GSA Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 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), Ben Bass (Proxy from Civil & Environmental Engineering), Derek Mikesell (Computational & Applied Mathematics), Jacob Gao (Computer Science), George Chen (Electrical & Computer Engineering), David Ponton (History), Bazile Lanneau (Linguistics), Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics), Carissa Phillips-Garrett (Philosophy), Jacob M. Wahlen-Strothman (Physics & Astronomy), Pushpendra (Professional Masters in Science), Debshila Mallick (Psychology), Renee Ford (Religious Studies)

Guests: Alex McNair (Rice Annual Fund Staff), Sarah Grefe (ASDGP Club / GSA), Chloe Doiron (ASDGP Club / GSA), Vanessa Neutzler (PSM Program), Connie Foo (PSM Program, RNPSMA), Mayank Kumar (ISAR), Andy Meretoja (OISS), Cheng Wan (RCSSA), David Ramirez (Rice Grad Housing), Elie Bengio (ChBE GSA)


1. New business
   1.1. Rice Initiative. Ben Renberg, from the Development and Alumni Relations Department, came to speak about their new three year initiative for students. The three themes of this initiative are (1) remarkable talent, (2) unparalleled education, and (3) extraordinary impact.

   Remarkable talent:
   - Need blind admissions for undergrads.

   Unparalleled education:
   - Set aside funds for emerging departments on campus (Increasing stipends for the Economics department, gathering faculty and staff for Material Sciences department, fostering corporate and academic partnerships for Chemical Engineering department).
   - Augmented fellowships for recruitment of incoming graduate students (future plans for 20-25 students to be given more incentive to come to Rice by offering them university fellowships).
   - More funding for undergraduate & graduate research

   Extraordinary impact:
   - More internship and externship opportunities for Rice students.
Renberg expressed interest in learning more about graduate student needs to better engage Rice graduate alumni.

1.2. *October GSA Grants*

1.2.1. The Council voted to award RUNPSMA $250 for “The Journeys of Professional Science Masters” panel discussion.

1.2.2. The Council voted to award ChBE GSA and CGSA $180 for “Fork in the Road” student seminar.

1.2.3. The Council voted to postpone the decision of awarding funds to the RCSSA for “The Voice of Rice” competition to the next Council meeting when RCSSA will present a more detailed budget.

1.2.4. The Council voted to award OISS $215 for the IEW 2014 Mini Soccer World Cup.

1.2.5. The Council voted to award ChBE GSA $250 for the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Networking Dinner.

1.2.6. No representative from KISA was present at the Council meeting, so the Council could not vote to approve the grant for the Korean Culture Night.

1.2.7. The Council voted to award ISAR $1000 for Deepotsav.

There was some additional discussion on whether the GSA should purchase ten tickets for Deepotsav to give free to graduate students to support the event and extend marketing to all graduate students. Protocol on how the SA and other clubs subsidize tickets will be examined to determine the best way to distribute these tickets (holding a raffle was proposed as an option).

It would also be ideal if grad students had the option to purchase tickets for the event online instead of at the RMC.

1.3. *Approval of New Constitutions*

1.3.1. Rice Trew Friends - approved by the Council.

1.3.2. Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers - approved by the Council.

1.3.3. Rice Bhakti Yoga - approved by the Council.

1.3.4. National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) Rice Student Chapter - approved by the Council.

1.3.5. Korean Graduate Student Association - The Council decided there was insufficient information provided in the KGSA constitution for approval. The KGSA can submit their updated constitution for approval in the next GSA Council meeting.

1.3.6. Academic & Cultural Empowerment (ACE) @ Rice - approved by the Council.

1.3.7. The Gender and Sexually Diverse Graduates and Postdocs (GSDGP) - approved by the Council.
1.4. **Travel Grant Reminder** - Reps are encouraged to remind their departments and colleagues to apply for the GSA travel grant if they are in need of funding for conferences. The deadline for the first round of applications is Nov. 1st. Contact Lynn Fahey ([lmf4@rice.edu](mailto:lmf4@rice.edu)) with any questions about the travel grant.

2. **Past events**
   2.1. The Oktoberfest picnic was held on Friday, September 26th, from 5 - 9 pm. The event was very successful and well attended.
   2.2. The Fall Picnic was held in collaboration with RCSSC on Friday, October 17th, from 5 - 9 pm. The event was a success, and GSA received a lot of help from RCSSC volunteers.

3. **Upcoming events**
   3.1. The GSA Valhalloween party will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1st, from 8 pm - 12 am. Advertising will be sent out to the reps by Wednesday.
   3.2. A GSA-ISAR Coffee Break will be held on Tuesday, October 28, from 4 - 6 pm. The coffee break will feature Indian snacks, sweets, and chai tea.
   3.3. A Halloween Coffee break will be held on Friday, October 31, from 2-4pm, featuring chocolates and other sweets.
   3.4. The 90 Second Thesis Competition will be held on March 18th, 2015. Two to three coordinators are needed to plan the event. Anyone interested in volunteering as a coordinator should email [gsa@rice.edu](mailto:gsa@rice.edu). This competition will be discussed in more detail in the November Council meeting.