

September 2009 GSA Meeting  
23 September 2009  
Minutes recorded by Joseph B. Zambon

Meeting called to order with 15 members present

Officers elected as follows:

President – Joseph Zambon  
Vice President – Ashlee Lillis  
Secretary – Katherine Pierson  
Treasurer – Rebecca Pirtle-Levy  
UGSA Representative – Brett Gantt  
Alternate – Anita McCulloch

Anita McCulloch presented the responsibilities of the GSA within MEAS

Attendance at faculty meetings  
Various Committee Options  
Connectivity, Seminar, and Space in particular were highlighted  
Faculty hirings, specifically presence at seminars and lunches

The group brought up several possible ideas and functions for the new GSA to consider

Breakfasts, Lunches, Potlucks, Coffee, Discussion Groups

Creating a GSA lounge

Website

Calendars

Seminars, department events, deadlines, forums, classifieds, happy hours, description of other activities of the GSA)

Personal webspace including CV, Research goals, advisors

Updating the measgrads listserv

Kevin Hill brought to the attention of the group that the MEAS listserv is updated by students, not MEAS staff. He suggested we look into making sure it is current at a minimum of once per semester.

GSA Announcements

GSA Meeting minutes

Newsletter

A hard copy of recent news and announcements to supplement the website should be made available on every floor outside of elevators, and in the front office

Happy Hour

Some students suggested that for the MEAS Grads happy hour on Fridays that we form a group and walk over during the first few weeks of the semester. This will help newer students that are not familiar with other people in the department.

Photo Board

A bulletin board in the lobby or hallway with pictures of current MEAS graduate students. It should greatly help new people familiarize themselves

with the department, as well as current students familiarizing themselves with new faces.

#### Intramural sports

Ashlee Lillis suggested that developing a few intramural sports teams which will create a more cohesive department.

Kevin Hill mentioned prior attempts at Intramural Sports teams, and their general lack of success within the department. He suggested that combining faculty and student teams may be worthwhile. He also suggested short-term sports enterprises, such as a racquetball tournament.

#### Fundraising

Charitable races

Bake/coffee sales in the lobby during the day

Calendar sales – using pictures of MEAS grads taken during various field trips

Tshirts, Mugs, Hats

Logo design contest for the apparel

Create/sell apparel for certain events (i.e. Porktoberfest tshirts)

Anita McCulloch suggested that the new executive board schedule a meeting with Christine Epps regarding the treasury and available funds

#### Porktoberfest

Kevin Hill is in charge of Porktoberfest but is looking for as much help as he can get. He will be sending emails out in the future in order to recruit volunteers from the department.

#### Executive board transfer of power

Joe Zambon suggested that Anita McCulloch send an email to the department (faculty and grads) informing them of the new GSA officers

Joe Zambon will be meeting with Anita McCulloch in order to gain access to the website

All other officers are requested to contact the prior Executive board in order to minimize confusion and gain access to required materials

#### Suggestions for next meeting topics

Porktoberfest

Happy Hours

Thanksgiving Holiday ideas

Lab Potlucks – including international students bringing a variety of cuisine

Graduate Student retreat or camping trip

#### Meeting schedule

Ashlee Lillis requested monthly meetings

Joe Zambon agreed with the monthly meeting schedule and suggested an additional “informal” meeting to follow for the Executive board

Meeting was adjourned by Joe Zambon, with no objections