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

Minutes

Reps in attendance: Jose Candelaria (Art History), Barbara Magalhaes (Biochemistry & Cell Biology), Caitlin Guenther (Bioengineering), Joelle Baddour (Chem. & Biomolecular Engineering), Andrea Miranda (Chemistry), Alexander Bui (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Derek Mikesell (Computational & Applied Mathematics), Terry Tang (proxy for Computer Science), Shannon Carter (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Bazile Lanneau (Linguistics), Carissa Phillips-Garrett (Philosophy), Bradley Johnson (Religious Studies), Stephanie Zajac (Psychology), William Rothwell (Sociology), Jonathan Stewart (Statistics)

Guests in attendance: Catherine Majors (BioE), Jesse Choe (ECE), Peshal Nayak (ECE), Mehbuba Tanzid (ECE), Josh Hill (APP), Nick Trenton (BioE), Eslam Elshahat (EEB), Ya He (CEVE), Samantha Paulsen (BioE)

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

1. New Business
   1.1. Introduction of new GSA representatives. Barbara Magalhaes from Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Alex Bui from Civil & Environmental Engineering, and Bradley Johnson from Religious Studies were introduced to the GSA Council.

1.2. Officer Elections.
   1.2.1. The GSA Council elected Lynn Fahey as president.
   1.2.2. The GSA elected Cat Majors as internal vice president.
   1.2.3. The GSA Council elected Nick Trenton as external vice president.
   1.2.4. The GSA Council elected Peshal Nayak as treasurer.
   1.2.5. The GSA Council elected Emily Thomas as secretary.
1.3. **Director position introductions.** Director Positions will be appointed by the new and old officer team in the coming weeks. Candidates for the Professional Development Director, Social Director, Media Director, and Lounge Manager introduced themselves to the Council.

1.4. **Rice Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Rollout Program.** The Rice QEP Rollout Program aims to enhance the quality of student learning (with a focus on experiential learning) and civic involvement at Rice. A survey will be sent out to Rice undergraduate and graduate students to gather feedback on students’ experiential learning experiences and how to improve the quality of these experiences (i.e., provide more public learning/collaborative spaces for students).

1.5. **GSA End of the Year Award Nominations.** The GSA end of year award nominations are due March 25th. All grad students are encouraged to nominate deserving faculty, staff members, and/or students for these awards.

2. **Past Events**

2.1. The Graduate International Cultural Night took place on Friday, February 20th, from 5-9 pm. The event was a success and several grad student cultural groups participated in planning the food/music selection and giving performances. Pictures of the event can be found on the GSA Facebook page.

2.2. GSA worked with GPS to host the Ninety Second Thesis Competition on Friday, March 13th from 5-8pm. More than thirty grad students from a wide range of departments participated. In the future, the GSA will be more involved in the judge picking process for the Ninety Second Thesis Competition. Other creativity-based competitions (i.e., Film Your Thesis Competition) will also be introduced next year.

2.3. The GSA March coffee break with the Rice Iranian Society (RIS) was held on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 3-5pm. The event was well attended, and grad students enjoyed the Iranian tea and sweets.

3. **Future events**

3.1. **Beer Bike.** Volunteers are still needed for Beer Bike, which will take place on Saturday, March 28th. The volunteer sign up sheet is available in the GSA announcement email and the GSA Facebook group.

3.2. **Flying Owls 5k with Citizen Schools.** Volunteers are needed to run with sixth graders in the Citizen Schools program in the Flying Owls 5k on April 12th.
The race will start at 8 am, and afterward, the students will be given a tour of the Rice campus to get them interested in college.

3.3. Rep appreciation night. A GSA reps appreciation night will be held at Valhalla on Thursday, April 10th, from 6-8pm. Dinner, drinks, and GSA swag will be provided.