

University Graduate Student Association  
Box 7111, D.H. Hill Library  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7111

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **Minutes of UGSA Meeting**

### **Attendees:**

Heather Shay (President)  
Pratik Mehta (Vice President for Internal Affairs)  
Ling Xiang (Vice President for External Affairs)  
Carrie Smith (Secretary)  
Karl Jicha (Treasurer)  
Beth Rueschhoff (ECO)  
Brandy Benedict (TTFA)  
Dr. Rebeca Rufty (Advisor)

**Chapter Representatives in Attendance:** Accounting, Animal Science, Bioinformatics, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Botany (Plant Biology), Business Administration, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Chemistry, College of Textiles, Communication Rhetoric & Digital Media, Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Computer Science, Crop Science, ECE, Economics, Entomology, Genetics, Higher Education Administration, History, Horticultural Science, Industrial Engineering, International Studies, Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Microbiology, Natural Resources, Nuclear Engineering, Operations Research, Physics, Physiology, Plant Pathology, Public Administration Poultry Science, Psychology, Sociology, Soil Science, Statistics and Biomath, Toxicology, Training & Development

### **I. Call to Order 7:04**

#### **X. Roll Call**

#### **XI. Approval of January minutes**

#### **XII. President's Report**

- The food bank sent us a certificate for contributing to the food drive.
- Heather was asked to participate in the review of Vice Chancellor Dr. Stafford. It is a confidential process.
- Just a reminder that before your chapter can receive its chapter rebate, each rep will have to submit summer contact info to Carrie Smith.
- Also please keep in mind that the chair of each committee should schedule meetings in advance and not at the last minute so that everyone can attend.
- The University is looking into redoing the student center and Heather was

asked to participate in an off campus student group. To sum up, no one likes the current student center; it is out of the way, it is ugly and students don't get much use of it. There were suggestions to add a computer lab, move it to another location, move the current offices housed in the Talley Center that don't involve students directly (Dr. Stafford's staff), give student organizations office space, combine bookstore with the student center, and to offer a greater variety of food options. There was also a suggestion to have more food options available on Centennial campus as well.

- Please encourage your constituents to vote for the student body government elections on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Administration Board of the Graduate School Update:
  - NC State enrolls 80-83% of the students that are admitted.
  - The Graduate School is going to focus on improving the residency process. It is important to decrease out of state students and to increase the eligibility for GSSP. 70-80% who apply are accepted and they want to increase this. The application for residency will eventually be submitted electronically. We are using Chapel Hill's online system as a model. There will be a new person coming to handle the process so improvements will be made to the system in general.

### **XIII.Executive Officer Reports**

#### **XIV.Vice-President for Internal Affairs' Report (Pratik Mehta)**

- Each committee chair needs to forward the committee meeting minutes to Pratik directly. He needs to have a record of all the minutes from August-February.

#### **XV.Vice-President for External Affairs' Report (Ling Xiang)**

- No report.

#### **XVI.Secretary's Report (Carrie Smith)**

- No report.

#### **XVII.Treasurer's Report (Karl Jicha)**

- Our revenue for this year is currently \$68,990.74 and this probably will not change much at this point.
- There are still a lot of large items that will be spent this year: academic block grants, chapter rebates, travel and thesis etc.

#### **XVIII.TTA's Report (Brandy Benedict)**

- No report.

#### **XIX.ECO's Report (Beth Rueschhoff)**

- No report.

#### **XX.Advisor's (Dr. Rebeca Rufty)**

- Heather: Dr. Rufty is being promoted to be in charge of the research ethics program! We will need a new advisor next year. The research ethics program will be moved back to the Graduate School. Dr. Rufty will make sure the future advisor is competent.
- Dr. Rufty would like to help students to prepare for things in the real world and cover topics such as how to balance family and work, how to fire someone, how to budget etc.

- She would also like to organize a retreat for each program to the aqueduct center in Chapel Hill to discuss research ethics.

## **XXI.UGSA Committee Reports**

### **XXII.Publicity**

- The February issue of the Midnight Oil has been sent out. An electronic copy was sent out to the reps list serv and it should be sent out to your constituents.
- There was a voice vote to determine if we should continue printing hard copies of the Midnight Oil or if we should only create an electronic version. The reps voted in favor for the electronic version. There will no longer be paper copies printed except some will be provided to the Graduate School staff.
- Rep: Maybe you could send a few hard copies to each department.
- Rep: Suggestion not to send out a PDF version. Maybe you could just send a link and have it posted on the UGSA's website.
- Rep: What if we tried getting sponsors to publish hard copies of the MO? Dr. Rufty: This hasn't been successful in the past.

### **XXIII.Social**

XXIV.The bowling event was successful. Everyone seemed to have a good time. The committee would like to see this event repeated in years to come. 70 or so people participated in the event.

