

## Minutes



### **General Assembly, 02-07-2008.**

1. Call to convene. Welcome and introduction of GSS Executive Board and School of Graduate Studies Deans.
2. GSS Treasure nomination and election. Olivier was nominated, and elected GSS Treasure.
3. Relay for Life – American Cancer Society. Christa Wheeler asked the GSS members to put together teams for the relay, and participate on February 15<sup>th</sup>. She brought flyers promoting the event for the GSS to post in all departments.
4. Issue: drilling at the Squire Valleevue Farm. Two students from the biology department presented the issue to the GSS-GA, and they ask the GA to seek more information about it. President Snyder was present, and she answered that this project is in the early exploratory stage, and if advances will be discussed with the CWRU community.

Tickets to the Case at the Q Cav's game were given to President Snyder and SGS Deans.

5. Challenges and opportunities for the CWRU Graduate Students – President Snyder. President Snyder presented to the GSS-GA the main challenges that CWRU has right now, which are: CWRU environment, effectiveness of the advisor, working conditions and climate of the departments, salary benefits, promotion of graduate students, and distinguish between university and department problems to tackle them.

6. Q & A section with President Snyder.

What is her opinion about the IT fee and how it was implemented?

She is not well informed about the IT fee. The IT fee was established before she came to CWRU, however she will find out more about the IT fee and its implementation. Dean Rosek explained how it was implemented. President Snyder asked what we want related to the IT fee? Some students answer that the IT fee is a financial burden for all grad students and we want the fee to be included in tuition. Dean Rosek mentioned that the IT fee was not included in tuition because of problems with the granting offices (NIH) that do not allow this

fee to be paid as tuition costs. However, President Snyder will look into this issue to find out if this could be charge to tuition. During the IT fee implementation process, there was a lack of communication to the students about the IT fee, and how the IT fee was going to be paid by grad students. She mention to the GSS-GA that if a new fee will be charge to grad students she will make sure to have a open discussion about it. President Snyder will send an email to informed all CWRU advisors about the IT being charge to grad students, and find out if in some cases the IT fee could be charge to grants.

How CWRU will raise money? How the money raised will be used?

CWRU is working in two fronts to raise money: one is a capital campaign (since 1994 CWRU have nor done one), and two developing relationships. The money will be used based on the priorities and areas in need.

What is the financial situation of CWRU now?

CWRU has a deficit of 20 million of a 850 million budget, however we have a healthy endowment (1.8 billion). We have a short-term depth problem. CWRU is in the process of refinancing its depth to our benefit, but we cannot borrow more money for now.

Establish a taskforce for energy conservation at CWRU?

Right now to improve our energy consumption we will need to renovate some buildings, which is not possible in our financial situation.

Some grad students need on site day care. Does CWRU will implement one?

Due to the actual financial situation this is not possible, however may be in 3 years this could become a priority. Right now CWRU has discount plans in the surrounding day care providers, and she will make sure that this discounts are offer to grad students also.

It will be good to have a central CWRU web site for grad students to find what CWRU offer us to our benefit. Do you plant to have a web site like this?

This web site is in progress.

7. Update: RTA passes for graduate students. Jimmy informed us about the towhall meeting schedule for February 15 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, with the participation of RTA, GSS, CWRU and SGS. Jimmy presented an amendment to the bylaws to allow the GSS to have referendums. The amendment was presented discussed, voted, and passed. The GSS web site has a time-table for the RTA passes approval.

8. Call for committee participation. Katherine and Matt asked for volunteers for the Diekhoff award committee, health care committee, and PFF/PFP committee. Students volunteer to each committee by signing up.

Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.