

GSA Senate Business Meeting
March 19, 2024 @11am – 12:15pm
Baker Lab Room 254

Agenda

1. Welcome - Emme
2. Roll Call - Makayla
 - a. Apologies & Proxies
 - i. Yes, 15 out of 18 with 3 proxies
 - b. Quorum
 - i. Yes
3. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes
 - a. Motion by Andrea Cass and seconded by Amy Owens
 - b. Unanimous vote
4. Senate Business
 - a. Previous Business
 - i. CCESS24
 1. Engagement is the most important aspect currently
 2. Emails are going to be sent out throughout the week
 - ii. Research and Scholarship Funds
 1. Successfully launched
 2. Grad School and ORP have committed \$5000 each to support grants and awards
 3. Committed to some support on a per semester basis contingent to other obligations that these offices need to meet
 4. Improve the grants and awards landscape for grad students - more awards in general and more substantial awards overall
 5. Want to make a difference to the lives of the grad students
 - a. 7 travel grants per semester at \$500 each (instead of \$200)
 - b. Average 6 PD grants at about \$600 each (usually comes in below budget because the number of applicants is usually small)
 - c. 5 research grants at \$1000 each (moving up from 3 at \$500 each)
 - d. 10 special awards at \$200 each (up from 10 at \$175 each)
 - e. New award named after the first president of the GSA - 1 per year at \$1500
 - i. GSA founded November 6, 1931 - Robert Cockrell Award for All-Rounded Graduate Student
 6. Engage faculty as blind reviewers - ORP and Grad School will maintain a list of faculty members - engage three per semester who will review based on a rubric that we give them and we make the final decision as the GSA
 - iii. SAF
 1. Whereas clauses hasn't changed
 2. Proposing an increase to continue supporting GSA programming with explicit use of increasing available grants and awards to the student body
 3. SU change from \$10 to \$15 (proportional increase from what they applied to their students) - per semester

- a. Confusion about some of what ESF students can access via these fees - programming through Bird Library, SU legal services, SU Graduate School Resources (career coaching and support for CVs, grants and awards - no access to their grants however), GSO Social Events
 - 4. Need better distinction from what GSO Fees offer us versus what our contract with SU through ESF offers us - address these concerns first and then revisit the increase at some point next Spring
 - 5. Proposal to have students pay GSO directly only \$1 per semester and account for the SU GSO fee in the increase that the GSA fee goes by - then GSA would pay GSO the activity fee directly (whatever remains after the \$1)
 - 6. Change begins in Fall 2024 - full time students paying \$84.42, part time pays \$9.38 per credit hour, all students pay \$1 to GSO - grants and awards will always come first with this increase in SAF
- b. New Business
 - i. Chief Programming Officer duties
 - 1. Constitution and Bylaws amendments
 - a. Environmental Studies - 24
 - b. Chemistry - 27
 - c. Environmental Biology - 25
 - d. Chemical Engineering - 28
 - e. Environmental Resource Engineering - 20
 - f. Environmental Science - 68
 - g. Sustainable Resource Management - 51
 - h. Landscape Architecture - 22
 - i. No change to the departmental representatives
 - j. vote to amend the elections procedure - made by Laurel Williams, seconded by Emily Friden - voted unanimous, motion passed
 - 2. Elections
 - a. Need to open calls for nominations soon
 - b. Announce at least 4 weeks before voting period - last two meetings April 9th and April 30th (April 30th - transition of power)
 - c. Elections run for two weeks - nominations closed and finalized by the meeting of April 9th - open nominations this week
 - d. Necessary roles:
 - i. Chairperson of Sustainability
 - ii. Chief Programming Officer
- 5. Any Other Business
 - a. Motion to add Chairperson of Sustainability to Senate Structure - motion by Emily Friden, seconded by Olivia Grogan - voted unanimous - motion passed
 - b. Motion to designate the titling of an events coordinator to an email vote - motion by Maria Loughran, seconded by Makayla Light - voted unanimous

- i. Names for role for email vote:
 - 1. Event Coordinator
 - 2. Professional and Social Events Chairperson
 - 3. Programming Chair
 - c. Motion to table the update to the GSA bylaws approval for an email vote
- 6. Adjourn
 - a. Date of Next Meeting – April 9

Resolutions

01.2024

Whereas inflation rose 18.8% between 2020 and 2023.

Whereas there is a need for additional funding to support graduate student programming including grants and awards.

Whereas the Mighty Oaks Students Assembly (MOSA) and the SU Graduate Student Association (GSO) will be increasing student activity fees to account for inflation.

Be it Resolved that the GSA will investigate possible options for increasing student activity fees to support an increased grants and awards budget while taking into account payments to be made to both MOSA the GSO on semester basis.