

**Graduate Student Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 20, 2006**

Attendance

	Name	E-mail	Dept.	Dept. Rep? (Y/N)
1	Meghan Revelle	mkreve	CS	No
2	Mimi Poe	mmpoex	Psych	No
3	Gwen Kennedy	gmkenn	PP	No
4	Sarah Adams	seadam	AMST	No
5	Jeremy Beker	jebeke	CS	No
6	Margaret Freeman	mlfree	AMST	No
7	Joanna Conder	jxcond	PP	No
8	Zach Hilpert	zmhilp	AMST	Yes
9	Andrew Sturtavent	akstur	History	Yes
10	Jonathan Holley	jwholl	Bio	Yes
11	Jeff Pawson	jspaws	CS/COR	No
12	Nate Finke	nhfink	CS/COR	Yes
13	Pjerin Luli	pjluli	Physics	No
14	Pete Harris	prharr	Physics	Yes
15	Kun Hou	kxhou	AS	Yes
16	Leanne Small	lasmal	PP	Yes
17	Elise Larsen	ealars	Bio	No
18	Amanda Houck	akhouc	Bio	No
19	Natalie Brito	nhbrit	Psych	Yes
20	Berek Dore	bjdore	Anthro	Yes

---

Agenda

1. Announcements
    - a. General Information
    - b. Meeting Schedule
    - c. Student Activities Budget (Elise)
    - d. Student Assembly (Gwen)
  2. Items for Discussion
    - a. Graduate Research Symposium Non-Compete
    - b. Poll of Social Activities
    - c. Ex-Officio Amendment
    - d. Constitution Committee
  3. Adjourn
-

The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm.

Mimi started with a statement about how GSA is about grad quality of life. The GSA does a bit of everything: advocacy, academic, and social.

---

VP Gwen lead and ice breaker in which everyone introduced themselves by giving their name, name, department, and their favorite word.

Mimi Poe, President and 2<sup>nd</sup> year psychology student, vespertine  
Joanna, Social chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Public Policy student, crucial  
Gwen, Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Public Policy student, prevaricator  
Zach, American Studies Rep, yes  
Sarah, American Studies student, rococo  
Leanne, Public Policy Rep, sorcery  
Margaret, American Studies student and co-chair of the Graduate Research Symposium, clearly  
Pjerin, Physics student and co-chair of the Graduate Research Symposium, wonderlite  
Jeremy, Computer Science student, recalcitrant  
Elise, Treasurer and Biology student, chocolate  
Jonathan, Bio Rep, procrastination  
Pete, Physics Rep, window  
Amanda, Bio student, vacation  
Jeff, COR student, schabbfradum  
Nate, COR student, perhaps  
Andrew, History Rep, agency  
Martin, Applied Science Rep, ok  
Natalie, Psych Rep, squishy  
Meghan, Secretary and Computer Science student, marvelous

---

The meeting schedule for the rest of the semester is as follows:

Oct, 18  
Nov 15  
Dec 13

All meetings are on Wednesday from 6-7pm in Small 240.

---

The constitution says it is the responsibility of department reps come to GSA meetings and communicate the information they receive back to their departments.

---

Elise gave an overview of our budget for the year. We have a total of \$5000 from Student Activities. \$2500 is for the Graduate Research Symposium, \$500 for the Halloween Party, and \$2000 for colloquia.

Departments may use the colloquium money for inviting speakers or having inter-departmental colloquium. The money can be used to provide food and drink and snacks for the event. To take advantage of this money, turn in orange reimbursement sheet to Elise. Make sure to staple the receipt to the sheet and fill it out with all the required information. The money is first come first serve, and there are some restrictions on what you can buy. Only snack type foods are allowed, no meal replacements such as pizza.

The Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR) has money for conference funding. The deadline to apply is Oct. 13. The GSA now administers this money. There are 12 awards for fall. To apply, students must apply to the Student Activities Conference Fund first. [Applications](#) and [instructions](#) can be found on the GSA website.

---

Gwen gave the Student Assembly update. She is the senator for grad council, and Matt Young is Arts & Sciences senator. The meetings so far this semester have been to confirm committee members.

Gwen reported on two issues that may affect grad students. First, there is a bill supporting the College Delly. The College Delly has not been sold yet, but Starbucks does want to buy it. The Delly needs more support from students to stay in business. In the bill, the Student Assembly vows to support the Delly in what ever ways it can.

The other issues Gwen reported on is gender blind housing, where students would have the option of having open housing.

If you have idea for changes on campus, Gwen and Matt can sponsor bills.

Also, Busch Gardens Day is Oct. 6. Check student happenings for the date tickets go on sale.

---

Question from Pjerin on the budget: where is unused money from last year?

Elise replied that the money is in a use or lose fund, so the unused money went back to Student Activities

Pjerin wants to discuss budget next meeting.

---

The Graduate Research Symposium will be held March 30-31, 2007. The [call for abstracts](#) is out now with a deadline of Dec. 1. There will be a more professional element to this year's Symposium with the addition of a workshop by Robin Cantor Cook on giving oral presentations.

We are still looking for a keynote speaker.

This year the GSA would like to see more support for the departments. Colloquia are sometimes scheduled during symposium, so we want reps to go to their directors of graduate studies and let them know about Symposium so they don't schedule a colloquium on that day.

Pete mentioned that the Physics department is already bringing in a big speaker on the first day of the Symposium. Bill Philips, a Noble laureate, is known to be a good speaker and gives talks to broad audiences, not just physics-specific ones. There is the possibility of combining his visit with the Symposium.

---

Joanna gave an update on the upcoming social events. There is the Halloween Party with the Law School PSF group. It will be held in the law school lobby, and no date has been picked yet because Halloween conflicts with Homecoming. It will be either 10/28 or 11/4. The GSA is in charge of purchasing food, decorations, and paying part of the cost of the DJ possibly. The law school is in charge of beer and finding a DJ.

Mimi wants the GSA involved in more social activities and asked people to brainstorm ideas.

- intramural teams
  - Speed dating, easy to organize, worked well at old school
  - charitable events, such as a 5K
  - game nights or pool/poker/ping pong tournaments
  - volunteer day
  - paint ball
  - bus trip
  - trivia contest/College bowl
- 

Last year, the GSA made lots of headway on the health insurance issue and implemented a waiver for incoming students. Mimi would like to see issue pursued because of momentum and asked for interest in forming a committee because it is not a one person job. Sarah and Zach both said they would be happy to be on the committee. Last year's president, John Miller, probably has a lot of information from last year. One possible next step would be to contact the BOV.

---

At the next meeting, there will be a vote on the proposed amendment to add an ex-officio position to the executive council. The amendment will be posted on the [website](#). Please pay attention to the phrasing to make sure it is clear. Discuss the amendment within your department and be ready to vote at the next meeting.

---

We would like to update our constitution because half of it is adhered to and half is not. If you are interested in being on the constitution committee, please contact Mimi.

---

Adjourn to Green Leaf for Grad Night at 7:12pm.