GSA Council Meeting  
Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6:00 pm  
Captain Lounge, RMC

Minutes

Representatives in attendance. Samantha Collum (Biochemistry & Cell Biology), Caitlin Guenther (Bioengineering), Joelle Baddour (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), Andrea Miranda (Chemistry), Gigi Noe (proxy, Education), David Ponton (History), Diane Glick (Masters of Liberal Studies), Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics), Travis Boyer (Mechanical Engineering & Material Science), Debshila Mallick (Psychology), Renee Ford (Religious Studies)  
Guests in attendance. Michael Domeracki (former GSA president)

1. New Business

1.1. Keck Hall Lawn Renovations. Four hundred thousand dollars were allocated to renovate the Keck Hall Lawn. Almost the entirety of this money will be used to cover drainage issue (i.e., put in cisterns, direct flow away from Keck Hall). Additional funding will be needed for further renovations. An itemized list of renovations will be compiled by the Keck Hall Lawn Renovations committee. The GSA will free up $20,000 in funds -- $5000 from GPS, $5,000 from Student Activities (from lounge renovations budget), and $10,000 from GSA rollover budget -- to go towards negotiation for renovations. Not all $20,000 will necessarily be spent on renovations as much as it will be used for putting GSA in a better bargaining position. Some potential renovations to the Keck Hall lawn space include: purchase of new furniture with the GSA seal emblazoned on them, an outdoor patio area which can be used for events/invited speakers, better lighting, power outlets, a keg aerator, etc.

1.2. Fall 2014 Registration Late Fee. Due to technical glitches, reminders for the 2014 Fall semester were not sent out to several, if not all, departments. The departments that did not get fall registration reminders include: Math, Psychology, Philosophy, ECE, Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, and History. If graduate students were charged a late fee due to this technical glitch, they should email the registrar office requesting a waiver for the late fee.

1.3. Health Care Changes. There was a question on whether there will be any significant changes made to the health care insurance plans/prices for this year. Most of the changes occurred last year, so no changes are expected for this year.
2. Past Events

2.1. World Cup Screening. The World Cup screening on Sunday, July 13th, in the RMC Grand Hall attracted around 50 grad students. Though a higher attendance was expected, the event itself went seamlessly.

3. Upcoming Events

3.1. Summer Picnic. The GSA Summer Picnic will take place on Thursday, July 31st. Food options other than the traditional burgers and hotdogs were considered (i.e., Thai food, tacos).

3.2. Orientation volunteering. GSA orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 20th. Forty breakout session volunteers are still needed for the event. Volunteering as a breakout session leader is low commitment - volunteers will meet for an hour of training before the event (lunch will be provided) and on the day of orientation, volunteers will lead breakout sessions for two hours. To get more volunteers to sign up, information on the roles/time commitment required to be a session leader should be provided. Advertising in posters and before teaching seminars for grad students was also discussed.