

Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Union

Official Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 12:30pm-1:30pm

Location: 340 Gardiner Hall

Representatives Present: Ricky Woofter (Chemistry), Jennifer Cruze (Justice Administration), Jeremy Hornbeck (Physics), Sarah Williams (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Lynda Mercer (Humanities), Brooke Cochran-Webber (French)

Representatives Absent: Eli Levine (Biology), Kelly Watt (Fine Arts), Stephanie Honchell (History), Kim Meyer (Mathematics), Jennifer Oladipo (Pan African Studies), Patrick Ridge (Spanish), Will Salmons (Theatre Arts), Jacqueline Thompson (Theatre Arts), Alex Molina (Urban Planning), Jamie Ratliff (Fine Arts), Carolyn Morgan (Political Science), Jason Smith (Political Science), Beth Irvin (Urban & Public Affairs), Chip Thomas (Sociology), Mith Barnes (Humanities), Shireen Deobhakta (Urban and Public Affairs), Carissa Shafto (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Rebecca Wells (Communication), Ryan Trauman (English)

UL Faculty and Staff Present: Dr. Wendy Pfeffer, Assistant Dean of Graduate Affairs, Rick Vanlittersum, Program Assistant Sr., Graduate Affairs/Advising

Guest: Amber Carrier, Graduate Student Council President

I. Welcome: Dr. Wendy Pfeffer

Pfeffer called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.

II. Approval of 11/16/09 Meeting Minutes

Pfeffer opened the floor for discussion of minutes from the prior meeting. No changes were suggested from the representatives present. The minutes from the November meeting were approved with unanimous consent.

III: Discussion Item: Selection of President Pro-Tem

a. Purpose: In the November meeting, Pfeffer proposed that a President Pro-Tem should be selected from the representatives to preside over meetings and serve the GSU's contact during the RSO recognition process. A President Pro-Tem would fulfill the duties of the office until the election for regular officers held in the spring.

b. Selection: Pfeffer offered a motion for seeking volunteers for the President Pro-Tem position. Mercer and Hornbeck both offered to take the position, with Hornbeck

abstaining upon learning of a potential conflict with SGA meetings and a January conference he was scheduled to attend. In a vote of representatives present, Lynda Mercer was elected President Pro-Tem by unanimous consent.

IV. Discussion Item: GSU Constitution Committee Report

a. Review Draft: Representatives were sent a draft copy of the GSU Constitution via email to review prior to the meeting.

b. Additions/Deletions: Mercer asked representatives for suggestions and changes to the final draft. Hornbeck reported that concerns with a lack of a treasurer were addressed by splitting traditional Treasurer responsibilities to other officers. The final draft added signatory and controller responsibilities to the Secretary and annual budget creation duties to the office of Vice President and President. Hornbeck added if the GSU finds that an additional officer to handle the treasury necessary, the constitution may be amended at a later date. Pfeffer suggested changing the wording of the Preamble to read “participate in college curriculum meetings”, rather than departmental curriculum meetings. Cruze offered to change the wording of Article I, Section 2 to change, “as provided by federal law” to “in accordance with federal law”. Pfeffer added the terms “GSU Executive Council” and “GSU members” to clarify Article III, Section 1. Cochran-Webber expressed confusion with the terms of officers as the final draft lacked a definite time period for term of office. Vanlittersum modified Article IV, Section 3 to reflect terms of office beginning and ending on the date of Spring Commencement.

c. Ratification of Constitution: Since edits to the final draft of the constitution were minor, Mercer suggested ratification of the document (with the above changes). Vanlittersum reminded representatives that Student Organizations Board would review the document for final authorization, but that major changes to the document were unlikely as the Constitution Committee used the model constitution from Student Affairs as a guide. Mercer requested a motion to ratify the GSU Constitution. Hornbeck motioned for ratification, seconded by Williams, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent of representatives present.

V: Discussion Item: Election of Pro-Tem Officers

a. Officers: Mercer called nominations for the two remaining pro-tem officers and tabled the election of executive board members until the regular election in March. Hornbeck was nominated for the position of Vice President Pro-Tem and was elected by unanimous consent. Cruze was nominated for the position of Secretary Pro-Tem and was elected by unanimous consent.

VI: Discussion Item: Inactive Members

a. Departments Need Representatives: Vanlittersum informed the Union that a few departments had not yet named a GSU representative. The list included Anthropology, Geography (Masters program is in its first year), Philosophy, and Women’s and Gender Studies. Vanlittersum would contact departments in order to fill vacancies during the spring semester.

a. Members Yet to Attend Meeting: Vanlittersum reported seven members that had yet to attend a GSU meeting. While there were a few representatives that had contacted him directly in noting a scheduling conflict, others had not been heard from since they

were nominated. Vanlttersum stated he would contact these members directly after the holiday break to gauge their availability and/or interest as serving as a department representative.

VI: Planning for Future Meeting

a. Meeting Time and Date: Vanlttersum opened a dialog for suggestions on changes in meeting time/date in an effort to match members' availabilities and increase participation. Several representatives expressed concerns with meetings at the end of the semester. Mercer suggested a later meeting time, to help avoid those with morning and afternoon teaching or classroom commitments. Woofter offered 3pm as meeting time, as it reflects a break between "traditional" class times and evening courses. Vanlttersum proposed setting a "regular" meeting time and date for the semester so it is easier for members to remember and easier for departments to find representatives with a specific availability. Mercer suggested the second week of each month to help avoid conflicts with end of the semester assignments in April and spring break in March. Vanlttersum offered two days for each month (2nd Wednesday, 2nd Thursday) and instructed representatives to respond to a future email with their availability at each date. Members would be notified of the scheduled date and time via email.

VII: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.