Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes October 24, 2011

I. Executive Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Graduate Continuance Fellowship
         1. Release tomorrow
         2. Broad language
         3. Please take to your department head and discuss the process with them
         4. Process:
            a. Partnership between student and department head
            b. Summary of information, Cv, statement of work, etc.
            c. Must make presentation to Alumni board
            d. Vetted by Dr. Boyd
            e. Then goes to exec and finally council
   b. VP of Communications
      i. Conference on Earth & Energy Research (formerly Research Fair)
         1. Please start telling people in the department about CEER
   c. Academic Chair
      i. LyXs workshop next Thursday (11/3) at lunch (12-1)
      ii. LyXs is a user friendly interface for using Latex - so you can use the unofficial thesis template
      iii. Bring your own laptop or look at the slides that will be posted on the GSA website afterward
      iv. Other suggestions for workshop options?
         1. Some people liked the REMRSEC joint lecture
   d. Treasurer
      i. Approved 6 travel grants
   e. Social Chairs
      i. Open house at the art center next Thursday (11/3) 6pm to 9pm
      ii. Suggestions for another event
         1. Cinnamon rolls at 13th st. bakery...
         2. Another BBQ? Or turkey giveaway like the bowling last year
         3. In the past, GSA has subsidized tickets to Rockies and had students pay a small amount...maybe subsidize cinnamon roll cost
   f. Advisor Report
      i. No report

II. Department Representative Reports
   a. Caryn on Travel Grants
      i. ME doesn’t have many master’s degrees and current grad students only get two travel grants (one presenter and one travel grant) and feel that is unfair that they get only one travel grant
      ii. Is there a way to change that and maybe have a student be eligible for a grant every 2 years
      iii. Why are the grants set up that way?
         1. There is a budget cap on the total number of grants awarded
            a. Grants given based on degree program
2. Fairness in allowing all graduate students to attend conferences since you can apply at any time
3. System is administered as is because it is administered by exec
   a. There is not an efficient system to track the pathway into a PhD as of right now and the current system is simple to use and accessible
4. The way it is now has a way of anchoring the requirements
   iv. Submit an application for an exception and look at on a case by case basis
   v. PhD students want to attend more conferences
   vi. PhD students would like to close the loop hole on MS who go into a PhD
   1. The money evens out at some point

III. Committee Reports
   a. Doug: Tech Fee proposals need to be in by 11/10
      i. He recommends the request be under $5000
      ii. Doesn’t have to be through a department, can be through a recognized organization
         1. Get it rephrased for GSA to be recognized as an organization that we can submit
   b. Amy: Grad Council, Statement of Values and Responsibilities
      i. Name changed so that the recognition of grad rights is not dominate
      ii. Constructive criticism
      iii. Process on how to change the document was added in
      iv. Will vote next Wednesday
      v. Cover letter will be put together describing the purpose of this document and who people should go to if this document is invoked
         1. Professor, Department Head, GSA, Faculty Senate, Dr. Boyd

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
   a. Resolution 2011.9: Approve Fall Family Assistance Grants
      i. Four criteria
         1. Have at least 1 child under 6 yrs old
         2. Show need for medical coverage
         3. Show need for child care
         4. Documented financial need (any documentation they have over the past 12 months)
      ii. Financial need not typically taken into consideration
      iii. Of the applications: One is incomplete, one doesn’t have a family, one made more than 70K
      iv. W2 is requested; they can attach additional information about the purpose of the request and if denied they can appeal with written statement of extenuating circumstances
      v. Motion to approve, seconded, carries
   b. Current treasurer, Quinn, is graduating
      i. Taking nominations for the treasurer through the next meeting where we will vote
      ii. Duties
         1. Dig through reports, track money (coming and going)
2. Sit on budget committee with ASCSM
   iii. Need to be nominated by someone on the council
   iv. Quinn nominates Nikko Collida

VI. Announcements