GSA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 4th, 2012 at 5:15 pm
DRCII rm 1002

- **Members Present:** Duy Ha, Krupa Savalia, Ariel Burns, Prathamesh Patil, Heather Talbott, Jamie Arnst, Caronda Moore, Danielle Tate, Carly Ninemire, Alex Moffit, Tim Bielecki, Brittany Poulaert, and Amanda Lakamp presided.

- Minutes from September 2012 meeting approved and found on GSA website

- **Old Business**
  - Officer Introductions
    - Krupa, Ariel, Duy, Heather, and Prathamesh introduced themselves
  - International Student Orientation
    - Krupa and Raheleh volunteered as GSA representatives
    - GSA donated coffee and cookies from HyVee ($50)
    - Thank you received from Danielle Dohrman
      - Casual event went well and encouraged Danielle to involve the GSA at next year’s international student orientation.
  - New Student Orientation
    - Thursday, August 16th…very good turn out
    - Comments or suggestions from students:
      - Feedback was positive: useful information was provided to students
      - Suggested to have senior student panel to answer questions – perhaps GSA can incorporate into BBQ if not possible at orientation
  - Welcome Back BBQ
    - Friday, August 24th (11-1 pm) in Swanson Hall Courtyard
    - 223 attended, original budget ($1500)...spent ($1549.77)
    - Comments or suggestions:
      - Students found vegetarian options tasty and overall it went smoothly
      - Next time vendor needs to be told prior they will not be paid the day of the event to avoid any misunderstandings
  - Student Health Insurance Forum
    - Tuesday, August 28th (12-1:30 pm) in DRC 1005
    - 50 attended, spent ($248.15)
    - Thoughts on Student Panel Q&A Session … and Overall Comments:
      - Need bigger room such as DRC 1002 (Auditorium) or 1004
      - Next year will reserve and schedule with presenters ahead of time
      - Set date for last week of August to ensure before health waiver deadline
      - Call food vendor directly instead of UNMC catering to avoid surcharge

- **New Business**
  - October meeting
- Amanda will be absent for October meeting, Krupa will preside in her place
  o Dr. Dele Davies will attend Oct. meeting to discuss changes in University system and to have a Q&A session
- Great time to discuss student issues (maternity leave, parking, etc)
- Graduate students encouraged to send questions to Krupa ahead so they can be presented in an organized manner
- Push for advertisement of event since critical issues will be discussed
  - Biostatistics Workshop
    o Joyce Solheim, CRGP Academic Advisor
    o Wants to offer basic biostatistics workshop (3-4 hrs) for all grad students
    o Looking for GSA sponsorship of credit hours
    - Overall, students hope organizers will be able to make event free
    - GSA financial support may be limited, but would like to give input
    - Students suggest course material to directly relate statistical concepts and applications to tasks most likely encountered in research rather than general lectures from courses already offered
  - Library Resources Seminar (Ariel and Jamie)
    o Allisa Fial (education librarian) presents a 1 hr seminar
    o September Event
      ▪ Event will take place on September 18th, 2012 from 9:45-11:00AM
      ▪ DRC 1002 and 1004 both reserved; will choose based on numbers
      ▪ Topics suggested: Refworks, Resources that graduate students may not know about such as having librarian help with literature search
      ▪ Ask for postdoc involvement, if they can help with snacks/beverages
  - GSA Halloween Havoc
    o Avoid College of Medicine Road Rally (scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27th)
    o Location (previous: McFly’s Tavern off Center/45th St.)
    o Food: Sam’s Club/Costco goodies
      ▪ Event will take place November 2nd to avoid Road Rally (Oct 27th)
      ▪ Location of McFly’s chosen due to size of space and ample parking
      ▪ Get similar food as last year – fruit and veggies were good options
      ▪ No gift-card costume contest prizes – focus money on food and beverages….instead to gag gifts as contest prizes
- Grad Council meeting
  o Recommended changes to funding requirements for NIH and UNMC
    ▪ Increased number of enrolled graduate students, age of graduating students and the duration of PhD career has also increased
    ▪ As of July 1, 2012 the government will no longer cover subsidized loan interest (no deferment or government subsidy of new Stafford loans)
    ▪ Decreased funding for US/domestic students … capped funding to 5th year
    ▪ Increase number of students covered by training grants and fellowships versus research project grant without increasing number of students in lab
Evidence shows students trained on or applied for K, T or F awards are more successful than those trained on R01s...examine the outcome of all PhD graduates across the US

Graduate Council and Graduate Studies want to monitor the career track of UNMC alumni from Graduate Studies

Requested an Alumni Relations department/representative for grad students and currently working with the UNMC alumni relations to do so.

Other Business

- Senate Representative Elections in November
  - All interested graduate students are encouraged to be a senate rep.
  - UNeMED webinar: “Research Commercialization Introductory Course.”
    - September 19th, encouraged to pre-register by emailing Val Gunderson at vgunders@unmc.edu by Sept. 14th
    - Caronda Moore represented UNeMED and informed students that course can be taken online and students will receive a certificate upon completion if not more than two classes are missed
  - GSA will help advertise by posting flyers around campus
- Request for a list of regional Industrial/biomedical research organizations for potential job opportunities for UNMC grad students after pre-doctorate degree
  - Duy Ha and Academic Affairs Committee will accomplish

Individual Committee Meetings

- Discuss duties and responsibilities of committee members and set goals for 2012-2013
  - Committee leaders were given lists of members and will contact them

Take group photo

- Deferred to a future meeting

Adjourn