Council Minutes for May 19th, 2015 - 6:00pm

Meeting Opened: 18:10
In attendance:

- Officers: Nick Trenton, Cat Majors, Alessandra Forcucci, Peshal Nayak, and Emily Thomas
- Directors: Eric Lewis, Andrea Miranda, and Eslam Elshahat
- Guests: Michael McClain, Sapna Chhabra

- Welcome New Reps
- Notes from Last Meeting
  - Fees
    - 30% of unpaid bill will be reduced to 1%
    - Will advertise registration deadlines
  - Parking
    - Meeting with Dean Matsuda, meet with parking manager
    - Changes will hopefully be made by Fall
- Health Insurance
  - Premium has increased per student, $130/year
    - Dependent prices will go down
  - GPS will pay ⅔ of premium
  - New Website: shi.rice.edu
    - Reps keep private but give feedback to gsa@rice.edu
- University Committee and Honor Council Appointments
  - Block style voting
    - 16 in favor
    - 0 Abstained/Opposed
  - Retaining Committee Positions
    - Committees Included
      - Athletics Committee
        - Chris Doha
      - Teaching Committee
        - Anjli Kumar
      - Parking Committee
        - Alexa Solazzo
      - Diversity and Inclusion Committee
        - Ellen Whitehead
      - Laboratory Safety Committee
● Michael McClain
  ○ Center for Teaching Excellence Liaison
    ○ Miriam Kuzbary
  ● Wellness Center Grad Student Representative
    ○ Ellen Whitehead

■ 16 in favor
■ 0 Abstained/Opposed

○ Uncontested Committee Positions

■ Committees Included
  ● Graduate Council (1)
    ○ Catherine Majors
  ● Rice Women’s Resource Center Liaison (1)
    ○ Miriam Kuzbary
  ● Commencement Speaker Selection Committee (2)
    ○ D. Kyle Thacker
    ○ Samantha Paulsen
  ● President’s Lecture Series Committee (1)
    ○ Mark Schmanko
  ● Fondren Library Committee (1)
    ○ Sapna Chhabra
  ● Student Activities President’s Programming Fund Allocation Committee (2)
    ○ Xiongfei Wei
    ○ Alexa Solazzo

■ 16 in favor
■ 0 Abstained/Opposed

○ Honor Council
  ■ Ismael Loera
  ■ Nikki Thadani

● Mentorship Program Updates
  ○ Mentors and mentees pair up completed
    ■ Will double check pairs with SA
  ○ Training Session in mid August for mentors
  ○ Mentoring Professors to mentor mentors

● Open Forum

  ○ Parking
    ■ Would covered bike parking in Greenbriar be possible?

  ○ Advisor Issues
    ■ Do we have an academic ombudsman outside of the department?
    ■ No academic ombudsman yet, talking to GPS to arrange one
    ■ Have Kate Hildebrant for Title 9 advisor issues
● **Upcoming Events**
  ○ **Grad School Networking Mixer**
    ■ September
    ■ Baylor, UT Health, MD Anderson, etc. other grad schools in the area
    ■ Get to know grad students in the area
  ○ **Summer Picnic**
    ■ Gender and Sexually Diverse Grad Students and Postdocs will host a picnic
    ■ Late June - in time for the Pride Parade
  ○ **Discover Research**
    ■ August 27th
    ■ Partner with Undergrad Student Association
    ■ Present to undergrads about your research
    ■ Awards/prizes will be given

● **Past events**
  ○ **Spring Picnic**
    ■ Great Success!
    ■ Dance floor made it
    ■ Salseros and salsa

Meeting closed: 18:30