

Council of Graduate Students, Final General Assembly Meeting, Fall 2008, Coffman Union, Room 303

5:45 Moving to approve minutes (approved)

Joao – IT Consultation Committee

- Expansion: When the BioSci department moves, there will be a shift in IT
- Building a new physics building. Need to expand dept. that has been the same size for 20 years. Joao asks for 5-6 volunteers to take up cause of discussing expansion with Deans and others.

Carolyn Chalmers—Conflict Resolution Office

- Office deals with employee disputes and provides mediation in TA-Faculty Conflicts
- Graduate students are especially vulnerable in disputes because of the benefits of professionalization and the importance of networking between students and their mentors.
- The office is a confidential, private place and Chalmers & Staff are “here to help”
- Respond to complaints of academic incivility, graduate student harassment and advisor work-pay (for TAs and RAs) among other crucial issues.

Mandy Stahre notes that she has emailed COGS’ surveys to P&R members

- Stahre would like to form a committee on Adviser quality. She has talked to Deans and they support it. One mtg this semester and two meetings next semester. Two students, from Health Sci and Vet Med, respectively, volunteer to participate. Stahre notes that she will send an email encouraging participation. (Open to others in other programs). Stahre notes that the experience of being on the committee would be worthwhile.

Peter Gloviczki discusses Statistics Clinic’s need for funding. Gloviczki notes clinic is valuable resource for students and may lose funding in May.

- Pamela Weisenhorn says Clinic is run by Stats students. Carol Powers notes that not all Statistics programs are supported by Clinic and that the Clinic sometimes lacks knowledge about complex statistical problems.
- Geoff Hart proposes he’ll send an email to Clinic asking if they’d like assistance from COGS in gaining funding. Hart suggests an email to raise awareness.

Geoff Hart discusses progress on Distance Learning initiative.

- Need to find more model programs. In 1998, there was a University committee on Distance Learning and a ten-page report was prepared. Hart reports it was suggested, in that report, that all 8000 level classes should be held to stringent, comparable standards as classroom based courses. Stresses importance of, at least occasional, person-to-person meetings. Hart notes that the Digital Media Center facilitates distance learning on campus. COGS will investigate further.

Boyd Cothran and Geoff Hart discuss meeting with Bill Venne, email fundraising campaign.

- 350 Past COGS leaders notified, process will continue through Spring.

Vladymir Gidzak discusses the application for residency for students.

- Difficult to gain residency, but possible. Importance of community connections/involvement and/or a significant undertaking, such as owning a house.

Geoff Hart gives update on UMORE Park committee; Jenny Corcoran explains mission of area, located in Rosemount.

COGS elects Andy Exley VP of finance. (unanimous, Carol Powers nominates him)

Paper resolution

Typo corrected, no discussion, 100% passed.

Green roofs resolution

No discussion passed 100%.

Open Discussion Items

- GAPSA Fee—definition of membership
 - How would/should COGS vote?
 - Non-fee paying students weren't able to vote in GAPSA election.
 - Reasons why need to be defined in constitution/bylaws.
- P& R Council Discussions
 - Writing workshop proposals
 - Could count towards PhD Thesis Credits
 - What about masters students? Why can't students just sit in? (i.e. "fake audit, not in the books).

- Noted that dept/program will have to create workshops, students just can't take any workshop in any program. Working on a one-credit ABD option for this situation.
- Outside faculty as adjunct for grad schools
 - Will this mislead students? (26 faculty, but only four in department) This is a common practice in Canada/Europe, but raises questions about fairness to students.
 - What are the best practices for doing this? COGS should investigate. This will be up for a vote in the Spring. This approach would be good for mentoring young students and fostering collaboration.