

Graduate Student Assembly
Delegate Meeting Agenda
January 31st, 2008
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown
Multipurpose Room

- I. 5:35 – Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda - Electronically**
- III. Approval of Minutes, November 29th, 2007 – Electronically**
- IV. 5:35 – Dean DePauw**
- V. 5:40 – President’s Report**

Joe discussed the feedback he has received from the delegates regarding GSA. Overall, the feedback has been positive. Delegates expressed interest in improving the final celebration (currently the GSA Gala) and having more social events. Delegates also commented that the delegate meetings are pretty efficient, though they were surprised GSA hasn’t passed any resolutions yet this year. Joe pointed out that no resolutions have been passed through University Council for all of Virginia Tech.

VI. 5:45 – Chair / Cabinet Reports

A. Grad Rep to the BOV – Brennan Shepard

Applications for the Graduate Representative to the Board of Visitors (BOV) are currently being accepted. Deadline is Feb. 25 and more information can be found at: <http://www.dsa.vt.edu/campuslife/documents/BOVGraduateApplication2008.pdf>. Brennan explained his primary obligations are attending the BOV meetings as well as meetings for other committees and commissions. Email Brennan (brshepar@vt.edu) if you would like more info. or have any questions.

B. TFP/GRDP Report – Ashish Ranjan and Haiyan Cheng

Ashish asked delegates for their feedback on TFP and the current application process, with specific inquiry on whether to have more awards worth less money or to have less award worth more money. Delegates had varying opinions including: the trend of competitiveness is good, perhaps TFP could have 2 award categories (one that is super competitive and worth a lot of money, and the other that is not as competitive and worth less money), have applicants who have received awards in previous years go to the bottom of the pile when evaluating, have a set number of total awards and divide the pool of money accordingly (so if 50 awards, then each award worth \$700), and consider need (i.e. does that applicant’s department match travel awards or not).

Haiyan discussed how the GRDP application has changed to now include a letter of recommendation written by a faculty member and how this adds an important aspect to the review process as well. Delegates asked: 1) can those of us with unique research supplies (like studying in Peru for a period of time) apply (answer: yes), 2) can those of us who use only stamps and paper apply (answer: GRDP doesn’t pay for stationary), etc.

Delegates also asked if the point system used to evaluate applications to TFP and GRDP can be made available, so students can tailor their applications more appropriately.

C. GSA NCR Report – Joe McFadden

The North Capital Region campus is currently recruiting students for the GSA. According to the GSA Constitution, extended and satellite campuses can have a GSA committee, headed by a chair, that organizes events, etc. at that location. Joe mentioned that GSA NCR has been provided with funds for this upcoming year to assist in their programming.

VII. 6:15 – Old Business

A. GSA Constitution (1st Reading) – Joe McFadden

Following the reading, a motion was made to suspend the rules and move straight to a vote. The motion failed. Joe emphasized that the GSA Constitution has been on the GSA website for the past 2 months

(<http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu/About/constitution.pdf>). At the next delegate meeting, Joe said he will present a bulleted powerpoint slide (or slides) that contains the changes made to the constitution. Dean DePauw stated that the Bylaws need approval only from the Executive Board, so these won't be discussed at the next delegate meeting.

B. Karen DePauw Graduate Fund (2nd Reading) – Laura Freeman

Following the reading, which included an emphasis on the changes made and why those changes were made, a delegate asked for Dean DePauw's opinion on it. Dean DePauw responded that she is pleased with the phrasing, and the next stage for the graduate fund will be deciding what criteria will be used to select recipient applicants.

VIII. 6:30 – New Business

A. Committee Nominations (Fees, Events) – Toni Stroter

The purpose of each committee was explained and nominations were accepted. The fees committee will assess what is happening in Virginia as a whole. What are sister institutions doing? What measures may VT be able to take? Mheni was elected chair of the Student Fees Committee. The events committee will organize varied events (like a chili cookoff) to further build graduate community. Mike Perfetti was elected chair of the Events Committee.

B. GSA Exec Board Elections – Laura Freeman

Laura explained the positions on the Exec Board, as described in the Bylaws. She then stated that each nominee will be allowed to have a 1 page PDF file posted on the GSA website, and that this document may contain an introduction to the nominee (such as department or year in program), qualifications, what his/her goals for the position are, etc. Nominees running for the position of President will be allowed 3-5 minutes for a speech (depending on the total number of nominees). Nominees running for the other 4 Exec Board positions will be allowed 2-4 minutes for a speech (again, depending on the total number of nominees). Nominations were then accepted for the following positions:

President: Joe McFadden (dairy science), Ashish Ranjan (BMVS) and Reza Montazami (MSE).

VP of Membership: Patrick McCann (statistics) and Michelle McLeese (sociology).

VP of Programs: Bryce Jorgenson (human development).

Treasurer: Will Alexander (chemistry) and Jenni Popp (biomedical engineering).

Secretary: Krishna Vummidi (ECE).

Please note: Joe McFadden is considering running.

Information regarding the Exec Board duties can be found at: <http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu/People/duties.html>.

IX. 6:50 – Comments & Suggestions from the Floor

X. 7:00 – Adjournment

XI. 7:00 – Announcements

- A. Wine Social this Friday, Feb. 1, from 5:30-9 p.m. at the University Club!
- B. TFP and GRDP now open. TFP deadline Feb. 29; GRDP deadline Feb. 22.
- C. Abstracts for GSA Research Symposium – Natoshia Raishevich
- D. Relay for Life and GSA/GLC Runs – Brian Templeton
- E. Dialogue with the Dean on February 6 from 6-7:30 p.m.

GSA Executive Board

President: Joseph McFadden (jwm@vt.edu)

VP of Membership: Antionette D. Stroter (astroter@vt.edu)

VP of Programs: Laura Freeman (lamorgan@vt.edu)

Secretary: Sasha Marine (scmarine@vt.edu)

Treasurer: Brandy Huderson (bphuders@vt.edu)

Program Chairs

Webmaster: Fleur Gooden (fleur@vt.edu)

TFP: Ashish Ranjan (aranjan@vt.edu)

GRDP: Haiyan Cheng (hcheng04@vt.edu)

Research Symposium: Natoshia Raishevich (natoshia@vt.edu)

Graduate & Professional School Day: Jonathan Moore (s2jrmoor@vt.edu)

<http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu>

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