

Graduate Student Advisory Council
February 27, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
Balkans Room (OSC) and Zoom

MINUTES:

1. Welcome—Megan opened the meeting at 3:33 PM
2. November 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes were uploaded to the GSAC webpage on February 27, 2023. Minutes were not reviewed. Council will review November meeting minutes during March meeting.
3. University Committee Reports
 - A. Library Services Committee – Catherine Miller—Have not met, No report
 - B. Academic Honesty Committee – Chih Chieh Chang—Have not met, No report
 - C. Information Technology Council (ITC) – Zeshan Shah—Have not met, No report
 - D. Board of Governors – Lukas Amershek
 - i. Board of governors proposed \$1-\$3 student fee increase per student to support the Student Center’s operation
4. Reports from Programs
 - A. Catherine Miller (English) reminded council members that *The Midwest Quarterly’s* graduate student essay contest submissions were due on March 1, 2023
5. Old Business
 - Council revisited sharing mental health resources available to students
 - Megan Peters (Psychology) outlined resources available to students
 - Bryant Student Health Center offers counselling to students at \$15 per session
 - Crawford Mental Health offers sliding-scale payment options (patients pay based on they can afford, according to a predetermined fee schedule)
6. New Business
 - Rylee Dennis (Mathematics) shared that new math GTAs (Spring Semester) are not as prepared for their TA-ships as the GTAs who start in the Fall Semester because they have not received the onboarding or the presentation of resources given to GRAs and GTAs annually prior to the Fall semester

- This training session includes all Graduate Assistants that have not attended the onboarding in the past
- Rylee asked if an online version of the Fall seminar might be made available
- Lisa explained that online/recorded versions of the seminar, including presentation material, would require multiple permissions from all presenters and that there is no way to enforce/ensure attendance for an online seminar
- Lisa suggested that the Mathematic department, and all others who have seen similar issues, reach out directly to the leaders of the resources most applicable to GTA onboarding as part of their department training for new GTAs
- The BIG Event (April, 2023)
 - Megan and Riley shared their experiences with and knowledge of the BIG Event
 - Volunteers are assigned service jobs based on their skills and comfort with certain tasks
 - Members suggested that GSAC form volunteer groups to participate in the BIG Event
- Discussed GSAC sponsored event in April
 - Decided on the last week in April, preferably the end of the week (Thursday or Friday)
 - Members brainstormed ideas for the event:
 - Drop-in smash room
 - Cookout with corn hole/lawn games
 - Game Night at the University Club in the Overman Center
 - Stress-release/Catharsis-centric event like a water balloon and dart canvas or a piñata party
 - Bingo night at the Overman Center
 - Megan volunteered to post a discussion board on the council's Canvas page on which members could vote for their top two picks for the event theme
 - On Friday, March 10, Megan emailed council members with the announcement that the event will be a cookout with corn hole
 - A committee comprised of Rylee Dennis, Shoinbeck Shoinbekov, Chih-Chieh (Jackie) Chang, Zehshan Shah, and Catherine Miller volunteered to meet on

March 24, 2023 to discuss the event and draft a proposal to be presented to the council at the next meeting

7. Important Dates

- February 27-March 4—Diversity Week
- April 1—The BIG Event

8. For the Good of the Order

- Nothing to report

9. Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Catherine Miller, GSAC Secretary/Treasurer