

**General meeting:**

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
   * Quorum - Yes!
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from September 18, 2015
   * Motion to Approve Minutes from September 18, 2015: Eugene Law
   * Second: Tyler Shields

**Old Business**

1. Survey results:
   * Grants and awards: important to get feedback from grants process. Lack of communication telling them where to get results from or just lack of results?
   * Requesting alcohol free events on campus. Try to figure out ways to get on campus events that generate a lot of buzz.
     + 1. More fitness events such as yoga to promote graduate student health and wellness especially as some of us get older. Also really cheap to run
2. Gift Card winners
   * Alto Cinco: Kayla Smith and Rose Osbourne
   * $50 Wegman’s Dominique
3. Committee membership
   * Need to be part of a committee!

**New Business:**

1. Strategic Planning update
   * We’re not represented in the strategic plan
   * Eugene Law: Broader tone because the board of trustees cares more about big theme things. Express general grievance that we haven’t been involved up to this point. Make them aware of our issues to put pressure on administration to make changes. Strategic plan is a plan to close the budget deficit. A strategic plan that ignores a large group of the college is always going to cause dissent. They at least need to lay out how they are going to ­­­­address our concerns.
   * Board of trustees has some amount control over plan as far as finances go, but not their concern on the focus point of where to go.
   * Alex Poisson: can we send a general message to board of trustees expressing desire that strategic plan has a section directly related to graduate students? Aim for a high quality product that we actually want to implement rather than speed through it to get something out.
   * Scott Bergey: Since some grad students don’t pay tuition, we’re less of a revenue according to the Provost ☹ which is why we don’t have a part in the plan. There’s not enough time to evaluate the influence of the graduate students. None of the points have anything to do with teaching or research. If we pass resolution, this will be used to endorse a vote of no confidence in president.
     1. SUNY is required to address the issues and send evaluators to remediate the issue.
   * Rick Joseph: Graduate students bring a lot of revenue in terms of research and grants for our research.
   * Bali Quintero: Should address the president that this isn’t a strategic plan, it’s a way to fix the budget. Name is misleading. Maybe we should talk to students and make our own document of the non-financial stuff that we want.
     1. Scott Bergey: Feels like a lot of people don’t care because there has been an open communication, but no one has provided any feedback besides the GSA senate and previous senators.
   * Alex Poisson: Expressed thought that problem at ESF is that we don’t have a shared governance to Kelly who felt insulted because now there are graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty and staff have a voting right on the academic governance group. However, it still doesn’t include the administration except for the president who is the head. Is there a structural problem with the way academic governance is structured at ESF?
     1. Eugene Law: there are several major issues that are contributed to a larger problem
   * Scott Bergey will be receiving all of the feedback that the administration will get and forward it to us. Mark Lichtenstein will be meeting with Scott to discuss plan.
   * Scott Bergey: As a resolution, make a steering committee to oversee the plan
     1. Motion to make resolution: Eugene Law
     2. Second: Tyler Shields
     3. Passed unanimously
2. Grad student bill of rights revisit
   * Because we have no idea what’s going on with strategic planning, we are saying that we need a task force to be formed.
   * Motion to endorse GSA Resolution 2014.1 (**Attached below**): Alex Poisson
   * Second: Tyler Shields
   * Motion passed unanimously
3. Survey results deeper dive
   * Bali Quintero: many graduate students would like to get fitness activities to promote healthy graduate students as we get older.
4. Key deposit and ID activation costs
   * Because graduate students are the only ones who really need keys, seems like administration is passing costs directly to the graduate student body. Was told that reason for cost was because no one was bringing back the keys.
   * Rick Joseph: as part of the GSA union, people can vote to have a change if forced to incur costs to do your job.
   * Eugene Law: department might need to list as employee to not pay for keys.
   * Scott Bergey: write a resolution to address issue of costs. Maybe make faculty say students are employees so they don’t have to pay?
5. Committee updates
   * International Movie night 10/15
   * Multicultural Event 10/29
   * International Night 11/14 or 11/15

**Upcoming events:**

* Wine Tour 10/3
* Data Management Workshop 10/8

Motion to Adjourn: Alex Poisson  
Second: Rick Joseph  
Motion passed unanimously

**Attendance:**

*GSA Senate*

1. Scott Bergey President
2. Colin Bragg VP of Social Activities
3. Alex Poisson  VP of Speakers and Presentations
4. Sarita Bassil VP of International Activities
5. Jeff Pu VP of Communications
6. Anayo Ukwuani Treasurer
7. Sam Mello Secretary
8. Eugene Law Board of Trustees Representative
9. Tyler Shields USA Representative
10. Debora Silva Forest and Natural Resources Management Representative
11. Brianna Rosamilia Environmental Forest Biology Representative
12. Mike Jones Environmental Forest Biology Representative
13. Rick Joseph Chemistry Representative

Doug Morrison Faculty Advisor

Guest: Bali Quintero



**Graduate Student Association**

Resolution No: **2015.1**

A RESOLUTION to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Executive Chair of Academic Governance

**CONCERNING** the formation of a taskforce to reconsider and revise the “[Guidelines] for Faculty Mentors and Graduate Students” policy document

**WHEREAS** the document “Expectations and Responsibilities for Faculty Mentors and Graduate Students” (the Document) was brought to the floor of Faculty Governance at the November 19, 2014 College-Wide Faculty Governance meeting; and

**WHEREAS** the Document’s title was successfully moved to be amended to “Guidelines for Faculty Mentors and Graduate Students” which necessitated substantial editing to reflect the new tenor; and

**WHEREAS** a motion to assign a taskforce to revise the Document was approved since all relevant Standing Committees had already reviewed and approved the Document;

**HOWEVER,**

**WHEREAS** such a taskforce was never formed; and

**WHEREAS** it was anticipated that some of the aspects of the Document would be incorporated into the Strategic Planning process which was underway; and

**WHEREAS** the 9/15/15 Draft Strategic Plan does not include any language regarding graduate student and faculty mentor relationships and calls for a subcommittee to be formed to conduct a “thorough review of graduate programs” and presumably graduate student experience at a later and unspecified date;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) calls upon Academic Governance to form the taskforce that was approved at the 11/19/14 College-Wide Academic Governance meeting to revise the “Guidelines for Faculty Mentors and Graduate Students” Document; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the GSA requests that the taskforce’s constituency is no less than 20% graduate students; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the GSA calls for the taskforce to produce a revised version of the Document for Academic Governance consideration with a target date of the November 18, 2015 College-Wide Academic Governance meeting.