**GSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

**6:30PM, Watson Center A74**

Meeting started at 6:41PM.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved.

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is approved.

1. Announcements: Card Swipe and Opening up Executive Board

Alex Zhang: please tap your ID on the WaveID attached to my computer after the meeting, if you have not already. This semester, as part of the initiative to improve transparency and communication this year, we are opening up executive board meetings. We can accommodate five reps at each meeting (with four open spots and one spot reserved for any rep who may have worked on or need to speak on an agenda item). This is a fantastic way to get involved and to engage in productive dialogue with the eboard. Please email me three days in advance (for catering counts) if you would like to come. The next executive board meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 19.

1. Questions Regarding the New Rep Packet

Wendy: please read the new rep packet if you have not already! Rodion Kosovsky: is this a living document? Do we update it every single year? Wendy: I updated it for this year, and Nick updated it last year. I would think that a responsible chair would update it next year. Rodion Kosovsky: Great, I just know that the issues are time-sensitive.

1. GSA Budget Review and Approval

Jenn Sun presented the GSA budget. Over the summer, we requested more funds from the graduate school, and the request was approved. This year, the budget comes to a total of $91,450, about $5,000 more than last year. Jenn Sun explained where the increase has gone, including departmental meetings (for all reps who should be allotted to each department, not just for all *sitting* reps), executive board meetings (because we are opening up eboard), and outreach (PR has a budget of $800 now). GSA has a budget of $1,000 for event sponsorship, where rep can ask the general assembly to spend on particular events. If we have a surplus, we use it for swag purchase and other event sponsorships.

Grant Mandigora: we are maybe spending too much money on food? (Unnecessarily so.) Wendy Xiao: food is a big incentive for people to come, and if they do not come, we will not be able to get things done. I understand that we are spending quite a bit of money, but the presence of GSA reps is the most thing. Sharif Kronemer: I second the thought, since we can put the money to more productive use. Shanelle Shillingford: can we buy food and donate it (for community-building purposes)? Jenn Sun: I would have to check with the business office, which is very strict about what type of things we can spend money on. For example, we could not give away a $25 amazon giftcard last year, nor could we hold a fundraising event. Stephen Gaughran: we could purchase items for fundraisers? Jenn Sun: probably, but the business office has to make sure that the money is being spent to do something. Gillian Anderson: we can sneak in a donation? I can get you the information on that. Rodion Kosovsky: can we reimburse committee for their expenses for the future (e.g., surveys)? Jenn Sun: we can do that, as long as the committee chair gives proper notice and justification. Fabian Schrey: also, if we have a pile of money for which the purpose is not specified, there may be various problems (for example, we may have to spend a lot of money in April because there has not been use). Laura Brown: it might be worthwhile to mention that our budget does not roll over. Whatever is not spent gets given back to the university.

Budget is approved (50 aye, 4 nay, 2 abstention).

1. Election: Steering Committee

Nominations (SS): Katie Oltman, Grant Mandigora

Katie Oltman and Grant Mandigora are elected to the Steering Committee.

Nominations (open spots): Sarah Smaga, Paul Burow, Ryan Petersberg, Susan Pratt, Rodion Kosovsky, and Patrice Collins.

Sarah Smaga’s statement was read. Ryan Petersberg, Patrice Collins, Rodion Kosovsky, Susan Pratt, and Paul Burow made speeches.

Susan Pratt, Patrice Collins, Paul Burow, and Sarah Smaga are elected to the steering committee.

1. Election: Mental Health Advisory Committee

Nominations: Nebo Todorovic

Nebo Todorovic is elected to the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

1. Election: Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee

Nominations: Usha Rungoo and Connor Williams

Usha Rungoo and Connor Williams made speeches.

Connor Williams is elected to the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee.

1. Election: President’s Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility

Nominations: Theodore Park and Bonnie Jin

Theodore Park is elected to the President’s Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility.

1. Questions for Panelists at Data Science Careers Event

Tabled.

1. Miscellaneous: GSA Picture and Swag, T&S Announcement

Picture and swag are tabled.

For people interested in Transit and Security, there is a meeting after general assembly.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:05PM.