

Graduate and Professional Student Senate of West Virginia University

Monday, March 13th, 2017 | 7:00 PM | Evansdale Crossing, Room 414

Meeting Agenda

- I. Attendance, Welcome
 - a. Meeting called to order, 7:05 pm
- II. Officer Reports (*Officers* : 15 minutes)
 - a. President (*Will Armentrout*)
 - i. New GPSS Contact Information : gpss@mail.wvu.edu
 1. Will got the new email address, so we will update all information
 - ii. Announcement of 2017-2018 Elections
 1. Sam is running elections, information handout on the procedures and eligibility
 2. Campaigning – short speech at the April meeting for contested elections and voting will be at the April meeting
 3. Must have attended 2 meetings since August to be eligible for officer
 4. Encouraging any one to run for office, ask fellow grad students to stand for officer or senator positions
 - b. Vice-President (*Sam Horrocks*)
 - i. Discussion on the Future of GPSS and Goals for 2017-2018
 1. Discussion on the goals
 2. Because we are so new, we can still form the mission of the organization
 3. Sam's initial vision was to create a grad student union and the first step was a grad senate to make the connections
 4. Getting it off the ground has been tough, but we have new faces, new people and they can shape where the org is going in the future
 5. Secondary vision – serve as a rapid response team to grad issues to channel the upset when something happens that affects and mobilizes all grad students
 6. We've sent the message that the grad students are watching and will fight against unfair and draconian measures
 7. Keep trying new strategies for recruitment
 8. College tuition as the galvanizing issue – keep working with the deans or higher
 9. Think about the way we are connected to SGA, reticent at first to be closely tied with the undergrad issues – make the grad issues heard as a separate level
 10. Pete – SGA might be a problem unto themselves as they have many elections that are uncontested, but they are established
 11. Qe – how did other grad senates establish themselves?
 - a. From other NAGPS, it was good to come in as a separate SGA entity
 - b. Some issues with response as new admin and old fight
 12. Will brought GPSS in contact with entities outside of WVU and that should continue to network outside the university
 13. Help support the creation of departmental and college grad associations

14. Perhaps go more pessimistic with our recruitment – things are not doing well, we can help
 - a. This might have some merit, but how would it affect our relationship with the admin?
15. Maybe work on sponsoring more events with other associations to get our name out
 - a. Is there one event we could get our name attached to that would help with this?
16. Evansdale crossing constructed for student benefit, but what about fees rising, tuition rising, healthcare costs rising?
17. Relative degradation – people get angry with they see other people have better stuff. What do other grad students have in the Big 12 that we don't? What do comparable schools have that we don't?
18. Remind grad students that we are working for them and update them on what we have accomplished and ask for their input
 - a. Monthly intelligence briefing or semester briefing that updates all grad students on what we've learned, what we've accomplished

- c. Secretary (*Lindsey McNellis*)
 - i. Minutes from February
 - d. Treasurer (*Chris Morlock*)
 - i. Nothing to report
- III. Committee Reports (15 minutes)
- a. Graduate Student Advisory Council
 - i. Town Hall on main campus, Rhododendron room on 3/22 – but what time?
 - b. Student Government Association Affairs (*SGA Liaison, Nathan Tehrani*)
 - i. SGA Elections
 1. Another unopposed election this year (only 2nd in 10 years)
 2. Also SGA constitutional changes that grad students can vote on
 - a. Enable a special election to occur if someone is unable to fulfill their duties
 - i. GPSS supports this change
 - b. Optional \$5 addition to tuition to support study abroad scholarships (like a donation)
 - ii. Did get acknowledgement for the new Vice President of Grad Affairs
 - c. GPSS Committee on Recruitment and Outreach
 - i. Update of Roster (*Sam Horrocks*)
 1. New roster to hand out (check to make sure they are still students and then contact the department for a replacement)
 - ii. Live stream meetings for online students?
 - d. GPSS Committee on Social Activities (Amanda Bailey, Chair)
 - i. Grad Student Appreciation week 4/3-4/7
 1. Events on both campuses
 - e. Committee on Financial Affairs and Student Life (*Nathan Tehrani*)
 - i. Securing Graduate Student Spaces on University Committees
 1. Student Health Communication Committee is meeting on Thursday at 1 pm in CPASS
 - ii. Rather than fill these now, we intend to fill them by May for the 2017-2018 school year.
- IV. New Business (15 mins)
- a. Proposed Constitutional Change to the Description of the Position of Senator
 - i. Wording is cumbersome and makes it seem like they have a lot more time commitment than they would actually need to make

- ii. Provided revised language
 - iii. Vote – will be held in April
 - b. Interest in attending WVU Day at the Legislature?
 - i. Tuesday, March 28th in Charleston, WV
 - 1. Would be good to have a presence here – similar to the DC legislative days, but at the state level
 - 2. WV residents good, any WVU student good
 - 3. Coordinate with SGA or the SPO to send people down
 - ii. Request for an ad hoc “Legislative Concerns Chair”
 - 1. Would take on the organization of this – anyone?
- V. Old Business (5 mins)
 - a. Co-Sponsoring Three Minute Thesis
 - i. Sam is co-hosting
- VI. Open Floor
- VII. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, April 3rd at 7 pm
Greenbrier Room, Mountainlair