

Oct. 30, 2009 MEAS-GSA General Meeting Minutes

Time: 4:40 pm – 6:00 pm

Members in attendance: 7

Points discussed:

- Website:
 - President Joe Zambon gave a presentation of the new GSA website (www.meas.ncsu.edu/gsa)
 - Website is still under construction, with student information remaining to be collected and published to the Student section
 - Increasing use of the forum in an attempt to reduce GSA-related emails was discussed
 - It was suggested that it might be advantageous to send all email communication from the GSA via a single email address, using a grad student emailing list separate from the listserv (to avoid students ignoring emails with the [measgrad] subject heading)

Action: Ashlee Lillis will begin collecting student information to create the “Students” page; all members will encourage use of the Forum; Happy Hour and Tailgating information will be posting on the website, and within the Forum

- Constitution:
 - Joe Zambon proposed an amendment to the constitution to change general elections from April to September, in order to ensure an active GSA to plan beginning of Fall semester events
 - Changes to the quorum rules were also suggested, and it was decided that the proposed amendment should be a quorum set at 2/3 the average attendance at the previous 2 meetings, changed from the average at the previous 4 meetings
 - The addition of a proxy voting allowance was proposed, to allow students that are unable to attend any voting meeting to absentee vote

Action: Proposed amendments will be put forth at the next general meeting (set for Nov. 19, 2009) to be voted upon. Proposed constitutional amendments will be sent to members for review with the announcement of the general meeting, and will be available on the website.

- Porktoberfest review:
 - Porktoberfest was a good event, but attendance could be improved
 - Suggestion to canvas department members to choose optimal weekend to maximize attendance
 - Improved advertisement could boost numbers, especially could encourage faculty members to participate; would be nice to be a more inclusive, department-wide event

- General Meetings
 - discussion regarding the scheduling of monthly general meetings
 - it was suggested that future meetings should not occur on Friday afternoons
 - more advance notice of the meetings could improve attendance (could be a schedule for entire semester posted)
 - suggested that snacks/refreshments to be provided by board members

- Grad Student Survey:
 - Preliminary results of the online student survey were presented by Ashlee Lillis
 - 30 students had taken the survey, and it was found that the majority of students generally think all aspects of graduate life in the department could be improved, and that most functions of the GSA are important (with advocating for student issues rated most important)
 - the GSA initiatives with the most strong interest amongst respondents are: creation of a common space, a graduate student research symposium, and start of semester orientation event/ meet and greet
 - enough interest was shown in intramural participation to justify creating team(s) next semester

Action: the survey will remain open and responses will continue to be collected; a summary of results will be posted on the website for the members to view; survey results will be taken into account by the board in prioritizing initiatives, and can be used to justify future requests to the department

- Report from UGSA meetings:
 - Representatives to the UGSA reported back on the past two meetings
 - Principle discussion of the UGSA was regarding the Talley Student Center expansion and student fee increase; the UGSA recommended against the fee increase, the student government has decided to go against the student body and support the Talley expansion
 - UGSA is planning a university-wide graduate student social event at the University Club to celebrate the end of classes (will be held Dec.4); there will be UGSA-provided food, drink, and music at the event; Brent will keep the MEAS grad students informed as the event details are finalized, and the MEAS GSA board will advertise and encourage MEAS representation (organize a group to go together to improve attendance) to take advantage of the student-fee-supported event to increase MEAS grad interaction

- Next Meeting:
 - the next MEAS GSA general meeting was set for Nov. 19, 2009

6:00 pm Meeting adjourned

