

## Minutes



### **General Assembly, 05-01-2008.**

1. Call to convene. Welcome and introduction of GSS Executive Board, School of Graduate Studies Deans, and representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government.
2. Activities committee – Katherine. The next GSS activity will be the end year BBQ. Next Thursday @ 4:30 pm. Please invite all grad students to come and enjoy.
3. RTA Referendum – Jimmy. For more information see GSS-GA ppt presentation. The referendum did not pass, however exist the possibility that RTA will offer to CWRU grad students an optional pass, which is expensive than the RTA pass offer to undergraduate students, but at a better price that any other prices offer by RTA.  
GSS web site. The web site new design is ready and waiting for the new changes in the CWRU web site to be implemented next year. Jimmy ask for ideas to the GA. The new web site will have links to different organization represented in GSS.
4. Vote of endorsement: Mentoring Guidebook for Faculty. A motion to vote to endorse the Mentoring Guidebook for Faculty was voice and seconded. The motion was voted and passes.
5. Propose changes to the course evaluations - Sarah Busch and Lucas O'Donnell. For more information see GSS-GA ppt presentation. The senator make comments such as that the course evaluations should be part of the class to ensure a clear evaluation process. For more comments and questions please email Sarah Busch.
6. Update Diekhoff award – Saad Alkazami. For more information see GSS-GA ppt presentation. This year there were changes in the selection process to one long interview of each selected candidate. The selected professors from Humanities and social sciences are presented in the ppt presentation.
7. Update Faculty Senate Committee on Information Resources – Ken Rys. Ken presented to the committee the concerns expressed by GSS about the IT, and

one of those concerns is that we are paying for a service we need to do our work as graduate students in CWRU. The IT fee grad students paid is not for the IT office, instead is used to pay the loan that CWRU made to install the new people soft system. The implementation of the IT lay down a bad precedent because it circumvented the schools.

8. IT Fee discussion – Kevin moderator. Kevin introduced the discussion of the IT fee. The IT fee has been charged to the grad students since 2007. The fee pays for the new people soft system CWRU acquired, the system will be paid until 2018. The people soft system replaces the old system implemented in 1989.

Question (Q): Why is an IT Fee? Answer (A): this question is for the Provost, but may be because it was already name IT fee for undergraduate students.

Q: Do undergraduate residents pay more? A: no, they don't.

Q: Why the IT fee was not included in tuition? This was a decision of the Provost.

Q: What is the total cost if the new people soft system? A: the cost as it is right now 8 M and 13 M with interest, however she doesn't know the final price.

Q: Who is encharge of the implementation? A: the executive committee, she does not know if there is any graduate student in this committee. Dean William is a student liason and an MD-PhD student representative sits in the committee. It was point out that graduate students paid the same amount as the undergraduate students.

Q: How the IT fee is broken down? A: \$ 213 / semester for 4 or more credits register, and \$ 100 / semester for less that 3 credits register.

The system is going to be updated by people soft as needed at a better price.

Q: How the IT fee could be paid using students loans? A: When a student apply for a student loan the school could include tuition and fees as part of the budget, and the IT fee could be included in the loan application. Also CWRU could loan up to \$ 500 to students that could be use to paid the IT fee.

9. Annual State of the Senate Address - Kevin Speer. The document is ported in the GSS web site.

Before adjourned Jimmy Harris propose as in the exec meeting to have GSS-GA Summer meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.