GSA Assembly Meeting Minutes for December 4 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by the Assembly Speaker, which began with RGSO attendance and then proceeded with the agenda.

1. Approval of the November 2020 meeting minutes

Discussion on this motion included:

• There were no questions nor comments on the November meeting minutes. Therefore, the motion went straight to a vote.

Vote results:

Yes: 17  No: 0  Abstain: 0

Therefore, the motion on the approval of the November 2020 meeting minutes has passed.

2. The Assembly Speaker then asked if anyone wanted to add anything to the agenda, likely for a Public Comment Section. There was one request to discuss the Wages and Benefits Committee, which was added as an agenda item for the end of the meeting

3. Confirmation of the Lead Senator

Discussion on this motion included:

• The Interim Lead Senator briefly reiterated some points about herself that were in her bio that the Assembly received one week prior to this meeting.

• One question was asked in regard to goals for the year. The Interim Lead Senator responded that right now working to make sure all committee positions are filled, and that this is especially important for the Spring semester as some representatives are graduating. Another goal is to make sure qualified and diverse students fill these positions.

Vote results for the confirmation of the Lead Senator:

Yes: 15  No: 0  Abstain: 1

Therefore, the motion on the approval of the confirmation of the Lead Senator has passed.

4. Officer Reports

Discussion included each officer briefly highlighting a few items from their reports. Some discussion specifics include:

• The GSA President met with some university administration and counseling services employees who want to have panels focusing on mental health. It was originally proposed to have a 2-hour panel discussion. However, it was discussed that something like that could be poorly attended due to length. It is now proposed to make short 10-15 minute videos on topics such as self-care, burnout, etc. to send prior to the Spring semester. The GSA
President asked if anyone had any other ideas for topics. Other themes suggested were proper nutrition, sleep, and specific COVID-19 coping strategies.

- It was also noted by the GSA President that university administration will come to either the February and/or March Assembly meeting and questions for them will be solicited prior to the meeting.
- The GSA Vice President stated there will be some information forthcoming about resource events.
- The GSA E&I Chair highlighted a recent meeting she attended on mentoring women of color. She also explained that the RGSO Fair event will not happen this semester due only three RGSO responses for picking a date. In general, student engagement has been low this semester. Thinking of a passport incentive where if a student attends a certain number of events, they will receive a GSA branded item. The E&I Chair is graduating and has an idea in mind for who will serve as Interim and will pass these ideas along to the Interim. The E&I Chair is still looking for members for the E&I Committee.
  - Was raised that an RGSO was never assigned to serve a committee and maybe that is why a few committees cannot fill positions. This was noted as something to follow-up on.
- The Grants Chair highlighted everyone who applied for a grant received money. A question was asked about when the Spring deadline is, which is April 1st. It was noted the application portal does not open up until one month before. It was also asked if a student attends a conference and graduates in the same semester, can they still apply retroactively? The answer to this is no since a student must apply when they are still enrolled as a student.

4. Approval of the Treasurer Report:

Discussion on this motion included:
- All revised 2020-2021 budget allocations have been made on MyInvolvement
- Next big expense for GSA is the printer contract
- Obtaining IRS EIN number is in progress and receiving help from SA

Vote results:

Yes: 15  No: 0  Abstain: 0

Therefore, the motion on the approval of the Treasurer’s report has passed.

At this point, the formal agenda was finished. The Assembly Speaker moved to discuss the Public Comment about the Wages and Benefits Committee. Discussion on this included:
- The GSEU Chief Steward will be the Chair of the Committee and is looking for members. The goal is to at least one other GSEU member, one international student, and one master’s student. Also wants to have a member on committee that is employed by the university but is not eligible to be a part of GSEU. Examples include Research Assistants (RAs), adjunct faculty, and hourly employees. A committee solicitation will be sent on the GSA listserv.

No other comments or questions were presented during the Public Comment section of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.