Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes February 5, 2012

I. Executive Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Update on NAGPS (Nat’l Association Graduate Professional Students)
         1. Zach is now Dir. Communications on Exec.
         2. Nikko is now Western Regional Chair
         3. Meeting last week in Dallas to meet executive board and regional chairs
         4. Mines used to be a member years ago, and slowly fell out of the loop
         5. Maintaining involvement can be beneficial to Mines to talk with other student organizations and maintain Mines’ name at the national level
         6. Trying to work a Board retreat at Mines for this summer
      ii. President’s Committee meeting
          1. First meeting of 2011-2012: ASCSM, GSA, ACE, AFC, Faculty Senate
          2. Discussions primarily on faculty survey initiative, daycare
             a. Trying to create a decision matrix on dollar for parking garage vs. daycare etc. for each student
          3. Would like feedback on key topics facing graduate students (i.e., balancing finances between competitive decisions)
             a. Graduate student parking
             b. Graduate students purchase reserved parking.
             c. Minimum departmental stipend that graduate students get
                i. On the agenda in grad council
                ii. Discussion is going on in Research Council as well in order to attract more grads of high caliber and maintain Mines name
             d. Minimum vacation time for grad students (without docking pay)
          4. Daycare...Discuss current model and the way forward
   b. Vice-President
      i. CEER Update
         1. Met with Grad Council
         2. Geology: Need a capacity number (30 people) and a time.
         3. Clarifications
            a. Not Science...LAIS and EB
            b. Oral presentation breakdown
            c. Submit an abstract only...not a paper
            d. Put it on your resume
      ii. GSA Graduate Continuance Fellowships
          1. Kindle Fire
             a. Other options: keep papers, tear off names
             b. Hire people to enter judge forms
             c. Budget rollover next year...not good
             d. Use computers and have judges enter their forms after judging
      iii. Alumni Board Meeting
          1. 
   c. Academic Chair
i. Discussion on bylaws revision
   1. Splitting election cycle
   2. Election of treasurer in the Fall instead of Spring
      a. Current setup does not foster an institutional memory...having a staggered election would maintain knowledge of everyday GSA functions
   3. President would be elected on calendar year, VP elected on academic calendar year
   4. Inclusion of ex-officio, non-voting seats for members elected to NAGPS
      a. Keep a constant connection with GSA and NAGPS
   5. The immediate past president of GSA were to serve for a semester after their term ends
ii. Graduate office is running the thesis workshop on February 9th
    1. The Thursday after that have a LyXs workshop (February 16th)
    2. Will have minor updates, similar to last semesters
d. Treasurer
   i. Update on organization’s finances, potential expenditures
      1. Travel grant money excess
      2. NAGPS Western Regional Conference – April 13-14 in Flagstaff, AZ
         a. If you are interested in attending talk to Zach or Nikko
         b. Emergent Leadership focusing on core competencies in student leadership and government
         c. Vacancies on the Western Regional Board: Outreach, Communications, Legislative, International Student Concerns
e. Social Chairs
   i. Allocate more money to social events
   ii. Event at the mountaineering center, 300 people in the hall, 100 in the museum
   iii. Chamberlain Observatory at DU rents out telescopes...take food and beer to IM field with telescopes
      1. Would limit to 100
   iv. Foothills Art Center had 300 people show up
      1. Double the budget for this event
      2. Perhaps another when the exhibit changes
   v. Departments still need to use their social event money

II. Department Representative Reports
   a. Metallurgy/Materials Science – Question on “Travel Grant” application deadlines
      i. Wording on the website for travel grants is confusing
      ii. There is no application deadline. You need to apply at least one week before you intend to travel.

III. Committee Reports

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
   a. Discussion of GSA Childcare Survey
   b. MME Class Travel Grants – Finkel Class Tour
      i. Experience for graduate students with forgery processes
      ii. Class is led by Dr. VanTyne
iii. Would like to authorize the attendee travel grant ($200) for this rather than for a technical conference
   1. Motion to approve, seconded, carried.
iv. Send Zach CWIDS and names of those wanting to use their travel grants

c. Child Care
   i. Administration does not want to entertain a discussion on this
   ii. ACE and AFC not willing to bring this up as an issue just yet
   iii. $18500 allocated to Family Assistance Grants – 80% goes towards childcare; $1200 per year per applicant.
iv. Discussion
   1. Drop-off daycare: like babysitting??
   2. Balance between supporting those with families, but do not want to pay for someone’s entire childcare expenses
   3. The remainder goes towards healthcare needs
   4. Economically speaking, the money is better spent on daycare than healthcare...which might by why there is 80% going towards childcare
   5. Need some program to attract students that are going to the CalTech’s and MIT’s
   6. Interact with Research Council more, as they see this as one of their major topics of discussion this year
   7. Major Question: How to contribute? What is the most convenient?
   8. Working with faculty would be great, but what is best for graduate students?
   9. Participants pay into budget that supplements the provider.
10. Options:
    a. Double/Triple Family Grants...1st come, 1st serve, cap
    b. Across the board coupon program, contract with kinder care; supplement individual children (and eventually cap)
       i. Soft vote:
    c. What are other institutions doing? MIT (no departments relating to childcare) have an on-campus daycare program
    d. Have two grants: Childcare and Healthcare...to show a need of childcare
    e. Would it be a problem to force people to use a single childcare provider?
    f. How to differentiate between two full time married people and a single part time person.
    g. How long has it been since the grant has been increased?...It's been awhile
    h. For b, why can’t we partner with multiple daycare places?
    i. Collaborate with daycare provider, rent a space, and bring them over?
       i. If the institution owns the land, they own the liability.
       Legal issues come into play with this.
    j. Send an email to current grantees with a comment box on the current program
k. Please ask for anecdotal evidence from people with children in your department.