Council Minutes for September 15th, 2015 - 6:00pm

Meeting Opened: 6:08pm

In attendance:

- **Officers:** Lynn Fahey, Alessandra Forcucci, Catherine Majors, Nick Trenton, Peshal Nayak, Emily Thomas
- **Directors:** Eric Lewis, Jesse Choe, Mehbuba Tanzid, Sarah Kim, Andrea Miranda, Eslam Elshahat
- **Program Representatives:** Nathanael Vlachos (Architecture), Jennifer Burnett (Applied Physics), Rachel Harmeyer (Art History), Ruda Cui (Biochemistry and Cell Biology), Sam Paulsen (Bioengineering), Blake Sutherland (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), Alicia Mangubat (Chemistry), Temitayo Ajayi (Computational and Applied Mathematics), Jacob Gao (Computer Science), Lexi Malouta (Earth Sciences), Shannon Carter (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Sasha Liu (Economics), Christina Regelski (History), Diane Glick (Master of Liberal Studies), Miriam Kuzbary (Mathematics), John Alred (Material Science and NanoEngineering), David Erdel (Philosophy), Jacob M. Wahlen-Strothman (Physics and Astronomy), Santiago Sosa (Political Science), Vaishnavi Ramesh (Professional Masters in Engineering), Bradley Johnson (Religious Studies), Kareem Mehrabiani (Systems, Synthetic, and Physical Biology).
- **Cultural Representatives:** Souptik Barua (ISAR)
- **Guests:** Guangyuan Yu (GSA Committee Member), Hongyuan Zhao (GSA Committee Member)

**CWOVC and CCD Coffee Break - September 30th**

- Jennifer Wilson - jsw@rice.edu - Director of Center of Written, Oral, and Visual Communication
- Website: cwovc.rice.edu
- CWOVC offers a number of support services
  - Consultation on any sort of presentations, papers, talks, posters, etc.
    - There are not a lot of open slots, so plan ahead! A week is usually sufficient.
    - Schedule an appointment through the CWOVC website
    - Consults are done by trained peer consultants, undergrad and grad students
      - Cannot provide technical feedback, but can look at more of the writing side
      - Can email Jennifer Wilson to see if possible to get a consult with a professional staff
    - Group consults are also available
  - Workshops on a number of topics
    - Academic conversation skills for international students - targeted for grad students
      - How to speak one-on-one with an advisor
      - How to talk at conference
How to talk in a lab meeting

Communicating your Research to Non-technical Audience
  o The workshop has already been filled

Dissertation Camps
  o During the summer for a week where you can have focused work on your dissertation

  o Seeking new graduate peer consultants for next year
    ■ Three hour per week minimum commitment
    ■ Applications are due during mid to late February
    ■ Pay rate is $15/hr with $1/hr raise every year you stay with the CWOVC

Welcome New Reps
  o Alicia Mangubat - Chemistry
  o John Allred - Material Science and NanoEngineering
  o Ruda Cui - Biochemistry and Cell Biology
  o Temitayo Ajayi - Computational and Applied Mathematics
  o David Erdel - Philosophy

Grant Changes
  o GSA Activity Grants - some groups apply monthly, to total $3000
    ■ GSA suggests can apply four times a year to reach $1000 total
    ■ Perhaps can cap at a monetary amount (for $1000) so clubs can apply more times for less money (e.g, can apply ten times for $100)
    ■ We want to advocate for groups to get more sustainable funding
    ■ We want to help with starting new events
    ■ Perhaps instead of codifying an amount, we could just say that that we give preference to new groups. What is a fair way to state this though?

  o New Grants Committee will create new proposal for next council meeting

Grants
  o Reading Club
    ■ Funded - $160
  o Association for Women in Mathematics BBQ
    ■ Funded - $250
  o KGSA BBQ
    ■ Funded - $250
  o Comp Sci Coffee Break
    ■ Funded - $250
  o EERI-RU
    ■ Not Funded - Application was late

Industry Recruiting on Campus for Grad Students
  o Companies have to buy in to come to career fairs, so many companies are choosy about which ones they attend
  o GSA will be inviting companies to see if they will attend function that showcase grad students’ research and other abilities
○ Email cm35@rice.edu with possible companies that would be good for your department

