESL courses. The Center is one of the most visible developments on campus this year and it is imperative that this new initiative does not fail. The development of the FWIS has changed graduation requirements for undergraduates for the first time in forty years.
Brainstorming ideas for the Center: more teaching opportunities for grad students; concern about low number of graduate consultants; consultants want more training for ESL; need a better range of consultants from all departments (to meet the very different needs of graduate students in sciences and humanities); need help with grant proposal writing; need help with fellowship applications; recommended coordinating with professors in other departments that are already working on writing/speaking/professional skills with their grad students

jsw@rice.edu (Jennifer Wilson with questions about consulting positions)
eaf2@rice.edu (Elizabeth Festa, also instrumental in the training process)

III. New Business

1. New Representatives
   a. Chris Dohna, Philosophy
   b. Lynn Fahey, Sociology
   c. Arturo Vargas, CAAM

2. New Clubs
   a. Continental Philosophy and Social Theory Colloquium (Marcel LaFlamme) APPROVED
      i. American commitment to certain types of philosophy: group will be dedicated to opening up these traditional ideas
      ii. Interdisciplinary reading group (Anthropology, English as key departments)
      iii. Meetings will involve talking about a set of texts and possibly bringing in speakers to synthesize conversation
      iv. Already have a structure for donations (money already donated by Anthropology and English)
   b. Earthquake Engineering Research Institute Rice University Student Chapter (Emily McCarthy) DELAYED UNTIL OCTOBER MEETING
      i. No representative
   c. Jones Christian Fellowship (Nathan Kim) APPROVED
      i. Will address faith and the workplace; primary focus on business (makes this club different from other Christian-focused clubs); will encourage participation from people of all faiths
      ii. First meeting next week; open to everyone
iii. Private equity club CEO will be speaking at the first meeting
iv. Meetings will occur once a month
v. Lunches will be provided, but no fees (outside sponsorship)
vi. RGCF alliance/organization

d. Blades of Business (Megan E Breitenwischer) APPROVED
i. Social club; rollerblading and 90s social club; events will occur once or twice a semester
ii. Welcome to anyone, not just the business school
iii. Fees: $20 (maybe, for a t-shirt); won't require a lot of funding