GSA Assembly Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2021

The meeting began at 5:02pm and started with RGSO attendance. The agenda then proceeded.

1. Approval of the March 5, 2021 meeting minutes
   
   • There was no discussion on this motion.

   Vote results:
   
   Yes: 15  No: 0  Abstain: 0

   Therefore, the motion on the approval of the March 5, 2021 meeting minutes has passed.

2. Approval of the March 19, 2021 meeting minutes
   
   • There was no discussion on this motion.

   Vote results:
   
   Yes: 14  No: 0  Abstain: 1

   Therefore, the motion on the approval of the March 19, 2021 meeting minutes has passed.

3. The Assembly Speaker then asked if anyone wanted to add anything to the agenda, likely for a Public Comment Section. There were two items raised for a Public Comment to be addressed at the end of the meeting:
   
   1. GSA Programming
   2. GSA Elections

4. Officer Reports

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

• The resolution on graduate employee fees was generally well-received. The major issue from administration is that it had many union terms/GSEU language and since GSEU technically does not represent all graduate students while GSA does, they hope in future resolutions the verbiage changes. The Chair of the Wages and Benefits Committee took issue with this because 1) it was commented on and passed by GSA and 2) the Wages and Benefits Committee wrote it, which is comprised of different types of graduate student workers. It is hoped that administration recognize this as a GSA piece of legislation.

• At the recent Senate meeting, the resolution was the last item on the agenda, so unfortunately it was tabled to the next meeting. Conversations are still ongoing and overall the elimination of graduate employee fees is a work in progress.
• We are getting Versatile PhD. Administration says it is easily affordable, and it will also be available to alumni.
• GSA was recently contacted by the Sustainability Office to make a coalition with other campus groups to help make campus more sustainable – more information forthcoming.
• A few RGSOs voiced some comments to the VP about issues with approval and the VP is in contact with Student Activities to work on those items.
• The E&I Chair received an email asking for students to listen to a presentation sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council on students’ behavior during COVID-19. Please contact the E&I Chair if interested.
  o The topic of COVID-19 brought about a side-question of if the University would be requiring students to get a vaccine passport? The GSA President will ask about this in the next COVID-19 Task Force meeting.
• The Programming report highlighted that there are several miscommunications. For example, it appears that programming has been happening, but it has only been advertised on Instagram. The Instagram method was chosen since a poll was put out on Instagram to see what students would prefer. However, events will now also be sent out on the GSA Listserv. This will also help the general concern that people have that the GSA is lacking visibility this year.
• A few questions were asked to the University Council Representative to be followed up on:
  o Is the renamed Indian Quad currently being advertised to students being recruited?
  o Who was on the committee for renaming, specifically was anyone on the committee someone who identifies as indigenous?
• It was also clarified during the University Council Representative report that tuition is set by the state/Board of Trustees, while fees are set by the university.
• The Wages and Benefits Committee highlighted that there are issues where recruited students are told/under the impression funding is guaranteed throughout study, however; often students are told last-minute they are losing funding. This is something the GSA President can bring to the attention of administration and then next steps can be decided.

5. Approval of the Treasurer Report:

Discussion on this motion included:
• The income delay was likely due to students not paying fees until the deadline
• Student groups can keep up to 10% of unused income for the next school year. The rest must either be refunded or spent on items for future use for the group.
• There were no questions nor comments from the Assembly

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 and the Public Comment Section began.
6. GSA Programming
   • Since programming was discussed at length during the Programming Chair’s report, it was decided that a discussion was no longer needed.

7. GSA Elections
   • On MyInvolvement, it is unclear how someone would nominate a person who they think may be a good fit for the position.
   • This will be cleared up by the Elections Committee as soon as possible.
   • It was also brought up that if the MyInvolvement submission changes where it is now clear how a nomination can be made, then perhaps for fairness the nomination period should be extended. This will also be looked into by the Elections Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.