

Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Union

Official Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday October 21, 2010 2:30pm

Location: 340 Gardiner Hall

Representatives Present: Ricky Woofter (Chemistry), Zach Kenitzer (Urban & Public Affairs), Harley Ferris (English), Carissa Shafto (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Maurya Delgado (Anthropology), Jahari Pittman (Pan-African Studies), Jeremy Hornbeck (Physics & Astronomy), Lena Gimbel (History), Leslie Harper (Humanities), Cathy Felten (French)

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

I. Welcome: Carissa Shafto

Shafto called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

II. Approval of 9/22/2010 Meeting Minutes

Shafto opened the floor for discussion of minutes from the prior meeting. After reviewing the minutes, the representatives noticed a minor error with the dates and times and the corrections were noted to the record. After amending, Hornbeck motioned to approve, Woofter seconded, and the minutes from the September meeting were approved with unanimous consent.

III: Discussion Item: Old Business

a. Update on GSU Research Fund: Vanlttersum presented the representatives a handout that listed the recipients of the GSU Research Fund for the fall. In all, 42 graduate students submitted applications with 20 of the students awarded funding during the fall application period. He added that grant recipients came from each division of A&S. Pfeffer included that at least one grant recipient from each of the fourteen departments that applied for an award. Psychology garnered the most applications and grant recipients, while English was second, and Chemistry was third. Vanlttersum announced a second application period for the spring is slated to run from January 24 – February 7. The ad-hoc selection committee made suggestions on improvements for the spring application and a revised application will be available for review by the December meeting.

a. Update on Campus Safety/Smoking Ban Discussion: Pfeffer updated the GSU as a follow up to the open discussion during the September meeting on campus safety and the enforcement of the smoking ban. Pfeffer indicated there was little hope for direct enforcement of the smoking ban by campus police and DPS. Further, she added there were no plans for covered smoking areas, as all designated smoking areas would be

removed effective November 18. Pfeffer indicated that the campus escort service were now using magnetic logos to help identify their vehicles.

IV: Discussion Item: GSU Cornhole Tournament “Post-Game”

a. The Good: Shafto began an open discussion on GSU Cornhole Tournament beginning with things that went well. Vanlittersum praised the GSU for the quick work in submitting an accepted event proposal to Club Programming Committee well and that experience would be very helpful going forward. Shafto indicated that the advertising for the event went well, as all A&S graduate students were notified of the event via their campus email and the posters were well designed. Vanlittersum noted that working with Student Affairs in making arrangements to use procurements cards and using the CPC funds went much easier than expected. Further, he added that Student Activities was very helpful by providing free ice and the use of four cornhole sets for the tournament.

b. The Bad, and The Ugly: The discussion moved to “what went wrong” as the bleak attendance numbers from the event were nowhere near initial expectations. First, Vanlittersum believed the time of the event contributed to poor attendance as a Friday afternoon was not a viable time for the event. Second, he stated that moving the event from the West Lawn hurt the event’s visibility and confused potential attendees. Speculation into why the event was moved at a late date included potential conflicts with an event at the Red Barn or potential damage to the lawn due to draught conditions. Thirdly, he noted a competing event held during the same weekend as the U of L Alumni Association sponsored a cornhole tournament during their Homecoming in the Highlands event. As a consequence to the low attendance, no entry fee was charged to participants, no prizes were awarded, and the event was not a successful fundraiser. Vanlittersum agreed to complete the final event report and submit it to Student Affairs as required.

c. What’s Next?: With a large amount of food and soft drinks left over from the event, Shafto asked for suggestions for distributing the extra food and soft drinks. Unfortunately, most of the items (especially diet drinks) have a short expiration date and could not be stored for an event in the spring. Felten suggested holding an event during finals week where graduate students would be provided free snacks and beverages as a study break. Woofter liked the idea, but had reservations with doing it during finals week as graduate students were too busy during that time and would be unlikely to leave their lab/office for an event. Shafto recommended moving the study break to earlier in the semester, with the potential of holding the event before Thanksgiving break. Pfeffer offered the lower level of Gardiner Hall as a potential venue for graduate students to freely walk in and grab a snack during the day. Vanlittersum suggested holding the study break in a larger venue such as SRB 139 so that students could sit down and relax during their study break, rather than just eat and go. The representatives agreed that SRB 139 (or the adjoining conference room) was the better venue due to its centralized location and available seating. It was decided that a study break event occur during the week of November 15 while leaving the possibility of doing a second event to occur after Thanksgiving should food and drinks

remain. Vanlttersum and Pfeffer agreed to staff the study break event and notify all graduate students and faculty once a time and day were available.

VI. Discussion Item: Spring Event Ideas

a. CPC Funds Deadline: Vanlttersum notified the representatives of the upcoming Club Programming Committee event funding deadlines. The deadline for submitting proposals for Spring 2011 semester events was November 11 while the deadline for Fall 2011 semester events was April 7, 2011.

b. Events Committee: Vanlttersum asked representatives whether to reform the events committee in order to come up with potential event ideas. Woofter served on the past year's events committee and agreed to serve on the current committee along with Hornbeck and Felten. The committee agreed to meet and discuss potential event ideas and report back to GSU representatives at a later meeting. The representatives agreed to focus on applying for CPC funds for the Fall 2011 semester, as the GSU did not have a ready event in place to apply for spring funding.

c. Open Discussion: Shafto opened an open discussion regarding potential events for representatives. Felten suggested partnering with the Cultural Center for an event as they were offering funding for groups interested in doing events with cultural or international significance. Pfeffer explained a potential event with the Cultural Center might be geared towards international students, who make up a significant portion of the A&S graduate student population. Hornbeck and Vanlttersum offered the idea of a monthly social hour at a near-campus bar or restaurant. Delgado mentioned her classmates often meet up after class at Bearno's for drinks while other representatives offered similar scenarios involving their departments. It was agreed that GSU would try to pool these already ongoing "social hours" into one regular event so graduate students could meet new people outside of the classroom and from other departments. Woofter suggested doing a social hour on the same Thursday as regular GSU meetings. Pfeffer proposed starting the event at 6pm, but leaving the end time as "open ended" so students that have classes at the event's start would feel comfortable arriving at a later time. The GSU agreed to do its first social hour at Bearno's on Thursday November 18 from 6pm-?, with the intent of rotating future social hours to other near-campus venues such as the Granville.

VI: Next Meeting

a. Meeting Time and Date: The next scheduled meeting for the GSU is Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 2:30pm in 340 Gardiner Hall. With the exception of the December 9 meeting, all fall 2010 meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

VII: Adjournment

Shafto requested a motion for adjournment. Felton motioned to adjourn, seconded by Hornbeck, and the motion passed with unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.