Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes November 21, 2011

I. Executive Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Feedback on graduation fees proposal
         1. Ph.D. student the fee is $750 and often students do not budget for it
         2. Hope to discretize and wrap it into tuition (overhead and diplomas)
         3. Administration does not want to wrap it into overhead
         4. Diplomas are sterling silver ($360 per person)
         5. Three options moving forward
            a. Down grade to silver plated or parchment diploma
               i. Survey will be sent out
            b. Have GSA pay a portion of the fee
            c. Keep this as a regular fee
      6. Q/A
         a. The fees are not openly publicized, so in the meantime it would be nice if those were readily available rather than hidden. So that we can plan better.
         b. One of the issues with silver diplomas is the cost fluctuation.
            Want some guarantee on the cost in advance.
               i. GSA has asked that they be purchased at the beginning of the year. Blocks for this year were purchased in July/August
         c. Cost breakdown: Silver plated > silver > parchment
         d. This will not be implemented in the Spring, but for next year.
         e. Looking at dividing up the number of diplomas purchased (25% of student body would need to purchase)
      ii. Graduation speakers
         1. Typically undergraduates
            a. Seen as unfair since 1/5 are graduate students
            b. Have a Ph.D. student speak at Ph.D. hooding ceremony
            c. Email sent to candidates asking them to submit a proposal to GSA and speaker will be selected
            d. Eventually will have two separate graduation ceremonies
   b. Academic Chair
      i. LyXs workshop will be done in January to coordinate with thesis writing workshop so both pieces of information will be available around the same time
      ii. Geology
         2. Have the graduate seminar teach TA's how to use latex.
      iii. Include in your email a link to download and install so that students can come prepared to start working with latex.
   c. Social Chairs
      i. Cinnamon roll day for dead day at Café 13
         1. Looking at subsidized vs. free

II. Department Representative Reports
III. Committee Reports
   a. Parking
      i. Undergrads
         1. Want a parking garage, 1 space costs $20K...not likely
         2. Lack of parking after 9am; was told there are spots left
         3. Oversell by 30% (general) are told they can oversell up to 70%...so well within their rights
      ii. Grad
         1. Faculty are open lots so why not have grads buy faculty permits
         2. Graduate lot would still on the outskirts of the campus
      iii. 4th Thursday at 1 pm in parking services
      iv. Last year: Institutionalize fee that way they have to answer to students, faculty, and staff
      v. Where is the money going?
         1. Capital improvements
         2. Pay stations
         3. Student workers are paid from this
      vi. Should go through a process in order to pave the parking lots
   b. Amy
      i. Values & Expectations (formerly Rights & Responsibilities)
         1. A moderate battle to get this passed
         2. It has been modified since this was last ratified, so we need to vote again
         3. Will print and deliver to every graduate student and department

IV. Old Business
   a. Two additional Family Assistance Grant applications received (met all criteria) and added as amendments to Council passed resolution

V. New Business
   a. Resolution 2011.11
      i. Motion to approve, seconded, discussion/amendments; none; carries
   b. Family Assistance Grant for posthumous healthcare expenses
      i. Has been used in the past for student healthcare expenses
      ii. A ChemE student passed away with outstanding healthcare costs
          1. Dr. Boyd has asked us to partner with Alumni to cover these costs for this student
          2. Debt is owed to St. Anthony's Hospital
          3. Family is not here and unable to assist with expenses
          4. How would the hospital ever claim this money?
             a. Dr. Boyd: it's more of doing the right thing in good faith
          5. Other admin departments were asked
      iii. Liability for future students?
          1. Approved as a family assistance grant, with exemption
          2. What about for the hospital to pursue Mines students?
             a. It would be a check from Mines or third party affiliate
          3. Dying is an extreme situation; if the person lived they would go after the person, not the organization.
      iv. Will provide a digital resolution?
v. If we do this, should not increase the cap. We would not do that for someone who is living.
vii. Proposal to match CSMAA, or pay up until $2K
viii. Family Assistance grants are at $18K
1. We have not fully hit this limit yet.
ix. Soft vote shows a yes.

VI. Announcements
a. One graduate student speech submitted to GSA for the Ph.D. hooding ceremony
b. Public Safety disrespect
   i. In Physics, public safety checks in and makes sure things are not being stolen.
   ii. Pedestrian got pulled over for not walking in pedestrian walkway, cyclists are not allowed to cycle through there; dismount zone - city vacated that area.
   iii. Geology told not allowed to park behind the building.
iv. What is the end result?
   1. A process for grievances. Submit to student life and not public safety
v. Like the idea of an appellate committee
c. Steve from Electrical on a thesis issue
   i. Stricter enforcement of graduate policies than what is in the graduate bulletin
   ii. Member at large is supposed to be an ‘outsider’. Committee chair should not be advisor, from home or minor department. There is no flexibility, at large member is the committee chair. Current person is not faculty, so cannot be chair. Minor member cannot be the chair either. Another student had similar issues. Wording in the bulletin builds flexibility that is not there. OGS acknowledged that bulletin is confusing, but they feel they are enforcing what is written in the bulletin. Would like clarity in the writing of the bulletin.
   1. Similar situation for a proxy attendee.
   2. Lots of discrepancies, maybe have someone on GSA sit down and go through what needs to be clarified in the bulletin. Grad Council is in charge of the bulletin.
   3. At another institution member at large is supposed to maintain academic integrity
d. Continuance Fellowship & Lecture Series Grant
   i. Is there a limit on who will be approved for the Fellowship?
      1. Right now we are working on a first come, first serve basis.
      2. There are criteria that of course need to be met.
e. Handbook says there is a GSA meeting on May 2\textsuperscript{nd}, which is a Wednesday.