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