XXV.The committee is hoping to plan a picnic in April; specifics will follow.

### **XXVI.Teaching Effectiveness**

XXVII.Several DGPs wanted an extension to submit applications for the TA awards after the deadline. for TA awards. So far 27 nominations were mailed in and 8 were submitted online. Arnav will compile a list of the departments that have submitted applications and he will send it to all of the reps. If your department is not on the list, encourage your DGP to nominate someone ASAP. The committee will start looking at applications next week to decide who will win an award.

### **XXVIII.Academic policy**

XXIX.There will be 77-80 posters for the research symposium. Fliers were passed around to the reps to distribute. Please spread the word.

XXX.The committee is working on supplies for the LANGURE conference.

### **XXXI.Financial**

XXXII.There will be a second reading of the 2 bills later in the meeting.

XXXIII.If you would like your committee to have more or less money next year, please submit those changes for the budget to the committee. Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit any changes you would like to see and also submit a justification as to why you want more or less money.

### **XXXIV.JLC**

XXXV.6 or 7 bills will be presented at the next counsel meeting to clear

up inconsistencies in the constitution.

#### **XXXVI.Publicity**

XXXVII.An email was sent out today for service Raleigh. Email Faith Bartz by Friday if you are interested in participating.

XXXVIII.For the spring service event the committee will be organizing a lemonade stand to collect donations for children's cancer research. There will be a stand set up at the Vet school and one on main campus. The event will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-1PM. A sign up sheet was passed around for people to volunteer.

#### **XXXIX.University Standing Committee Reports**

- Extension and engagement Committee (Karl Jicha) The University wants to free up money for research involving extension and engagement and to use this money for research assistantships. Graduate students and faculty will be able to apply for a "Nano grant," which is a small set of money to help attend conferences. This will be available in 07-08 and it will be quarterly available. The process for applying will be similar to applying for travel and thesis funds through the UGSA. Question from rep: Are there other funds like this available? Karl: International programs may have some funds, but he doesn't know of a centralized place to look.

#### **XL. Old Business**

- Bill #1: Budget Revision. This was passed by voice vote.
- Bill #2: Budget Revision.
  - Rep: What does an organization need to do? Response: Must be a registered organization through the SORC, they need to apply to the counsel, attend meetings, and do everything a chapter rep would have to do.
  - Question: Will this money go to travel and thesis? Karl: no, it will just keep us from going over budget. We were told to spend our reserves and now we are being told to reduce costs to be closer to our actual revenue.
  - This was passed by voice vote.

#### **XLI.New Business**

XLII.2007-2008 budget reading. There will be a question and answer session tonight. At the next meeting we will discuss and debate. The 3<sup>rd</sup> time we will vote.

- Q: What is the Student Service Awards line item? A: A department requested that would do this, but we never heard from them so nothing ever happened. Hasn't been used thus far. We will discuss this next time.
- Q: How does the research symposium line item break down? Rebecca explained that it is used for supplies, food, abstract book, etc.
- Comment: The budget reads Political Awareness and it should be Political Action.
- Q: What is the line item for the executive board meetings? A: It is for food.

- Opening of Nominations for 2007-2008 UGSA Executive Board
  - The nomination period will be open for 3 weeks. All nominations need to be submitted by March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will vote in the March meeting and the new executives will take over in the April meeting.
  - The current execs gave a brief description of their position responsibilities:
    1. President: runs meetings, creates agenda, is the voice of the UGSA to the rest of the University, fields most of the questions from outside via email
    2. VPI: keeps track of reps and chapters, good standing, and committees
    3. VPE: liaison for the UGSA, in charge of graduate student reps for University standing committees, serves as proxy for president if they are unavailable
    4. Secretary: takes notes for UGSA meeting and executive too, handles tent cards and attendance
    5. ECO: in charge of list servs, updates website
    6. Treasurer: meets with Karen Blackmond, handles receipts for food and other supplies, sets up accounts so students don't have to pay out of pocket, in charge of keeping track of budget, processes block grants
    7. TTA: processes all of travel reimbursement forms and requests via mail and email, does a lot of taping of receipts and fixing applications
  - Question: do execs have to sit on standing committees? It is not a requirement but most have participated in the past.
  - Dr. Rufty: Holding an executive position it really looks good on your resume.
  - Nominations:
    1. Alex Capaldi for treasurer, he accepts.
    2. Magen Eller nominate for secretary, defers.
    3. Pratik Mehta for VPI, defers.
    4. Ling Xiang for VPE, defers.
  - Please email Heather if you want to nominate someone. Email Beth a statement as to why you are good for the job.

### **XLIII.Open Floor**

- No announcements

**Adjournment 8:30pm.**

**Next Scheduled Meeting, Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007**