

Graduate Professional Student Committee

October 22nd 2018- Agenda

Time: 11:30 am

Start Time:

Location: SGA conference room

Invitation sent to: Mitra, Nada, Leila, Constance, Dianelis, Jam, Teresa, Michelle

Attendees: Mitra, Nada, Leila (had to leave early), Jam, Constance (on the phone), Dianelis

For this meeting we will be addressing the following points:

- I. Approval of last MoM**
 - **Approved**
- II. Welcoming of new Graduate Senator: Jam**
 - A. Comments? Questions?
 - **Jam says he will let us know**
 - B. Updates about Finance Committee
 - **Two requests were reviewed at the finance committee:**
 - **First one was from a football group**
 - **Second one was from a group of students who kept rescheduling and not attending the finance committee meetings, therefore their request will be rejected.**
- III. Meeting with UGS discussion**
 - A. Travel fund - considering accommodation
 - **Mitra spoke to the PhD Coordinator at EC**
 - **According to the meeting they had expressed concern and asked why accommodation was not covered by the travel amounts on the SOP.**
 - **Mitra proposed GPSC consider speaking to Teresa about capping the amount.**
 - **Constance expressed concern about the safety of students, which the PhD Coordinator at EC had said about students finding the cheapest accommodations.**
 - **Due to the nature of the travel funds and what they cover, GPSC will consider capping the amount of travel allocation and adding to the SOP that travel will be covered up to \$100, after all other expenses are taken into account. The option remains that those traveling can use Air BnB**
 - **Nada brings up the point of checking with ASBO to make sure this is not a concern, including the problem with split invoices with hotels, if ASBO accepts rates from Air BnB locations, etc.**

- Mitra also proposes that we have GPSC assisting in reviewing applications as there is only one person in ASBO reviewing applications at the moment, both for more efficiency, and a faster response time.
 - GPSC will request Teresa to teach the committee how to review the applications and we will propose to host a 2 week trial period to see if this works better
- B. Proposal: funding for research
- Mitra will be working on the proposal for the funding research and hopes to have more information in December.
- C. Proposal: research fair
- This was stricken from GPSC's consideration, the student who had expressed concern has been working on this initiative on his own and does not need our support for the time being.
- D. Letters: Stipend discussion and feedback
- The letters GPSC received from constituents which showed statistics such as higher stipends being disbursed to GAs, TAs, and other graduate assistant positions at UCF (\$2,500), and UM.
 - Mitra made sure the names were blocked out of all letters received for anonymity purposes. She will be drafting letters to the Deans of the different colleges (EC, SIPA, CASE) from where complaints were received summing up all the information, and attaching the original letters without names as support to this claim
 - Mitra also mentioned we has a video that was sent by student, but we will not be attaching it, only summarizing the information on the video, for now, in order to protect ALL student anonymity in this phase of discussion

IV. GAB Meeting Updates

- A. What was discussed
- Sean brought up the issue of the stipends brought to the table initially by GPSC, and asked for any more feedback from the GAB members
 - Sean from GAB expressed at the GAB meeting that they had a good batch of applicants, and the finalized decision served for GAB to have almost one representative per school
 - At the meeting they discuss one topic of concern for grad students, per meeting, and they spoke about advising policies, more available in their meeting minutes.

V. Updates on Travel Fund video

- A. Brandie
- November 7th
 - Constance: made video for Law School

VI. Law Liaison for Competition Team

- A. Discussion about Special Cases and SOP

- GPSC has been speaking about making a special exception for the Law Team traveling to compete and represent FIU in Vienna next semester, and providing them a special allocation of funds.
- B. Finalize amount
- GPSC has been considering if to award them with a special exception of \$400 to \$500. The committee reached the decision that the amount of \$450 per student traveling would be a fair amount for the Law Team

VII. Gradskellar

A. Upcoming Gradskellar at Stemple (150 serving - 1 hour)

- Mitra will pick up the card swipes for sign in (2)
 1. What else do we need
 - Set-up logistics are pending. Mitra, Leila and Nada can be present. Sean from GAB has offered to assist and will attend the event as well for support.
 2. GPSC name tags
 - Teresa completed the order and the GPSC members have received their name tags
 3. Event logistics and assistance
 - Mitra will need to request tables for the labs; will need at least one more
 4. SGA Minutes
 - Nada pointed out that the minutes for SGA needed to be fixed because it says the Gradskellar will be November 24th when it will be on October 24th
- B. Future Gradskellars
- GPSC, as per Mitra's proposal, will consider requesting an appropriation from SGA in order to have sufficient funds for a Gradskellar at the Engineering Center this semester.

VIII. Discussion about our new Social Media

A. @FIUGPSC

- Nada proposed using the GPSC email, but will speak with Teresa about this.

B. Responsibilities

- Nada will make them and we will discuss further later

IX. Discuss other Meeting Times (October, November, Etc.)

- Mondays 11-12

X. Committee Updates

A. Mitra, Nada, Leila, Jam, Constance, Dianelis

- Mitra will forward meeting dates for GAB to all of the GPSC members

XI. Advisor Updates

A. Michelle, Teresa

- N/A

Next meeting: November 5th @ 11am

Meeting adjourned: 1:10pm