

Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Union

Official Minutes--Summary

Date/Time: Thursday December 9, 2010 2:30pm

Location: 340 Gardiner Hall

Representatives Present: Harley Ferris (English), Carissa Shafto (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Sarah Williams ((Psychological & Brain Sciences), Maurya Delgado (Anthropology), Jahari Pittman (Pan-African Studies), Jeremy Hornbeck (Physics & Astronomy), Cathy Felten (French),

UL Faculty and Staff Present: Rick Vanlttersum, Program Assistant Sr., Graduate Affairs/Advising

I. Welcome: Sarah Williams

Williams called the meeting to order at 2:37pm.

II. Approval of 11/18/2010 Meeting Minutes

Williams opened the floor for discussion of minutes from the prior meeting. After reviewing the minutes, Williams asked for a motion to approve. Felten motioned to approve, Hornbeck seconded, and the minutes from the November meeting were approved with unanimous consent.

III: Discussion Item: Old Business

a. Report from 11/30 GSU Study Break: Vanlttersum reported on the second food and soft drink giveaway to A&S graduate students. Wendy Pfeffer, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, and Vanlttersum staffed the study break where graduate students could drop in get a snack or have lunch in the Schumaker Research Building Room 139. Turnout was steady between noon and 1:30pm resulting in the distribution of nearly all of the remaining food and all but one case of soda pop leftover from the cornhole tournament. However, nearly three full cases of bottled water are still stored in Dr. Pfeffer's office. He encouraged representatives to let him know if their departments wished to use the bottled water for a future event.

b. GSU Social Hour: Vanlttersum presented on the GSU of social hour on November 18 at Bearno's U of L campus location. Turnout was light, but representatives concluded end of semester schoolwork may have been a contributing factor to the lack of attendance. He suggested trying again during the spring semester before end of semester projects came due.

c. Pfeffer Research Trip Announcement: Vanlttersum notified representatives that Pfeffer would be away from campus for the first half of 2011. She was selected for a

Fulbright Scholarship that will allow her to do research in France during the Spring 2011 semester, as well as a portion of Summer 2011. Pfeffer will return to Louisville in July, but will be available through email if her advice is required.

IV: Discussion Item: Events Committee Report

a. Graduate Student Afterhours Discussion Forum/Social Hour: Prior to the Events Committee report, Williams brought up a discussion of an event that frequently occurs at 21C in downtown Louisville. Quarterly, 21C presents a forum where individuals may present 10-20 slides on a topic of their choice. There is also a cash bar. Williams and Hornbeck suggested using a similar format for a GSU event, but perhaps at another venue. A forum would add a new dimension to the traditional happy hour and allow graduate students to practice their presentations in a less formal environment. Topics may include a student's academic study, but would also include causes and non-academic activities.

b. GSU Welcome Banquet: Hornbeck and the Events Committee recommended the GSU host an event to welcome both new graduate students and returning graduate students to campus for the fall. This event would coincide with the Graduate Affairs reception that occurs during the week prior to the start of classes and be in a larger venue that the lobby of the Shumaker Research Building. (The welcome reception is tentatively planned for Lutz Hall; see October minutes). This "after party" banquet would include a musical group and a less formal tone than the "academic welcome" from Dean Hudson. Vanlttersum mentioned using the Red Barn as a potential venue due the stage and the ability to serve alcohol. The Alumni Center was mentioned a potential venue should the Red Barn be unavailable. Vanlttersum agreed to check into venue availability on the week prior to the start of classes and find more specifics on the RSO Alcohol Policy and/or training. This event could also be used a potential fundraiser and as a submission to Student Affairs for RSO event funding. Williams tabled discussion on this event to the January meeting.

c. Other Options: Other notes from the Events Committee report included the following event ideas or ways to increase the GSU's exposure on campus:

- Best of Arts & Science Awards/GSU Awards for Posters etc. (i.e. Graduate Student Symposium)
- Study Breaks
- Increased Involvement with International Center and International Students (co-sponsoring events, increasing awareness)
- Cornhole Tournament and/or Picnic (at a different time than Friday afternoon)
- Working with Other Established Campus Groups to help Start Tradition
- Incentives for GSU Officers/Members

VI. Discussion Item: GSU Research Fund Spring Round

a. Grant Timeline: Vanlttersum notified GSU members of the upcoming GSU Research Fund application period. Applications will be accepted from January 24 until February 7 (*later extended to February 11*). Current A&S graduate students would be notified via email regarding this opportunity in addition to department chairs and

directors of graduate study. GSU representatives were encouraged to share information on the research fund to their fellow students

b. Changes to Application: Vanlittersum highlighted proposed changes to the application form. The ad-hoc committee from the fall suggested adding questions on the application regarding conference travel (whether students were presenting and/or attending the conference for educational benefit) and instructing students to include a brief budget to outline their potential expenses. Williams asked for a motion to approve the changes to the application. Ferris motioned to approve, seconded by Felten and the changes were approved by unanimous consent.

c. Selection Committee: Williams tabled the selection of an ad-hoc committee to the January meeting. Representatives requested that Pfeffer seek a faculty member to consult the ad-hoc committee in the recipient selection process.

VI: Setting Spring Meetings

a. Meeting Times and Dates: Williams requested GSU officers to stay after the meeting to select potential meeting times for the Spring 2011 semester. Vanlittersum agreed to send an announcement through the listserv in order for representatives to report what times they are available for meetings. Spring meeting dates and time were to be announced.

VII: Adjournment

Williams requested a motion for adjournment. Hornbeck motioned to adjourn, seconded by Delgado, and the motion passed with unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.