GSA Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6:00 pm  
Captain Lounge, RMC

Minutes

Reps in attendance: Jose Candelaria (Art History), Caitlin Guenther (Bioengineering), Joelle Baddour (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), Andrea Miranda (Chemistry), Yu Jun Leong (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Derek Mikesell (Computational & Applied Mathematics), Jacob Gao (Computer Science), Sarah Huff (Earth Sciences), Shannon Carter (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), David Ponton (History), Bazile Lanneau (Linguistics), Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics), Carissa Phillips-Garrett (Philosophy), Jacob M. Wahlen-Strothman (Physics and Astronomy), William Rothwell (Sociology)

Guests in attendance: Runmin Zhang (Rice Chinese Students & Scholars Association), Megan Whaley (AWM), Yingying Xu (Rice Chinese Students & Scholars Association), Eslam Elshahat (EEB), Barbara de Freitas Magalhaes (BCB rep)

Officers: Alessandra, Lynn, JD, Ali, Kameshwar, Mike, Andie, Chris, Bahar, Sarah

1. New Business

   1.1. Approval of GSA Constitutional Changes. Several updates to the GSA Constitution and Bylaws were proposed, including (1) the restructuring of the responsibilities and roles of the GSA officer team, (2) the addition of the professional development grant and travel grant, and (3) changes to the GSA awards, specifically the Robert Lowry Patten Award. The Council approved the updated GSA Constitution and Bylaws.

   1.2. Approval of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEVE) GSA Constitution. The Council voted to approve the CEVE-GSA Constitution.
1.3.  *February GSA Grants*

1.3.1. The Council voted to award the Rice Chinese Students and Scholars Club $1000 for the 2015 Lunar New Year Gala.

1.3.2. The Council voted to award the Association for Women in Mathematics $250 for Pi Day.

1.3.3. The Council voted to award KTRU $1000 for the KTRU Outdoor Show.

1.3.4. The Council voted to award EERI-RU $200 for the EERI-RU Guest Lecture.

1.4.  *Increased budget spending limits*. The Council voted to approve the increase in the spending limits of the Social line item by $10,000 and Community Service line items by $2,000 in the GSA budget. These extra funds will come from the blanket tax, so no other line items must be changed to accommodate these increases.

2.  *Past Events*

2.1. The GSA February Coffee Break was held from 3-5pm on February 3rd. More than 150 people showed up to the event.

3.  *Future Events*

3.1. Info sessions for those interested in running for GSA officer positions will take place during the last week in February and first week of March. Interested grad students who cannot make these times can email the GSA (gsa@rice.edu) for other arrangements.

3.2. Volunteers are needed for the 90 Second Thesis Competition on Friday, March 13, 2015. Volunteer duties include setting up, greeting people at the door, helping run the powerpoint, etc. Sign up sheets for volunteer positions will be sent out shortly.

3.3. Many volunteers are needed for Beer Bike on Saturday, March 28, 2015. All volunteers will be given V.I.P. access to food and drinks. The sign-up sheets for volunteer positions will be sent out shortly. The GSA Beer Bike theme for this year is “Beer and Loathing”.