Representatives in attendance: Samantha Collum (Biochemistry and Cell Biology), Joelle Baddour (Chemistry and Biomolecular Engineering), Andrea Miranda (Chemistry), Michelle Sneck (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Diane Glick (Master of Liberal Studies), Jacob M. Whalen-Strothman (Physics and Astronomy), Renee Ford (Religious Studies), Jonathan Stewart (Statistics), David Ponton (History)

No guests in attendance.

1. New Business

1.1. FY 2015 Budget Proposal. A few new line items were added to this year’s budget, including (1) cultural events, (2) GSA travel fund, and (3) departmental GSA funds. A higher percentage of funding was also allocated towards professional development. In a future council meeting, a quick five minute presentation will be prepared to explain the travel fund in more detail, and the method of selecting recipients for the travel fund awards will be voted on by the council.

The proposed budget was approved by the Council.

1.2. Question about GSA representative responsibilities. A question was asked about where to find the official description of GSA representatives’ duties/responsibilities. A list of responsibilities is available on the GSA website and will also be covered during the summer GSA Reps retreat.

1.3. New GSA Officer position. The new Coordinator Manager position, filled by Andrea Schlather, was briefly brought up.

1.4. Orientation panels. The effectiveness of past orientation panels were discussed. One goal for the upcoming GSA orientation is to reformat and streamline the panels to highlight topics that new graduate students are specifically interested in. Current plans include (1) removing the health/wellness panel and family panel (since these topics may not be as interesting to new graduate students), and (2) separating the “how to choose your adviser” panel into two distinct groups for humanities/social sciences and engineering/natural sciences. Reintroducing a panel covering procrastination and work management in grad school was also suggested.
2. Past Events

2.1. *World Cup pizza break.* The World Cup pizza break (Brazil vs. Mexico), hosted jointly by GSA and OISS, was held on Tuesday, June 17th, from 2 - 4pm. The event was a success and attended by more than fifty people.

3. Future Events

3.1 *World Cup pizza break.* The next World Cup pizza break (Brazil vs. Cameroon) will be hosted by GSA, OISS, and Brazil@Rice. The event will be held on Monday, June 23, at 3pm. Pizzas, snacks, and sodas will be provided by OISS and Brazil@Rice.

3.2. *GSA Reps Retreat.* The GSA Reps retreat will be held late in the summer. A poll will be sent out to all GSA reps to decide the best date for the retreat. Reps are encouraged to start thinking about how the GSA can promote professional development and health/wellness opportunities for graduate students. During the retreat, committees will also be discussed (i.e., what are the different standing committees at Rice, what are the responsibilities, duties, and expectations of committee members, etc.). Appointment of committee members has been delayed until mid-August.