

GSS General Assembly Meeting, Apr. 5, 2007

Voting for 2007/2008 officers: The candidates (Kevin Speer – President, Katherine Crispin – VP, Olivier Arnoult – Treasurer, Jennifer Talley – Corresponding Secretary, Jose Gomez – Recording Secretary) all introduced themselves and said a few words. We held elections by secret ballot immediately following, with every senator and exec casting a vote.

Activities Committee:

BBQ if planned for Friday, May 4, 2007, at Freiburger field (behind Kelvin Smith Library). It will be free to all grads (no stinking undergrads!). Bring your Case ID.

Pro council is sponsoring a bar crawl, Apr. 13 starting at 7:00 on West 6th. GSS will comp a identifying wrist band to anyone interested. The wrist band will get you drink and food specials at each bar.

PFF/PFP sub-committee:

The panel discussion seminars were a success. Some 85 people showed up for each discussion. A survey was taken (data on the web), that indicated people were largely pleased with the outcome.

Upcoming seminars: Monday Apr. 16 and Monday, Apr. 23 Andrew Connors will speak on financial planning, near term (when you're a poor grad student) and long term (when you're a poor post-graduate). Apr. 24, Ed Hollingshead will speak on buying your first home.

O & A:

One final student group funding request of \$250 from BME-GSA came in, for a picnic to be held May 4, 2007, at the farm. O&A recommended the full amount, which was seconded and approved.

Of the \$3000 budgeted for student groups, 8 awards were made for \$250 each, for \$2000 spent. Mike moved that the remaining \$1000 be re-budgeted for use in V-fund awards, payouts for which had increased due to the increased award amount. \$1000 would cover the difference. The motion to re-budget this amount was made and carried a supermajority.

Transpo Committee:

Dean Rozek and Jimmy have been in contact with Dick Jamieson, VP of Access Services, to approach RTA with a deal to buy some (~500) tickets on the undergrad plan.

Kevin Speer on the Mentoring Handbook:

Kevin has written an article on increasing mentoring skills among PIs that will appear in the upcoming newsletter. He is soliciting feedback throughout the process, and will move on exploring the faculty side of things next.

GPSAW: Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week:

The week beginning Apr 9 will have a number of events for GPSAW. There will be speakers, including Stephanie Tubbs-Jones on Apr. 12. A flyer is to be sent out to all grad students.

SGS Office: Fellowship Courses:

The application policy has been drafted, and fellowship courses will be available in the fall '07. Information on the SGS website is forthcoming, but the process begins in the SGS office, and requires both advisor and instructor approval.

Dean Rozek has been awarded \$13,000 to sponsor entrepreneurship seminars, which will likely happen in conjunction with PFF/PFP starting the fall.

The National Research Council will be surveying students in the departments of Chemical Engineering, Physics, English, and Neuroscience, beginning Apr 9. Results will be available on the NRC website for all to see. Dean Rozek is encouraging heavy participation: 100% of A&S faculty responded, and about 75% of Engineering.

Heather Mason-Suares, on the SM Dean Search:

Heather (hmm9@case.edu), is on the School of Medicine dean search committee, and is soliciting input or feedback on the process. There will also be an open forum Apr. 9, from 4-5 in E501.

Matt, on the State of the GSS

Matt noted the trials, successes, and events of the past year. We increased the activity fee to .85% of a single credit (~\$10). We revised the bylaws significantly to increase funding vehicles to students and groups. We clarified some material and removed objectionable material (such as the exec's ability to "reward" themselves with leftover funds). PFF/PFP had three events in the fall, co-sponsored with Center for Women, and five in the spring. We found out about and fought the IT fee, with some success in raising public awareness and coverage. Our social events, including the nights at the Jake and Q, Grad Night at Jillians (following the food drive) were all successful. Finally, our ad-hoc and standing committees were very active in their respective roles.