

Meeting Minutes of the Michigan Technological University Graduate Student Council

17 August 2009 Meeting

Synopsis:

The Graduate Student Council:

- 1) Discussed possibly changing the Travel Grant award amounts in order to support more students.
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I. Call to Order

President Randal Sean Harrison called the Graduate Student Council (GSC) meeting to order at 5:07pm on Monday, August 17th 2009.

II. Approval of Agenda

Ganesh Sukumar motioned to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Anish Chandwani. Motion **PASSED** with all in favor.

III. Approval of Minutes from Monday, May 18 2009

Marianna Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes from July 31st 2009. This was seconded by Benjamin DePew. The minutes were **PASSED** with all in favor.

IV. Officer Reports

A) **President:** Randal Sean Harrison

1. Library Search Committee still proceeding at pace.
2. Bi-weekly meetings of GSC begin Monday, September 7th.
3. Meeting with Les Cook on Wednesday to discuss Administration Building office space for GSC. A follow-up will be given via email or at the next meeting.
4. The Ad-hoc Bylaws Restructuring Committee will begin meeting soon after the Fall semester begins.
5. Ganesh Sukumar has been appointed Junior Parliamentarian.
6. Need volunteers for stuffing the orientation binders. Decision made to meet on Wednesday, August 19th at 2:00pm in the Administration Conference Room. Richard Basary, Sean Gohman, Marianna Mueller, Randal Sean Harrison, David Fritz, and Kumar Vanga volunteered.

B) **Vice President:** David Fritz-No Report

C) **Treasurer:** Warren Powers

1. It was necessary to remove Jill Witt and Ganesh Sukumar from the GSC checking account. It was also decided to only give access to the Treasurer (Warren Powers) and Chair of the Social Committee (Anish Chandwani).

D) **Secretary:** Sean Gohman

1. Requested information from GSC Voting Representatives dealing with liaison positions currently held (meeting times, etc.) in order to determine which positions still need to be filled.

V. Committee Reports

- A) **Academic:** Anna Pereira- Excused absence-No Report
- B) **Social:** Anish Chandwani
 - 1. Hancock Beach has been reserved for the GSC Orientation cook-out/picnic for Wednesday, August 26th. Volunteers were requested to help with cooking and driving.
- C) **Public Relations:** Marianna Mueller
 - 1. Orientation flyers are completed and available for distribution.
- D) **Softball Coordinator:** David Fritz
 - 1. The Softball social is going to be held at “Chutes and Ladders” park in Houghton Thursday, August 20th from 5:30- 9:00 pm. Volunteers requested for cooking.

VI. Liaisons

- A) Student Commission: Louis Pignotti
 - 1. Housing safety (especially off-campus) was discussed. Pignotti stated that communicating what is available to students could be improved. The Commission is open to suggestion/comment.
- B) Policies and Procedures: Currently Randal Sean Harrison is on this board but it may be necessary to appoint someone to fill the position.
- C) Gender and Diversity, Multi-Cultural, USG, MUB Board, and Campus Enrichment-No Report

VII. New Business

- 1. **Proposal to reduce travel grant award amounts.**
 - 1. Kumar Vanga believes that by lowering the Presenting award to \$200.00, it will benefit more students by allowing more awards to be given.
 - 2. Randal Sean Harrison stated that of 22 applicants this Summer, 11 received grants.
 - 1. Warren Powers mentioned that there are always more applicants in the Summer and that all Spring applicants received grants last semester.
 - 3. Dean Huntoon stated that the fund for grants is \$18,000 and comes out of the Graduate School annual budget.
 - 4. Multiple suggestions were made about how to best handle the Travel Grants.
 - 1. Money could be adjusted each semester to fit the number of applicants although this may not be seen as fair.
 - 2. Eliminate the attending grants in order to encourage presentations although we would then be discouraging attendance.
 - 3. We could spread that wealth and make both Attending and Presenting grants the same amount although this may discourage presentations.
 - 4. Louis Pignotti asked if there could be a rollover account if there are too few applicants for the number of awards available.
 - 1. This may require a change in the bylaws.
 - 5. Decision was made to delay any final decision on this issue.

VIII. Adjournment

Alex Varghese motioned for adjournment at 5:44 pm. Marianna Mueller seconded and the motion **PASSED** with all in favor.

Academic Unit required)	(# reps.	Voting Representative	Committee	Rep's signature or initials
Humanities		Randy Harrison	President	P
Humanities		David Fritz	Vice President	P
Computer Science		Warren Powers	Treasurer	P
Social Sciences (1)		Sean Gohman	Secretary	P
ME-EM (5)		Anna Pereira	Chair: Academic	E
Humanities (2)		Mariana Mueller	Chair: Public Relations	P
Elec./Comp. Eng.		Anish Chandwani	Chair: Social	P
Biology (1)		Tara Wybrant		E
Biomedical Eng. (1)		Katie Snyder		P
Bus. & Econ. (1)		Alicia Creed		E
Chemical Eng. (1)		OPEN		N/A
Chemistry (1)		Louis Pignotti		P
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)		Paul Pawelzik		E
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)		OPEN		N/A
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)		Kristen Roth		E
Computer Science (1)		Benjamin DePew		P
Elec./Comp. Eng. (4)		Maanas Mujumdar		E
Elec./Comp. Eng.		Jaspreet Nayyar		E
Elec./Comp. Eng. (4)		Alex Joseph Varghese		P
Elec./Comp. Eng. (4)		Kumar Vanga		P
For. Res./Env. Sci. (2)		OPEN		N/A
For. Res./Env. Sci. (2)		Aparupa Sengupta		E
For. Res./Env. Sci. (2)		Christa Luokkala		E
Geo. & Min. Eng. (1)		Rungroj Benjakul		P
Humanities (2)		Lisa Watrous		E
Humanities (2)		Katie Snyder Marr		P
Mat. Sci. & Eng. (1)		Richard Basary		P

Math (1)	Kaixian Yu		E
ME-EM (5)	Jigar Mehta		E
ME-EM (5)	Anahita Pakzad		E
ME-EM (5)	OPEN		N/A
ME-EM (5)	Ganesh Sukumar		P
ME-EM (5)	OPEN		N/A
Physics (1)	Colin Gurganus		E
Social Sciences (1)	OPEN		N/A

VISITORS and GRAD STUDENTS AT LARGE -- Please sign in

Academic Unit	Name	Committee	Signature or initials
Graduate School	Jackie Huntoon	GSC Advisor	P