

A&S Graduate Student Association
Minutes for the Dec. 6 Meeting



Wednesday, December 6
James Blair, Rm 221
6.00-7.00 pm

I. Announcements

- A. Upcoming Meetings
 - University Center, York Room
 - 6-7pm on the following Wednesdays
 - January 24
 - February 21
 - March 21
 - April 11
- B. Graduate Research Symposium
 - Friday, March 30th & Saturday, March 31st
 - Record number of abstract submissions!*
 - Call for Abstracts Deadline: Friday, December 1
 - Submit abstracts at <http://www.wm.edu/so/gsa/symposium/index.php>
- C. Updates from the Student Assembly
- D. Raft Debate
 - Wednesday, February 7th
 - 7pm, Commonwealth Auditorium, University Center
 - 8:30pm, Reception in Chesapeake A

II. Items for Discussion

- A. 2007-2008 Budget Proposal
- B. Fundraiser ideas
- C. Student Conference Funding
 - Vote to amend content of funding guidelines
 - Discuss and vote on good standing provision
 - Discussion on formatting

III. Adjournment

Attendance

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Color of favorite shoes</i>
1.	Elise Larsen	Bio	Black & blue
2.	Joanna Conder	PP	Bright green
3.	Gwen Kennedy	PP	Brown
4.	Mimi Poe	Psych	Red
5.	Jonathan Holley	Bio	Blue/silver
6.	Pete Harris	Physics	Gray
7.	Zach Hilpert	AMST	Black
8.	Jack Fiorini	History	Black
9.	Meghan Revelle	CS	Black
10.	Berek Dore	Anthro	Black
11.	Kristie Schmidt	Chem	Red
12.	Krystle Cadogen	PP	Black
13.	Leanne Small	PP	Red velvet

Mimi called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. First, she announced that next semester's meetings will be held in the York Room on the main floor of the University Center. Next, Mimi reported that the Graduate Research Symposium received a record number of abstract submissions. Jonathan and Elise are sorting through the 80+ abstracts. Over twenty abstracts came from students at other schools such as ODU, JMU, GMU, JHU, WVU, USC, JHU, Clemson, and Georgetown.

Gwen gave an update from the Student Assembly. SA President Ryan Scofield vetoes a bill on judicial reform. The bill sought to change wording the Student Handbook from "clear and convincing" to "burden of proof" and change hearings to include a jury process. Ryan also vetoed a bill that would require any special event funding request over \$3000 to get approval from the Senate.

This year's Raft Debate will take place on Wednesday, February 7 at 7pm in the Commonwealth Auditorium followed by a reception at 8:30 in room Chesapeake A. The Raft Debate pits three professors, one from humanities, one from social sciences, and one from natural sciences, in a battle of wits. Each argues why their field of study is the most beneficial to humanity. Only one can win a place on an imaginary raft, and the audience picks the winner. Another professor, the devil's advocate, promotes throwing them all over board.

Budget requests for the 2007-2008 school year are due on Friday, December 5. Elise listed the GSA's request as

Graduate Research Symposium - \$7500 (actual cost is over \$20K, we got \$2500 from Student Activities this year for the event)

Colloquium - \$1500 (\$2000 this year, but it traditionally does not go completely used)

Halloween Party - \$700 (\$500 this year)

Spring Party - \$300 (no money this year)

Welcome Party - \$50 (no money this year)

Our request will be reviewed by the EAC (Executive Appropriations Committee). They will come up with recommendations for the SA President, and he will create a budget. The budget will be given to the Senate. Then, organizations will e-mail their tentative budget and given a chance to appeal to the senate. Anyone wishing to serve on the EAC needs to e-mail the application to Bradley Justice by 12/9.

Elise also elicited fundraising ideas so we can become less dependent on Student Activities for money. Funds raised would be used for the Symposium, alcohol at parties, and conference funding. Possible ideas suggested were a date auction, speed dating, a poker tournament, or a swing dance.

The last item of business was a review of the conference funding guidelines. After everyone read over the guidelines in their new format, discussion ensued. One question raised was whether people attending conferences in the summer are required to present at the Symposium. It was decided that, yes, they would have to present at the next Symposium unless they had graduated.

The February deadline was pushed back to the 16th to make it closer to the GSA meeting on the 21st and to eliminate the need to hold a special meeting to review the applications within 10 days of their deadline.

Gwen made a motion to accept the changes to the guidelines, and Pete seconded. The motion passed 13-0.

Part of the guidelines mention that a department must be in good standing for a student from that department to receive conference funding, but “good standing” is not clearly defined. In the past, it has been interpreted as “does the department send a representative to the GSA meetings?” How many meetings can a department miss and still be considered in good standing? And once a department is not in good standing, how do they become reinstated?