GSA Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 6:00 pm
Captain Lounge, RMC

Minutes

Reps in attendance: Jose Candelaria (Art History), Caitlin Guenther (Bioengineering), Joelle Baddour (Chem. & Biomolecular Engineering), Andrea Miranda (Chemistry), Yu Jun Leong (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Derek Mikesell (Computational & Applied Mathematics), Jacob Gao (Computer Science), Shannon Carter (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Shasha Liu (Economics), David Ponton (History), Bazile Lanneau (Linguistics), Travis Boyer (Mech. Engineering & Material Sci.), Jacob M. Wahlen-Strothman (Physics & Astronomy), Debshila Mallick (Psychology), Jonathan Stewart (Statistics)

Guests in attendance: Amram Bengio (ChBE), Eslam Elshahat (EEB), Kiri Kilpatrick (GPS)

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

1. New Business

1.1. Restructuring of GSA officer team. A new structure for the GSA officer team was proposed to better address the recent shift of the GSA’s focus towards providing more professional development opportunities to grad students and aiding the departmental GSAs. The most significant changes include the introduction of a new professional development officer position and merging the international liaison role into the external vice president role. The Council will vote on the new officer team structure during the next meeting in February. More details on the updated structure and roles of each officer position will be provided two weeks before the next meeting. Reps are strongly encouraged to contact the officer team with any questions, suggestions, and feedback on the proposed structure.

1.2. Professional Development Grant plans. The GSA plans to use $4000 of available funds in the professional development budget to offer professional development grants to student groups, organizations, and departmental GSAs looking to host professional development events benefiting the graduate student community. An online application will be provided to apply for funding, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis with a tentative maximum award of $400. The online application form and specifications on what events are eligible for receiving funding will be available before the next Council meeting.
2. **Past Events**
   2.1. The joint GSDGP/GSA Coffee Break took place on Tuesday, January 13, from 3 - 5 pm. Around 100 graduate student attended the event.

3. **Future Events**
   3.1. Two coordinators for Beer Bike have been selected. A captain for the GSA men’s chug team is still needed. If interested, contact Andie at aes5@rice.edu.