

Graduate Student Association
 Meeting Minutes
 March 14, 2006

Meeting start time: 5:03

People present at meeting-

Name	Department	Where did you go for spring break?
Meghan Revelle	Computer Science	Kentucky
Ellen Adams	History	
Joshua Beatty	History	Pogues concert
Fred Lumb	Anthropology	York County
Shuyan Zhang	Applied Science	
Lizzie Blake	Biology	Quebec City
Mimi Poe	Psychology	Here
Pjerin Luli	Physics	Boston
Joanna Conder	Public Policy	Myrtle Beach, SC
Karl Turner	Public Policy	Williamsburg
Josh Collins	Public Policy	
David Brown	History	We had break?
John Miller	American Studies	Mean St. of James City County
Elise Larsen	Biology	D.C.
Robert Marmorstein	Computer Science	Stayed Here
Gwen Kennedy	Public Policy	Montreal
Tiffany Broadbent	Computer Science	
Jim Deverick	Computer Science	

Agenda

- Officer Reports
- Committee Reports
- David Sievers (campaign)
- GSA election procedures
- Graduate Symposium Update
- Health insurance town meeting

Officer Reports

Meghan: Poker Tournament on Friday was sent out to the reps. On Friday, at 9:30 in the Little Theatre. \$100 first prize.

- Spring into Action Day: Service Activity Saturday April 1st. Nine different people said they would be available. Most of the stuff is yard work.
- Spring Bash: April 20th in the Sunken Gardens

Josh (treasurers report): Holding pattern for Symposium...Meeting with Mani
Colloquia funds still available
April 21st by 5 pm-Summer Conference funding

Insurance: representatives from the insurance company and student health will be available at five pm. E-mail will be sent to arts and sciences

David Sievers

Running for Williamsburg City Council
Junior Philosophy Major, Has been going to meetings since Freshman year. Believes that city council needs improvement.

Proposal: Buying rental properties in blighted area of Williamsburg. Selling them never to be rented again. Passed without any public comment. Presented during spring break when students were away.

Not trying to run a student's campaign. "Building One Williamsburg"

If anyone is interested in helping out with the Campaign, you can be a part of Sievers Believers. **For more information about campaign or volunteering go to www.votesievers.com or e-mail David at davidnsievers@gmail.com**

Some Statistics:

City of Williamsburg has 12,000 voters with only 1,000 people voting, half the number voting just for the student center.

-What things are graduate students interested in?

-Four candidates up for two seats, facing two incumbents. The two incumbents are the Mayor and Billy Scruggs

-She is the best person on the Council to be mayor...the mayor is the highest vote getter.

Voting in Williamsburg:

-The Student Assembly has set up a guide for voter registration at www.voteinwilliamsburg.com

-April 3 is voter registration deadline in Williamsburg

-Student Senate has made a goal to get students registered to vote in Williamsburg, considering how much the council affects students

-Off campus students get register by filling out a form. On campus have to exhibit domicile (driver's license says Williamsburg)

Election processes for GSA

Committee Findings (Dave's report):

The committee discussed election procedures in the past, the ones made last year, and future procedures.

The committee recommends pursue the online voting method
Contacted William Cline, who heads student activities elections. It would be possible to do an online election. This would not take a lot of time or infrastructure, but he did require us to as two weeks ahead of time, giving us a buffer before running the election. We can put descriptions of candidates on website, need web designer to do this-Meghan?

We need at least a week to draft election procedures—we have to vote on it if we want to implement it this year and in the future.

Meeting Discussion:

Should we do this know or just use the election procedures from last year?

Except nominations and opportunities to speak one on one with voters. Voting online tends to not make this as possible. Will be reps responsibility to get people to vote.

Meghan will put up PDF of current election procedures.

Why are we not using one person from each department to do the voting?

-greater incentive for larger programs to take all of the positions where smaller programs won't.

-no more than two officers can be from each department

-allows more people to get involved

-prevents people from packing the officer's meeting

-we need to drum up support for student elections

Hand vote: who is interested in pursuing this year online elections with the understanding there will be additional meetings or following status quo

Straw Poll

Online elections in general? 13 yays, 0 nays

This year? 12 yays, 0 nays

Decision:

Schedule a meeting: two weeks from today, March 28 at 5 pm. How long to run elections will be determined at this meeting. Nominations will be taken for positions.

Last meeting of the year, April 11 at 5pm: Have candidates available to give speeches and talk. Elections will be sometime after this meeting.

Graduate Research Symposium

Pjerin: Symposium on March 24 and 25. Keynote Speaker: Jorge Cham

Meeting Discussion:

One pressing issues: To get graduate students to come to the symposium. How can we advertise better? Let undergraduate's know...put it in Student Happenings and on SIN. Tell people that there will be food there. Get a couple of ring leaders...to get people to come.

Make it a competition, the department with the most people gets honorable mention.

Please make sure have backup?

RSVP's....for people wanting to come. Stuff mailboxes...or get off website.

Volunteers needed.

Schedule online.

Town Hall Meeting

Starts at five at Commonwealth, UC

At 5:30 will get up and John will introduce Sam Sadler, Chritine Britton (health center), Angie Black (insurer representative) who will present various proposals. She will walk through those. Have an hour to ask questions or sound off what people want to do. 2-3 minutes per comment. Efficient to say "speaking on behalf of so and so..."

Sam Sadler has a clean slate about what to decide.

Grad Council will listen to what Arts and Sciences has to say, go along with the majority. They will identify each other with a school.

Meeting should last 5-7 pm.

Maybe have Dean Sanderson come and brief us on some things at last meeting if there is time.

Meeting end time: 6:28 pm