**GSA Council Meeting Minutes October 1, 2012**

**Dr. Boyd:** Thesis requirements. Thesis will be submitted electronically instead of paper from now on. System is up and running. The thesis writers workshop mentioned all requirements, and all presentation materials are online. Will be another workshop in January 2013. The only “physical” paper is the Signature page. Student will have to obtain signatures from advisors. At request of the president, graduates will be provided a hardcopy of their thesis at no charge to you. Get one copy without having to pay. ProQuest has about 4-month backlog on requests. Will provide the department an additional copy for them to do what they will with it. Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) have eliminated all required costs associated with graduation. We can choose to add options with ProQuest, but will be with additional charge. If you do all default options, there is no cost for graduation. Option to sequester your thesis for up to a year.

Diplomas: graduation fees a majority was to the sterling silver diplomas ($300), but starting next fall 2013, CSM will default to silver plate diplomas, but will still have the option to have a sterling silver diploma, and will be around $300. Option will most likely be carried out at the bookstore.

**President:** Departmental GSA’s. GSA Exec. will write a strategic plan, stemming from an inadequate flow of information from year to year in the past. Strategic plan will smooth out some of this. Upcoming years will understand what previous GSA Council has done. Initiatives:

1) Research, many new programs have come online for this,
2) Building graduate community, which is our focus (departmental GSAs).
3) organizational structure and how to maintain them. Want continuity for previous years.

**Departmental GSAs (have one, don’t, or a colloquium):**

Eric Threet: Don’t have one

Mike Riederer: Don’t have one

Kevin Mccann: Don’t have one

Ben Petri: Had one 2 years back, faded out, but trying to bring it back

Nick Van Gundy: Do, meet 1 hr every week. Have events for grads to meet the professors. Trying to promote the program to employers. More socially oriented meetings.

Doug Hakkarinen: Don’t have one

Michele Wiechman: Don’t have one

Imad Atshan: Yes. 4 officers, plan social events.

LAIS: Absent from meeting
Shawn Kimmel: Don’t have one

Caryn Homsher: Don’t have one

Evan Kias: Don’t have one, but does social events with colloquium

Adam Richmond: Don’t have one, Colloquium mandatory for all grad students. Do elect GSA Rep

Nathan Greeney: Yes, 3 elected people. Mostly all work together social events. For professors and graduate students

Rodrigo Prugue: Don’t have one, but uses colloquium for departmental announcements

Amy Morrissey: Don’t have one

Jeremy Washington: Don’t have one. Mentioned a Nuclear Club, ¼- 1/2 people show up.

Cici: Aim of Departmental GSA’s are intended to get graduate students more involved with each other. Also, departmental GSA’s can be used to elect GSA Council representatives. Currently, department representatives can be elected by department head, or by peers. Need a mechanism for election. Election by graduate students will be a requirement during GSA or colloquium in coming years. Metallurgy mentioned their system for voting is all electronic. By May 2013, need to have your new GSA representative elected. It is important to have a department representative in place over the summer. At next meeting, a comprehensive overview of our strategic plan will be provided. Physics mentioned that it would be nice to have a guideline of how to do carry out a departmental election, but not necessarily have to abide.

Michael Young: Talking about October 3, 2012 LyX workshop. Will be in Petroleum Hall. New template is up.

Discussion on higher visibility of the Student Health Plan

Evan Kias: Health insurance is a mystery. Explored the possibility for Kathy to give a brief presentation of the health benefit plan and how to access information about the policy. Certain benefits include wellness credit each year. Kathy would be happy to give a short presentation about all of this. Michael Young wants to know how the health plan is chosen initially. Kathy will most likely be able to put up a defense as to why they chose the plan. Cici mentioned at other universities, other students play a big role in the choice of the health plan. As of now CSM has no students on the board. Cici advised we keep the discussion on the benefits of the health plan, and maybe Kathy can come and talk to us (council) about the initial choice of the plan.

Nathan: Says that the school has great health insurance. Suggestions was mad to hold Kathy’s presentation during lunch. Amanda Meier highly suggests reading the health benefits book.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:52pm