GSA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 6:00 pm
Captain Graduate Lounge, RMC

Representatives: Renee Reder (Architecture); Carolyn Van Wingerden (Art History); Mauro Rinaldi (Biochemistry & Cell Biology); Alex Tatar (Bioengineering); Lauren Popp (Chem. & Biomolec. Engineering); Andrea Schlather (Chemistry); Kamal Sharma (Computer Science); Rodrigo Paula (English); Suraya Khan (History); Vlad Soare (Linguistics); Marissa Knowles (Master of Liberal Studies); Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics); Chris Dohna (Philosophy); Jacob.M.Wahlen-Strothman (Physics and Astronomy); Ornsiree Junchaya (Professional Science); Debshila Mallick (Psychology); Nathanael Homewood (Religious Studies); Lynn Fahey (Sociology); Sarah Tooth (Statistics)

Officers: Navid Sakhavand, Jd Dornell, Michael Sinai, Anne Hellebust, Melissa Venator, Goat Domeracki, Kiri Kilpatrick, Michelle Downey, Michelle Sneck, Cheryl Thompson.

Guests: Patricia Bilbao Ergueta (LAGSA); R. Tyler McLaughlin (New Student); Meaghan Bond (RGCF); Emilian Nica (LAGSA); Rachel Mittelman (Running Club); Aarthi Muthuswamy (SPE Rice); Jason Dwight (New Student); Ali Ayremlou (ECE); Andrew Erwin (Running Club); Richard Gaut (CTE/Jones); Rajesh Balgam (ISAR); Deepal Majete (ISAR); Gabriel Cerotti (LAGSA).

1. New Business

1.1. IT Research Computing Support Group. IT is available to help graduate students with their research computing needs, including data compliance. They can help advise students on the most efficient way to complete new tasks. The best way to reach them is through their website: www.rcsg.rice.edu

1.2. Captain’s Lounge Remodel update. The Lounge renovations have begun with painting and new flooring. Our next step is to select new furniture.

2. Grants

2.1. LAGSA – Spanish Corner. Awarded $400 for the Fall Semester with the option to reapply for Spring.

2.2. RCSSC – Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival & National Day. Awarded $1,000.

2.3. Rice Graduate Christian Fellowship – RCGF Retreat. Awarded $250.


2.5. ISAR – Deepotsav. Awarded $1,000.

2.6. ISAR – Independence Day. Reimbursement of receipts up to $250.

2.7. ISAR – Freshers’ Party. Awarded $250.
3. **President’s Lecture Series Committee.** Administration gave us the opportunity to elect an additional graduate student to this committee. Jason Dwight (Bioengineering) was elected.

4. **New Clubs**
   4.1. **Rice Road Runners.** Approved. This is the only active Rice running club. The organizers will consider levying dues, with a higher rate for members who participate in races. Their activities will include weekly runs, training programs for longer distances.

   4.2. **Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter Rice University.** Approved. The goal is to increase awareness of the petroleum industry, not just engineers. They are already registered with their parent organization. They also organize networking opportunities, and they collaborate closely with the University of Houston chapter.

5. **Past Events**
   5.1. **Coffee Break** - Wednesday, July 31. Attendance was 200+.

   5.2. **Summer Picnic** - Friday, August 2. Attendance was 450+. James Coney Island was a popular food option.

6. **Upcoming Events**

   6.2. **Welcome Back Coffee Break** - Wed., Aug., 21 3-5pm, Captain Lounge

   6.3. **Center for Teaching Excellence Grad/Post-Doc BBQ** - Sat., Aug. 31, 4-6pm, Valhalla


   6.5. **GSA Fall Picnic** - September 13 or 20th. This event will be a collaboration with RCSSC, following the model of the Parranda Latina/Spring Picnic.

   6.6. **Blood Drive** – September 3. Sign-up to give blood online.