

COGS General Assembly Meeting  
Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
5-7pm  
St Paul Student Center, Room 202  
Total Attendance: 47

**5:00-5:15pm Food: Pizza Luce**

**5:15pm Meeting Begins**

**Announcements**

- **Grad Appreciation Week activities**
  - ✓ GAPSA is selling \$5 Twins Home Opener Seats in a general seating section behind home plate, for Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday is also Dollar Dome Dog night)
  - ✓ GAPSA social is Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ COGS sponsored PubQuiz and/or Karaoke night to be announced
  
- **Leadership Award Deadline extension (Now due 3/28/08, 5pm)**
  - ✓ Everyone/anyone can apply
  
- **Confirmation of Senators: Formally Approved!**
  - ✓ Christopher McCormick
  - ✓ Guillermo Alfonzo
  - ✓ Brien Gibbens
  - ✓ Pamela Weisenhorn

**Presentation & Discussion**

- **Jerry Rinehart (Vice Provost for Student Affairs) will describe the Student Life Capital Enhancement Fee, and would appreciate some perspective and ideas regarding what type of study/lounge space graduate students would value.**
  - ✓ Many major projects are being explored that effect student life at the University.
  - ✓ They will expand the rec center
  - ✓ Renovate Northrup
  - ✓ Add student lounge space
  - ✓ Many of these projects are often not projects that the state is willing to pay for.
  - ✓ \$12.50 - \$100 per semester over the course of 5 years
  - ✓ Will develop a student advisory group to help 'keep things in check', but the executive committee will still make the final decisions.

- ✓ Need more ideas from students about what types of projects they would value
- ✓ Questions/comments from the GA:
  - ✓ Is this an undergraduate or graduate fee or both? Both. Graduate students don't necessarily value the same kinds of spaces as undergraduates do. Graduates tend to like more private spaces and undergraduates like public spaces. Response: Need more ideas from graduate students about what they want. Could work on a department level.
  - ✓ Need graduate student family-friendly spaces. Response: There is a Family Center for undergraduates, but not for graduate students. Need to keep in touch about this idea, there is a lot of interest in this project idea.
  - ✓ What about the rec center renovations that were supposed to be happening a long time ago, where did that money go? Response: Money was set aside for projects and other things came up, things change (this part was vague).
  - ✓ What about the St. Paul campus, are there any project ideas happening over there? Response: The SPCC really needs a lot of work, might need a total re-haul. St. Paul has a great academic focus, but the student life aspect needs a lot of work.
  - ✓ Can't they take this money out of our tuition and not charge us another fee? Graduate student assistantships/fellowships do not pay for fees. Response: If it's taken out of the tuition, then the money goes to the college and the Student Affairs Office wouldn't be able to get the money.
  - ✓ What about students who pay the reduced student fee? Would they have to pay the full price for this fee? Response: This fee would only apply to students who pay the full-time student fee.
  - ✓ Email Jerry Rinehart ([g-rine@umn.edu](mailto:g-rine@umn.edu)) with any more questions.

**Presentation:**

- **GoldPASS, Bill Marshall**
  - ✓ GoldPASS is for job searching, events information, interviewing, applying for jobs, connecting you to prospective employers
  - ✓ You need to be an enrolled student to use this system

- ✓ 17,000 students are registered in the system, most of them are undergraduates.
- ✓ Can search with a job category, and various other methods, can save your searches and have them email you when new jobs appear with your search criteria (per day)
- ✓ Upload a word document or .pdf resume
- ✓ Employers do not have to pay, just need to find the site and register. Whenever a prospective employer calls any Career Center they refer them to GoldPASS.
- ✓ Need some QC, so a Career Center has to approve of your resume first before they place it on GoldPASS.
- ✓ Internal University positions (like from the Office of Human Resources website) are not on GoldPASS, but maybe someday.
- ✓ Also note, the Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC) also refers employers to GoldPASS
- ✓ Take home message, sign-up and let them come to you, even if your not looking for a job yet.

### Discussion:

- **Organizing a student group within your program (Eden Kaiser)**
  - ✓ How many of you have a functioning GSA in your department? (A number of folks raised their hands)
  - ✓ For those who don't, GSA's can be a great way to enact change in your department. Be a liaison between the students of your department and the DGS. Learn how to revive a defunct organization.
  - ✓ Eli's story (not present): GSA student survey helped fuel the discussion about split TA-ships in his department and now they don't have them anymore.
  - ✓ More GSA's will encourage interdepartmental connections at the college-university levels, these connections can help enact change at higher levels.
  - ✓ Eden's story: The more organized you are as a student body, the more it says about the requests/demands you are asking for to the faculty/staff of the department. In her department, they were able to drum up enough interest in the department to create more 8000-level seminars and a student-run conference -all through their functioning departmental GSA.
  - ✓ Would make the information available online as well.
  - ✓ The workshop is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 – 5:00 in Rm 1-132, Carlson CSOM and 5:00 – 7:00 for Happy hour at the

Acadia Café. Please RSVP: [kaise113@umn.edu](mailto:kaise113@umn.edu) or [meye0781@umn.edu](mailto:meye0781@umn.edu) or [cogs@umn.edu](mailto:cogs@umn.edu)

**Proposed Resolution: "Creation of a Graduate Student Sustainability Committee" Presented by Matthew Kaplan**

- ✓ Resolution attached to the end of these minutes.
- ✓ Not intended to be a community service committee.
- ✓ The University of Minnesota is the first and only Big Ten university to have signed a climate commitment
- ✓ Kathy O'Brien the VP for University Services already oversees all sustainability practices at the U.
- ✓ This will help grad students get in-the-know, will create a point-of-information center.
- ✓ Lots of comments supporting the idea of having a sustainability committee, some concern about sustaining such a committee.
- ✓ Committee would be ad-hoc, and would have to reconvene every year because there is no standing requirement for this committee in the bylaws.
- ✓ Vote on resolution: Everyone approved as is, no Nay's or Abstentions.

