



Reminders

-Volunteer to help with International Night planning/preparation/execution Sunday 11/16 if you can

General meeting

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - Quorum: yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from
 - Motion to Approve Minutes: Laura Bartock
 - Second: Rick Joseph
 - Unanimously approved

New Business

1. GSA Orientation Week activities budget/bylaws
 - We will discuss at another time.
2. Faculty Governance Student Life resolutions
 - Two resolutions being put forward:
 1. Calling to create a college noise policy. The quad is used for events and construction, faculty would like to: prevent noise that disrupts class activity, halt construction that may interrupt classroom activities, and prevent usage of quad for use with amplified sound during specific time periods.
 - Colin Bragg: Is it unfair to request no construction during academic teaching times? Construction is occurring constantly at colleges to attract students.
 - Doug Morrison: Has had to let classes out early because of amplified events during class times. SU has created rules

preventing amplified noise during academic hours with success.

- Emily Handelman: Ask construction workers to provide notice of when they create an excessive amount of noise prior to doing it.
- Doug: EFB faculty is concerned because there's going to be *more* noise with more construction of a new building.
- Ely Margolis: the hours for amplification are not specified during the fall and spring semesters, which is restricting for undergrads (orientation, late summer activities). Summer should have more flexible hours and perhaps provide an hour each day during the week (lunch) where amplification can be used.
- Alison Oakes: construction proposal idea should be separate from amplified noise proposal – the two issues are very different. One might be contentious and the other is a necessity.

2. Cutting December Convocation

- Scott Bergey: Wording needs to be edited and made more clear, and also – has OIGS been told that they were in charge of paying for some higher education degree ceremony?
- Other issues with December convocation: the ceremony takes place on the last Friday of classes and professors are still teaching, and people are also walking before they finish their finals, and students must still study for their finals the following week and cannot celebrate graduation.
- Emma Putman: They should not get rid of December convocation. It's a nice small ceremony, but perhaps the date should be changed.
- Doug Morrison: The date is a concern that will be discussed with faculty.
- Eileen Leon: It's nice to have a ceremony only for graduate students, and most graduate students really appreciate that.
- Becky Meissner: Move dates back for thesis defense for those who choose to graduate in the fall.
- Scott Bergey: Does anyone support cutting December convocation?
 - Alison: It depends on how much it costs.
 - Hayley: Move ceremony to ESF campus, maybe lecture hall in Marshall.

3. Overcrowding potential issues
 - Scott: anecdotal evidence saying that people have issues with computer labs, printing, overcrowding in courses, people sitting on steps of classroom, etc.
 - Doug: Create the positions for graduate TA's to create more space for everyone in class.
 - Several grad students in several departments within GSA have seen crowding in some of their classes (environmental studies department, environmental science department, SCME department, etc.)
 - Jay Wason: We don't know the extent of the process so a survey should be conducted to see how students feel about overcrowding, and whether or not it's already an issue.
 - Scott: Student Life Committee is ultimately planning to create a survey for all students, but wanted a little advance feedback from USA/GSA.
 - Doug: The feedback we are providing on the school already being overcrowded is good information for him to take back to the committee. He agrees with the survey.
 - Emily Handelmann: How do classrooms get assigned for classes? Some classes get overcrowded and some are hardly utilized to their full potential.
 - Alison Oakes: The quality of instruction deteriorates with more students per class.
 - Emma Putman: How many students can a GA or TA reasonably teach? Are there any official restrictions? There are too many students assigned to certain GA's in the ERE department (Becky Meissner mentioned this with respect to grading) and this goes against the grad student bill of rights.
4. Budget update
 - Scott Bergey: We will be getting a little extra money, but we can reallocate funds in the spring semester. We may get an extra \$1000.
5. GSA office access update
 - Scott Bergey: We can get hard copies of keys for \$5, or we can just have university police unlock the door for us. There is a spare key in room 14 in Bray, it just needs to be signed out for use.
 - However, keys don't seem to work at the moment. Call or text Scott for key if needed.
6. Tassels for graduation
 - We'd like to have tassels for those walking this December.
 - Scott will figure out colors from Laura Crandall that we can use.
 - We will buy our own but GSA will pay for ordering them.
7. Next week's meeting time
 - Scott Bergey: There will be a faculty governance meeting during college hour when our regular GSA meeting is usually held – can we move the meeting to 11:40am (rather than 12:45pm) on November 19th?

- Scott will email us that as a reminder closer to the date.
- Jay Wason: Appoint someone not in the senate to go to that faculty governance meeting to report back to us, maybe.

Committee Updates

- Speaker: N/A
- Social: Potluck on the 15th will be cancelled due to timing with international night. The next event is the end-of-the-year TG at the Inn Complete. VP's – please edit the google doc calendar with events so we don't overbook events.
- Professional Development: N/A
- Grants and Awards: Research grants are due in a week, Reps – remind your departments to apply and remind them that they have a better chance of getting one now rather than in the spring semester.
- International:
 - Becky Meissner: 2 people left in committee and are completely overwhelmed by the event on November 16th and need help desperately.
 - This is international night, there will be lots of food, dancing, activities, etc. and they need help decorating and running the event.
 - The event is open to both SU and ESF graduate students.
 - Rick Joseph: can someone volunteer to serve food rather than have self-serve?
 - Have undergraduate students pay to go if we make it open to the whole campus, or just keep it for graduate students. Or make food only available to graduate students.
 - Alex Poisson: Is the event half potluck and half catering?
 - Yunyun Bi: No, it's mostly catered.
- Bike Safety Committee: There's new striping on Comstock and Euclid. The curb was lowered east of Illick.

Motion to adjourn: Laura Bartock

Second: Rick Joseph

Unanimously approved

Upcoming events

- International Night is Sunday, November 16th.
- Grant proposals due next week.

Attendance

GSA Senate

1. Scott Bergey - President
2. Jonathan Masih Das -VP Grants and Awards
3. YunYun Bi -VP of International Activities
4. Stacey Mack -VP of Professional Development (absent with proxy)
5. Eileen Leon -VP of Social Activities
6. Forrest Baird -VP of Speakers and Presentations (absent)
7. Hayley Kopelson - Secretary
8. Alison Oakes - Treasurer
9. Ian McColl - SU GSO Representative
10. Keshav Sauba - SU GSO Representative
11. Peter Kwon - SU GSO Representative (absent)
12. Leanna Kirschen - Environmental Studies Representative
13. Colin Bragg - SCME representation
14. Emily Handelman - Landscape Architecture Representative
15. Xolile Maphanga - ERE Representative (absent with proxy)
16. Emma Putman - PBE representative
17. Veronica Gonzalez - FNRM Representative (I) (absent)
18. Becky Fuda - Environmental Forest Biology Representative (I)
19. Jay Wason - Environmental Forest Biology Representative (II)
21. Terra Rentz - EFB (III) (absent)
22. Mirian Calderon - Environmental Science Representative (I)
23. Laura Bartock - Environmental Science Representative (II)
24. Rick Joseph - Chemistry Representative
25. Doug Morrison - Faculty Advisor
26. Eugene Law - Board of Trustees (absent)
27. Ely Margolis - Webmaster
28. Alex Poisson - USA representative (late, arrived at 1:01pm)

Guests

Becky Meissner (proxy for Xolile)
Harold Nugent
Alex Lefevre (proxy for Stacey)