Minutes

Representatives in attendance. Mauro Rinaldi (Biochemistry & Cell Biology); Lauren Popp (Chemical & Bimolecular Engineering); Chris Nguyen (Computational & Applied Mathematics); Milind Chabbi (Computer Science); Patrick Clay (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology); Suraya Khan (History); Vlad Soare (Linguistics); Marissa Knowles (Master of Liberal Studies); Vietnam Baker (Philosophy); James Matthews (Physics and Astronomy); Debshila Mallick (Psychology); Lynn Fahey (Sociology); Sarah Tooth (Statistics).

Guests in attendance. Cherrie Thompson (GSA), E. Kate Abad (GSA), Haejin E. Koh (CCAS), Kelly B. Weber (HGSA), Sehmus Otoler (RTSA), David Ramírez (RGSH).

1. New Business

1.1. Grant requests.

1.1.1. The Council voted to award $1,000 to the Rice Turkish Student Association for its Turkish Night.

1.1.2. The Council voted to award $550 to the Humanities Graduate Student Association for its Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference.

1.1.3. The Council awarded $1,000 to the Chao Center for Asian Studies for its Transnational Asia Graduate Student Conference.

1.2. Budget appropriation. The Council voted to allocate an additional $10,000 for social events.

1.3. New Graduate Council representative. The Council voted to elect Representative Sarah Tooth (Statistics) as a representative to the Graduate Council to fill an unexpected vacancy.

1.4. Proposed changes to the GSA constitution and bylaws. The President informed the Council of his intention to propose changes to the GSA constitution and bylaws. He will present the changes at the January meeting, and the Council will vote on them at the February meeting.

1.5. Open Forum.

1.5.1. Representative Lynn Fahey (Sociology) sits on the Texas Medical Center Advisory Committee and asks how best to get information to the graduate community.

1.5.2. Low-cost flu shots are now available by appointment from Health Services.
1.5.3. Representative Travis Boyer (Mechanical Engineering & Material Science) oversees the graduate student loan fund. He would like to improve the loan fund process to increase its flexibility. He will work with administration before embarking on any major changes to the program.

2. Past Events

2.1. Ten Days of Service is ongoing.

2.2. The Holiday and Service Party took place on December 6. It was attended by 100 guests despite inclement weather.