GSA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 5:15 pm
DRC2 room 1002


- August meeting minutes approved

- Old business
  - August elections:
    - President: Erin Rosenbaugh
    - Vice-president: Jamie Arnst
    - Secretary: Amanda Lakamp
    - Treasurer: Ariel Burns
    - Social Chairs: Krupa Savalia, Eric Tom
  - Graduate Studies Orientation:
    - Students recommend getting ID prior to orientation due to the long line
  - Welcome Back BBQ
    - 210 people attended
    - Spent $1400.00: Red Zone BBQ ($1315.00), Pop/Ice ($65), Fundraiser Prizes ($20)
    - Students liked Red Zone BBQ’s service and food.
    - Need to advertise as a “Student ONLY” event
    - Suggested to have a complete list of current grad student names to confirm enrollment as a grad student for GSA event participation
  - Dessert Competition and Fundraiser:
    - Raised $90 (lower than expected) and increased petty cash to $170.00
    - Winners: 1st Erin Wuebben CRGP, 2nd Michelle Edgen, 3rd Jenn Kopanic
    - Fundraiser wasn’t well advertised, info was lost in the BBQ emails
  - Student Health Forum:
    - Only Pat Oberlander from Macori presented, Tere Batt from Student Health was unable to attend and present Fund B
Students felt it was helpful, although the room was too small
Hope to reserve a larger room to accommodate more students next year

- New business
  - GSA website revised and updated
    o New and revised tips/info and links for both new and more senior students
    o Send comments or suggestions to Amanda Lakamp
  - Changes to BRTP courses
    o Graduate council decided to redefine the BRTP courses to prevent overlap of lectures
      - 821: topic Cellular Energetics will be added (might make this course harder)
      - 822: More focused on Cell Biology; Cell adhesion, Vesicular/Membrane Transport lectures will be added. Thus Genetics will be moved to 823
        - Nucleic Acids/Chromatin and Protein Translation & Degradation will be moved to 823
        - 823 will focus more on genetics and gene expression
        - 824 will remain the same
    o This reconstruction DOES NOT effect or apply to current grad students
    o Graduate council have also discussed the potential of making departments have uniform course requirements for graduation...ex: PhD students must have a minimum of 9 classes to graduate.
      But this is still under discussion and no changes have currently been planned.
  - Student Senate: applications in October, elections in November (11 seats)
    o Senate meets 1st Wednesday of every Month (dinner provided)
    o Contact Erin Rosenbaugh for application instructions
    o 2 goals for the year: Potential Goals
      - Reduce the cost of Major Medical Macori Insurance
      - Develop a better Dental Plan
      - Develop a Student Parking Structure
      - Enforce grad students to complete comprehensive exam by end of 4th year
      - Course Administrators to have a finalized syllabus and class time/schedule by the commencement of the course
    - Viewing of the PhD comics movie
- After September 15th, Several students are interested
- Cost of first screening is $700, Blue Ray and DVD format
- Looking for Co-sponsor with UNO, Creighton, and/or UNMC Student Senate
- UNO has a comic scholar and may create a course to cover the screening fee
- May require an admission fee

  - Formation of a “Student Issues” committee (See GSA Constitution)
    - VP would be the chair of this committee and delegate problems pertaining to IT, registration, and parking issues for graduate students
    - Looking into updating computer equipment in DRC classrooms (lack sufficient number of internet jacks for students)
    - Wireless internet connections diminish at higher floors since routers are on the 1st floor. Some students would prefer to have wireless routers in laboratories

  - UNMC Student Parking issues
    - If unable to find a parking in a student lot, park in an employee lot (NOT Visitor lot) and contact parking services and notify them where you parked (make sure to move your car if asked to)

  - GSA Halloween Havoc:
    - Friday, October 28th or Friday, November 4th (Depending on Road Rally scheduling)
    - At McFly’s Tavern (Center & 45th street) in the downstairs basement

  - Discussion of fall and spring seminars
      - 20yrs experience in Human Resources and designing/implementing creative staffing programs and executive search practices within Life Sciences
      - Pharmaceuticals/biotechnology industries, including Pfizer, Eisai, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Biogen Idec, Genzyme and Infinity Pharmaceuticals contact him when seeking to hire a position within their company
      - Areas of interest: how to apply for positions in these related companies and how to get the job
    - Potential Seminar topics:
      - Education hiring consultant
      - Comparing job criteria between Undergraduate vs. Graduate education
      - A list of all possible careers for Ph.D./post-graduates
• Get involved in GSA! Sign up for a committee