GSA Meeting Minutes
October 7th, 2008
5:00 PM
Wittson Hall 3042

James Randazzo presided.

Approved minutes for September meeting.

Graduate student blog:
- The old blog crashed so a new one is now up and working.
- It was suggested that instructions for posting to UNMC blogs be put on the website, which Tess Eidem volunteered to do.
- Bloggers were encouraged to post.

Student Health Forum
- 41 people showed up.
- It was suggested that the Student Health Forum be combined with the Fall BBQ or orientation so new students would have more time to decide on extra coverage, dental, etc.
- Pictures of the forum will be placed on the website.

Committees still in need of extra volunteers.

Topics still being discussed for 2008-2009 seminars/workshops:
- Speaker from the CDC has not replied to Agnes Constantino
- Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo stem cell speakers
- Workshops regarding grant proposals, resume building etc.
- Careers after graduate school speaker—career center in Lincoln may have a speaker that will help with CVs

Student Senate elections
- Nov. 11 & 12 9 AM – 5 PM
- Packets were handed out with information of eligibility, rules, and application forms.
- 10 at-large seats for graduate students.

The Student Senate has pushed for a tobacco-free campus with the potential enforcement start date in July 2009.
Sorrell student art display; it is past the due date, but artwork can still be turned into Patti George or Dr. David Carver.

A philanthropy event was suggested; could be a food drive associated with a social event, adopting a family for Christmas, Lydia House volunteering, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Jessica will look into possible volunteer work.

Assistantship/Fellowship Competition
• New “Letter of Intent” due December 15 for new applicants. This includes a working title and a brief 250-400 word.
• People who already have a fellowship don’t have to fill out a letter of intent.
• Meant to aid study section chairs in the selection of reviewers.
• The rest of the application due February 15th as normal.
• Handout given with application information.
• Any changes will be addressed at the October 16th Graduate Council Meeting

October Social Event—Halloween Havoc
• Barrett’s Pub, October 25th, 8 PM
• $5/person with costume, $6 without
• Will see if we can have access to the outdoor volleyball courts
• Prizes for three best costumes, contest begins at 10 PM
• Tess, Haley, and Jessica will arrive early to set up

Other Business
• Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum (MSBRF) abstract submission due December 19.
• Suggested old BRTP exams be placed on the pre-matriculation site.