

GSAC Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 04, 2008

Presiding: Alina Yekelchik

Present:

Larry Dome, Mathematics; Dr. Kenneth Florey, English; Chris Goudarzy, Business Administration; Dr. Sandra Holley, Dean of Graduate Studies; Lois Lake Church, English; Eli Levy; Mrs. Arlene Lucibello, GSAC Coordinator; Bruno Nader, Computer Science; Ryan Newton, Psychology; Dr. Rhea Paul, Communication Disorders; El Mohamed Sheriff, Public Health; Scott Talpey, Exercise Science; Tara Weinberg, Special Education; Melissa VanTine, Library Science; Alina Yekelchik, Sociology

Meeting called to order by Alina Yekelchik at 3:09 pm.

Call confirmed those present. Ryan Newton was introduced as the Vice Chair of GSAC for the remainder of the Spring semester. New members, Chris Goudarzy, Eli Levy, Tara Weinberg, and Melissa VanTine were introduced.

Old Business:

Approval of December minutes:

No questions were raised regarding the minutes from the last meeting, nor were any corrections made. Larry Dome made a motion for approval of the minutes, and Lois Lake Church seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Announcements:

GSAC Workshop:

Given the success of the previous GSAC workshop, Alina Yekelchik reported the next GSAC workshop will be held on March 7 from 1:00-2:00 pm in Room 301 of the Adanti Student Center. Scott Talpey and Dr. Florey volunteered to speak at the workshop. Dr. Misty Ginicola will lead the meeting. Refreshments will be provided. Ms. Yekelchik welcomed other volunteers, expressed gratitude to the current volunteers, and requested members to communicate information about the meeting to their departments.

2008 Noel-Levitz Adult Student Priorities Survey:

Alina Yekelchik reported the Noel-Levitz Adult Student Priorities Survey will be mailed and encouraged members to complete and return the survey. Dean Holley would like to increase the number of respondents to the survey.

Holiday Baskets:

Alina Yekelchik reported the success of GSAC's involvement in the Holiday Basket project by meeting its goal of sponsoring over a dozen baskets. Ms. Yekelchik thanked everyone for helping to reach the goal.

Reports:**Web Committee:**

Alina Yekelchik reported she and Bruno Nader will have a draft of the GSAC website ready for Lisa Galvin by the next meeting. Mr. Mattia finished taking pictures of the current members for the website.

Dean's Report:**2008 Noel-Levitz Student Priorities Survey:**

Dean Holley reported all graduate students who are degree recipients for January 2008 or are degree candidates for May 2008 and August 2008 will receive the surveys. The SCSU community looks forward to the results and Dean Holley would like to increase the response rate from last year's 34%.

Graduate Enrollment:

Dean Holley reported a decrease in graduate enrollment over the past three years in congruence with national trends. Dr. Holley asked for comments or feedback from the committee. Dean Holley shared a memo listing six questions seeking to address the decline and reverse the trend. These questions will be sent to all graduate program chairpersons and coordinators.

10th Annual Graduate Commencement:

Dean Holley reminded graduate students need to apply for a degree through the Registrar's Office and apply through the Department of Graduate Studies to participate in the ceremony.

Food Contract:

Dean Holley reported that Vice President Herron is in the final stages of negotiating the food contract. In direct response to GSAC comments from our earlier meeting with VP Herron, Davis Hall is included in negotiation for food services in addition to the vending machines. A site with access to water on the first floor is being discussed. There are also plans to increase the hours of operation for food services in the Adanti Student Center over the weekends.

Budget:

Mrs. Lucibello reported no current activity for the budget.

New Business:**Career Services:**

Ms. Gerri Prince, a representative from Career Services, presented information detailing services offered to both undergraduate and graduate students. She promoted use of the Career Center where students can receive assistance drafting resumes, practicing interviewing skills, and job search strategies. She announced the upcoming launch of JOBS, Job Opportunities Benefiting Southern students, which is an online website recruitment program.

9th Annual SCSU Graduate English Student Conference

Dr. Kenneth Florey petitioned funding for the English Graduate program to subsidize the food cost and cover some expenses for the Ninth Annual SCSU Graduate English Student Conference on April 19, 2008. The food costs will be approximately \$750, of which \$500 was requested from GSAC. An additional \$250 was requested for fees from printing, mailing, and signs. The total request amounted to \$750.00 Larry Dome made a motion to approve the amount requested, Scott Talpey seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Noctua Review Funding:

Lois Lake Church petitioned funding for Noctua Review, the Graduate Arts and Literary Magazine of SCSU. She reported a good number of submissions so far and requested more artistic submissions. Dean Holley stated that the Graduate School would contribute \$800.00 to cover the remainder of the cost for the initial publication of the document.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Newton, GSAC Vice Chair