● **GSA Committee Appointments**
  ○ Community Service
    ■ Roger Ding
    ■ Shun Xi
    ■ Joe Young
    ■ Ian Campbell
    ■ Aisha Hassan
    ■ Clothilde Thirouin
    ■ Jason Guo
  ○ Professional Development
    ■ Shun Xi
    ■ Jayvee Abella
    ■ Amy Shaw
    ■ Hongyuan Zhao
    ■ Emily Evans
    ■ Jing Jin
    ■ Satya Bellamkonda
    ■ Billy Farrell
    ■ Sydney Gibson
  ○ Social Committee
    ■ Aisha Hassan
    ■ Trenton Piepergerdes
    ■ Kathryn Kundrod
  ○ Media Committee
    ■ Sydney Gibson
  ○ Grants Committee
    ■ Guangyuan Yu
    ■ Hongyun Zhao
    ■ Satya Bellamkonda
    ■ Billy Farrell
    ■ Nathanael Vlachos
    ■ Trenton Piepergerdes
    ■ Sydney Gibson

● **Open Forum**
  ○ Greenbriar and RVA shuttle now running every 15 minutes
  ○ The parking committee GSA representative is Cat Majors, can email her with any information and opinions related to parking so that she can take it up with the parking committee (cm35@rice.edu)
  ○ Women’s Resource Center
    ■ WRC has a magazine they produce, they are looking for contribution
    ■ WRC is looking for volunteers
Currently only have three grad student volunteers, so great representation of grad students would help the center expand its scope to help more grad students

- WRC has a few events
  - Vagina Monologues
  - Health and Wellness Week Events
- WRC is creating committees including the Advocacy Committee
  - If anyone has issues, email gsa@rice.edu and we will put you in touch
  - Perhaps we could get a talk on professional women and gender?

- Health Center
  - GSA will seek a list of things/procedures they do and do not provide that we can share with grad students
    - The Health Center does not do workplace injuries
  - We will invite someone to talk about the Health Center at a future GSA Council meeting
  - We will also seek future partnerships in event to help share valuable information about the health center on campus

- Wellness Center/Counseling Center
  - Privacy policy could be more clear
  - We will invite someone to talk about the Counseling Center at a future GSA Council meeting

- Upcoming Events
  - Oktoberfest - September 25th 5pm to 9pm
    - Steins available through donations
    - Will be watching the movie “Beerfest”
    - Will be grilling bratwurst (including vegetarian bratwurst)
  - CWOVC and CCD Coffee Break - September 30th 3pm to 5pm
    - Reps from the CWOVC and CCD will be able to talk about service
      - They can do resume review onsite
    - Mexican sweet breads will be provided for snacks
  - Family weekend - October 23rd to 25th
    - Events will take place for grad students and their families (parents, spouses, kids, etc.)
    - We will be doing lab tours
    - We will be doing a family night at Valhalla
    - Saturday we will be tailgating with HOOTS
    - Each family can buy tickets to the football game (vs Army)
  - Professional Career Workshop - October 16th in Duncan Hall - noon to 6pm
    - The CCD will talk about professionalism and finding careers
      - This will include tips on dressing professional
    - The workshop will also have an accompanying resource fair for professional resources
- There will be a mixer hour afterward to practice your networking skills
  - Graduate International Leadership Symposium (GILS) is becoming Graduate Leadership Symposium (GLS) - early to mid November
    - This event is targeted to leadership of grad clubs
    - There will be information about how to get funding from multiple sources (which will hopefully our grants funding)
    - Clubs will have the opportunity to network with one another
- **Past Events**
  - Mentorship Kickoff Event - September 11th
    - For the mentor/mentee grad/undergrad program
    - Successful time that the undergrad mentees and their grad mentors got to know each other under the divine auspices of free pizza and beer
    - For the future, all the mentors are set to get lunches with their undergrad
      - For anyone experience problems, please email gsa@rice.edu
  - Discover Research Fair - August 27th
    - About forty grad students participated
    - It was very successful in recruiting freshmen into different labs
    - We will try to get industry people there as well
  - Orientation - August 19th
    - Went well despite the rainstorm

Meeting closed: 7:11pm