Council of Graduate Students General Assembly Meeting
3/9/2011
The Whole, Coffman Union

1) Meeting called to order at 5:45
2) Went through the slideshow about how to slideshow on the history of COGS/how COGS works/who can vote; slideshow on website
3) Call for questions
   a) No questions
4) College delegations get together and discuss things about their college and their college concerns
   a) CFANS: Emily Combs
   i) Some complaints about the unionization efforts; e.g. people walking into restricted labs
   ii) Students wonder about the efforts and where to get information
   b) Kathy Nelson (AHC) discussed the Student Health Care Advisory Committee that she is on
   i) Discussion about waiving the mental health fee for undergraduates; would add about a dollar a semester fee for everyone
   ii) Discussed hard waiver issues
   iii) Looking for a member of the Student Health Benefits Consultative Committee. This committee is going to discuss the changes that are going to come to the Student Health Benefit Plan (the majority of whom are grad students) because of health care reform and being in compliance, etc
   c) CEHD: Jeremy Wang
   i) Discussed how academic dishonestly cases may be on the rise
       (1) Jeremy will follow up on this
   ii) Fiscal issues:
       (1) Every undergrad will be getting an iPad2 next year; concerned about the investment that this takes
   d) CBS: Pam Weisenhorn
   i) Trying to broaden representation across St Paul and Minneapolis campuses
   ii) Trying to come up with a plan to sustainably manage student involvement
   iii) Briefly discussed union issues
   e) CSE: Brooke White
   i) Discussed recent meeting with associate Dean; increasing communication between grad students and college level governance
       (1) Movement of graduate student services to the college level and how the college is preparing for that
   ii) Discussed google group and increasing communication among the delegation
   f) CLA: Kevin Stanek
   i) Unit caps of 14 credits a semester; some majors are finding this too low to meet their requirements; not sure if that’s happening in any other colleges
   ii) Discussion about people who work across colleges and departments; you may not know what’s going on in other departments
   g) Humphrey: Peter (last name unknown)
   i) Discussed the continuing Dean search. Finalists from that search will be announced at the end of the week interviews begin after spring break
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5) Paul Freeman comes up to discuss GAPSA
   a) He is a candidate for GAPSA President; we (COGS) are the largest member council of GAPSA
   b) He is a 3rd year PhD Student in the department of aerospace engineering and mechanics
   c) Used to be on the student services fees committee; now is a VP on GAPSA
   d) Wants to discuss how we can better work together with COGS
      i) He has not been happy with how GAPSA interacts with the Councils; GAPSA can act a bit like a lone wolf without getting enough support from the other student governance structures that are in place
      ii) In order to be more relevant to all needs GAPSA needs a president who will lead by example and work with the assembly representatives and discuss what we are doing
      iii) Just having a GA meeting each month isn’t enough contact for the Councils to get adequate support or to allow the GAPSA leadership the support to get things done appropriately
      iv) He would like to implement more accountability and increase communication
      v) Wants to do programming that provides a return on investment and doesn’t duplicate the efforts of any of the other councils; doesn’t want to step on our toes
         (1) Add Synergy to the events themselves so that people can get more out of their money and their leaders
         (2) Election is April 4-6

6) Approval of minutes and agenda
   a) Agenda approved
   b) Minutes will be corrected to reflect the fact that the collegiate reps were not communicating appropriately, the minutes currently say delegation leads which is incorrect (correction made). Minutes approved as amended.

7) Reports: Devin Driscoll
   a) Awards and travel grants
      i) We received 65 outstanding faculty award nominations; the review committee is in the process of reviewing them
   b) Travel grant and leadership awards are on the website and are due this coming Friday March 9, 2011 at 5PM
      i) Please apply
   c) Tomorrow at 9:45 AM the Provost is presenting the Blue Ribbon Commission Report; every college had a blue ribbon commission and they have compiled them together and will be showing them off tomorrow
      i) 4 new members of the board of regents will be hearing this for the first time
   d) Met with Jerry Rhinehart: has a meeting with the interim director of Boynton to discuss quality of care metrics and trying to increase their use as well as the mental health and hard waiver issues. Devin proposes having secondary insurance instead of a hard waiver for people with high deductible insurance

8) Reports: Melody Hoffmann
   a) GEC Alternates; we are still looking for them. Council meets once per month with a very varied schedule. It’s important for graduate students to be involved.
9) Reports: Jeremy VP of Internal Relations
   a) College delegation leads are part of COGS and are graduate students
   b) College representatives are faculty or staff who all meet together on graduate education policies
      i) They are trying to work in tandem
   c) First meeting of the CDLs was to discuss the role that they will play
      i) Promote two-way communication of issues affecting graduate student life by facilitating discussions with department representatives during monthly COGS General Assembly meetings.
      ii) Keep informed of University-wide policy issues by attending meetings on Graduate Education Reform (attended by Collegiate Representatives).
      iii) Communicate with college-level administrators (Deans, Collegiate Reps, DGSs) to ensure that students are informed of important issues and policies affecting graduate students. When applicable, this should be done in cooperation with college-level governance structures
   d) There is a change in policy about graduate examination committees. This is kind of a test case for us to promote communication of policy changes to graduate students. Please let your CDL know if you have an idea for how to facilitate communication.
      1) The link to the new policy will be e-mailed out to everyone tonight
   e) CDLs attended the last collegiate reps meeting
10) VP of University Relations: Ben Fink has resigned, we made an interim appointment of Mandy Stahre subject to confirmation by the GA
   a) Motion to approve her confirmation; approved
   b) Report from Mandy Stahre
      i) She is the past president
      ii) She is on several committees
      iii) Grad Policy Committee
         1) Turning graduate school policies into university wide policies; they will be put up on the transition website soon (hopefully)
         2) Leave of absence resolution; it is being pushed through. The current University leave of absence policy will have graduate students added to it. Will not affect time to degree. Please come to the next collegiate reps meeting to discuss this change in policy. Could be policy by July
   iv) Health care resolution: Mandy will follow up on this with HR
   v) Enrollment Management Committee
      1) Look at student body of the U and see if the infrastructure of the U can handle this student body; looking at the Graduate student body in particular. How big should the graduate student and professional student population be? Some programs will be cut, but this will not be done by this committee.
      2) Graduate student population has spiked and no one was sure where they came from; generally in the AHC and some masters programs.
      3) Should show population of graduate students the University is capable of supporting
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(4) Mandy wants them to move away from time to degree and look at degree completion and funding of graduate students instead. Are programs funding their graduate students the entire time?

11) Recruitment
   a) Come to the doughnuts with Exec event; March 28 11-12 in Saint Paul, 1-2 in Minneapolis; all Graduate Students are welcome to attend

12) New Business
   a) Election of 2011-2012 will take place at the April 13 2011 GA meeting
   b) We may be doing 2 year terms of office for the GEC
   c) We will open nominations now, but they are open until the day of election at noon
   d) Declare your candidacy by e-mail to cogs@umn.edu
   e) Tim would like to make some nominations; wants to know if the floor is open for nominations
   f) Ed Hahn says that they plan to run for President
   g) Emily Combs also declares that she will run for President

13) Resolutions
   a) Open discussion on the pros and cons for the resolution: Informational Sessions on Graduate Assistant Unions
   b) 7:15: motion to continue discussion for 5 minutes; approved
   c) 7:20 motion to continue discussion for 5 minutes; approved