**Updates**

- **Collaborative Focus Group**
  - ✓ Need more volunteers for the focus group, Tuesday March 11 at 5pm, send an email by Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at noon to Rachel Hartreeve at [hartr002@umn.edu](mailto:hartr002@umn.edu)
- **COGS Election Information**
  - ✓ Many positions are opening up, including COGS President! Some have a small stipend, time commitments vary by position.
  - ✓ Elections will be at the next GA on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Save Yar Campaign Update**
  - ✓ The fundraiser in February went really well, there is another fundraiser in April.
  - ✓ Award ceremony in April to be given to Gabriel Solomon for his work in protecting Human Rights.
  - ✓ The award ceremony is also a send-away celebration for Gabriel and others who are traveling to Sudan next week.
- **P & R chair needed for Ed. & Psych.**
  - ✓ See Caroline Hilk if interested

- ✓ We always need alternates, email [cogs@umn.edu](mailto:cogs@umn.edu) if interested! Great CV building opportunity...
- **Central Corridor**
  - ✓ \$190 extra for the tunnel, this idea has been essentially tossed out.
  - ✓ Northern route on 9<sup>th</sup> ave is being talked about, Bruininks and the Student Senate support this idea. Possible pedestrian-only or limited transit area on Washington.
  - ✓ \$27 million for WA Bridge updates to support the train.
- **Spielberg Committee**
  - ✓ Both movies shown so far were a great success, 60/100 attendance with a hand-full at Bordertown to discuss the movies afterward.
  - ✓ Next movie idea: Sound of Music sing-along/costume/role-playing extravaganza!
  - ✓ Need more funding
  - ✓ Another idea: Film festival/contest, American Idol style!
- **Student University Senate**
  - ✓ 7% increase in tuition, only 5% for MN residence and if household income is <150K.
  - ✓ Fair Trade Coffee resolution will be voted on at the University Senate. (For resolution see <http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/resolutions/coffeeres.htm>) Send your support/concerns to [cogs@umn.edu](mailto:cogs@umn.edu), or become a senator and get involved!
  - ✓ We always need University Senators and Alternates, we have 7 voting seats and we need to fill every one.

### Introducing GAPSA Presidential Candidates:

- **James Faghmous (not present)**
- **Kristi Kremers**
  - ✓ Tomorrow (March 7) is the last day to register to run for GAPSA President. Presidential debate on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Vote online on April 6-8<sup>th</sup>.
  - ✓ April 20<sup>th</sup> is the date to run for a General Election position, voting will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - ✓ Current GAPSA At-Large Director
  - ✓ Planned and ran the Graduate Student Conference in February.
  - ✓ Passionate about the cost of education, building communities, interdisciplinary education, international student issues and funding.

- ✓ Current MN representative for the National GAPSA, will run the National conference on the UMN campus this fall.

## **RESOLUTION**

### ***Council of Graduate Students – University of Minnesota***

---

**Date:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Author:** Matthew Kaplan

**Topic:** Creation of a Graduate Student Sustainability Committee

.....

**WHEREAS** environmental sustainability is a crucial global goal reflected by various practices, pursuits, and studies for both faculty and students at the University of Minnesota;

**WHEREAS** University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks has, as of January 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year, signed a landmark University Presidents Climate Commitment to minimize negative environmental impact<sup>1</sup> and bestowed upon VP for University Services Kathleen O'Brien an official capacity to oversee the University's sustainability efforts, further evidencing the University's timely integration of sustainability into its short- and long-term goals<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS** such responsibilities for ensuring sustainability rest not only on the shoulders of University administration but also on the very students in whom the future and reputation of the University is invested;

**WHEREAS** the Council of Graduate Students, its program representatives, and graduate students in general at the University of Minnesota are uniquely positioned to work with faculty and administration on ensuring such positive sustainable practices are employed and/or considered in terms of curricula ranging from the sciences to humanities, academic policy, academic development, physical material and waste disposal, career development, land development, etc.;

**BE IT SO RESOLVED** that the Council of Graduate Students will form a new Committee for the Promotion of Sustainability, which will work with University Services, CFANS' Institute for Social, Economic, and Ecological Sustainability (ISEES), various environmental student and local organizations (e.g., MPIRG, EcoWatch, Applied Environmental Solutions), faculty, and other students to help facilitate the integration of sustainable practices and philosophies into aforementioned aspects of University development.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mndaily.com/articles/2008/01/22/72165064>

<sup>2</sup> Previewed at <http://www.uservices.umn.edu/sustainableU/future.html>