GSA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 5th, 2007
5:00 PM
Wittson Hall 3037

Members Present: Mario Fernandez, James Randazzo, Carmen Brindeiro, Brad Creamer, Heidi Johnson, Tara Nordgren, Jessica Hutter, Paula Klutho, Eric Miller, Saili Moghe, Debra Irsik, Alex Portillo, and Aishwarya Prakash.

Approval of minutes from November Meeting

Old Business: UNMC Fellowship/Assistantship Competition

- Changes approved at the last UNMC Graduate Council Meeting:
  - Fellowships will be reviewed in a similar manner as in the 2007 competition
  - The length of the proposal has been extended from 5 to 7 pages, with the additional space to be used for preliminary data.
  - Progress reports will remain as no more than 3 double spaced pages
  - Study section descriptions submitted by GSA will be the descriptions used for the 2008 descriptions (see below)
  - Students classified as first-year students will not be allowed to compete
  - A critique form has been created and will be handed out to the applicant once the competition is completed.
  - Only ONE recommendation letter is required. The letter must be from your Supervisory Committee Chair (advisor).
    - The letter of recommendation is no longer part of the score.
  - The proposal, grades, and student’s productivity will be graded on a scale of 1-5 (1 being great, 5 being poor). The total score will be weighted 60% from the proposal, 15% from grades, and 25% from productivity.
  - All applications will be submitted electronically.
  - Students that obtained funding last year while a first year student need to see Amy. They should only have to submit a renewal (progress report).

Revised Study Sections

1. *Systems Biology:* Topics may include aspects of complex interactions in physiology, pharmacology, pathology, and developmental biology.

2. *Biochemistry or Molecular Biology:* Topics may include aspects of structural biology, gene expression, biophysics, and protein function.

3. *Cell Biology:* Topics may include aspects of signal transduction, metabolism, trafficking, pathology, microbiology, immunology, and neuroscience at the cellular level.

4. *Drug Development, Design, or Therapy:* Topics may include aspects of nanomedicine, immunology, pharmaceutical studies, and nanoparticle chemistry.

5. *Genetics:* Topics may include aspects of genetic studies in all areas of the life sciences and genomics.
6. Bioinformatics, Epidemiology, and Clinical/Translational Research: Topics may include aspects in nursing and allied health areas, the behavioral sciences, the development of clinical trials, and the analysis of biological problems using biostatistics and computer science.

New Business: GSA Workshop
- Grammer Hammer by Myron Toews, Thursday Jan 17th, 2008 (noon)
- Currently will be held in DRC 1004 (may be moved to larger room if necessary)
- Mario suggested requiring students to register for this workshop to ensure that the room does not overflow. The members present disagreed with the idea.

GSA Sponsored Social Event
- Suggestions were taken for the next event which included:
  - Ice skating
  - Group movie night
  - Laser tag

UNMC Student Senate Constitutional Amendments
- Amendment #1. Change one (1) of the eleven (11) Graduate Studies at-large seats on the student senate to a designated (automatic) seat for the President of the Graduate Student Association. Rationale: All of the other programs (medicine, pharmacy, nursing, and allied health) have designated senate seats for class presidents. It would be consistent to have the GSA president as a designated senate member.

GSA Constitution
- If Amendment #1 passes, then the GSA Constitution will have to be changed.

Other Business: Student Senate Elections
- The following students have been elected to be the Graduate Student representatives at the UNMC Student Senate:
  - Karel Capek
  - Agnes Constantino
  - Megan Montgomery
  - Nissa Mollema
  - Andy Yang
  - Tomas Helikar
  - Kaylan Nannuru
  - James Randazzo
  - Paula Klutho
  - Aishwarya Prakash
  - Mario Fernandez

Submitted by,

James Randazzo