

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

Notes from January 11, 2022 | 7:00 p.m. | Centennial Ball Room & Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7:01pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 7:01pm

The minutes approved by the majority.

OPEN FORUM

-none

President Rodene (gsa@unl.edu)

-Feb meeting:

-Marleen is suggesting that we hold the Feb. meeting on zoom.

-Eric held an informal vote on the matter. A majority thought it should be on zoom and this vote will be taken into

-organic farm wants to be a fee user. Eric's concern is that the produce is not going to the student.

-Mowat asked that we not vote on the second point until we have more information.

-Rodene held off voting until we have more information.

Executive Vice President Donesky (vicepresidentgsa@unl.edu)

- VP of Finance is who you should talk to about Fee stuff. She is our vote on the Fee committee.

-What is GSA? Does it have an effect? How is it affecting our daily life? In order to make an impact we have chosen things such as health care to focus on.

-In order for GSA to make change passing bills are a thing. However, to really make change we need, everyone here needs to be making connections. Talk to your departments. Talk to people, graduate chairs, administration, etc. Ask questions!

-If you want change, you have to make that change happen. GSA is behind you.

Vice President of Student Affairs Mowat (vpstudentaffairsgsa@unl.edu)

-no report

-If you are on

Vice President of Representation Jemkur (vprepresentationgsa@unl.edu)

-Zoom accommodations available, email Venn

-At-large representatives, also apply to Venn

Vice President of Finance Herzfeld (vpfinancegsa@unl.edu)

-budget: \$8,000 of \$30,000 spent on food and travel grants

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic affairs (academicaffairsgsa@unl.edu)

- They collected stipend data for big 10 and plan to present it during next meeting
- they are planning to host a series of audio podcasts to help graduate students navigate academic environments, we would appreciate any suggestions about topics

Communications (communicationsgsa@unl.edu)

- email next Tuesday, get anything you want to send out to Communications by Monday.

D&I (diversityinclusiongsa@unl.edu)

- diversity: in contact w/ ODI to plan event for next academic year
- disability: received some responses to survey, reminder to reps to distribute link and remind constituents to complete
- Title ix: in contact w/ several groups re title IX: grad studies (mapping cases), UNL-PD advisory board, Chancellor's commission on sexual misconduct; also developing a poster w/ resources for grad students (where to go on campus for support)

GTAP (gtap@unl.edu)

- spring travel grants have been awarded. Before summer we need figure out what to do with people whose conferences that have gone online or have been cancelled.
- Summer applications up soon.

Pro Dev (prodev@unl.edu, spgp@unl.edu)

- Hopes to provide details about upcoming events with us.
- Grad studies are willing to support the formation of a workshop hosted by GSA and help find speakers.
- CIRTL is a resource for people who are going into academics
- Canvas has options
- SPGP Applications are open and are awarded on a rolling bases.
- Grad studies Pro dev survey is still available and everyone should take it.
- Grad studies is willing to share the survey results with us when they get them.

Quality of Life (qualityoflifegsa@unl.edu)

- Health care meeting with Keith
 - Who makes the decisions? We have felt that students, especially grad students, have been left out of the decision-making process. Kevin did mention students have been a bit involved. But we want to keep the communication flowing.
 - Dr. Hope came with Eric, Andrew, and Phillip and was very supportable.
 - Kevin gave a history of the health care at UNL.
 - We seem to be in the middle of the pack in terms of price and plan in the big 10.
 - It seems that graduate students are a large share of the people using the health care.

Thus, we need to give a face to the numbers.

- Andrew: there has been a ~6% increase every year for health insurance across the country. Thus we will be seeing that in what we are paying
- by staying healthy the insurance will go down.
- path of budget
- Amanda Brand (Communication Studies)-We should be careful how we presenting this information. You can't just tell people to be healthy.

-Andrew- Yes, he was only looking at money, not qualitative data. So we need to give the faces and stories to how the health insurance is effecting us and how we are using it.
-wave it with any other bronze, silver, gold, platinum care plan in the US. International students this may not be the case. Need to look into this more.
-\$500 deductible is cause international students need that.
-keep having these conversations.
-amanda: If it increases every year, our stipends should increase by the same amount.
-answer: we agree, but Keith can't help with that.
-later this month the quote should be here for this next year. Covid could have some impact but since our tests are not part of the health care so that helps.
-Tim: Why is UNL not a opt out university?
-answer: people hired at the university much have insurance. Undergrads are on their parents insurance. The committee has looked at it, vote 2 to 1, but they are holding off until there is another big spike.
-there is a person on campus who you can go to to ask any health insurance questions. Web page: <https://studentaccounts.unl.edu/student-health-insurance#questions>

Social

-coffee hours is not happening yet. Talking with Starbucks on city campus. Will get back to us on this.
-mental health awareness week. Food, social, massages.
-if you can think of anyone to join this reach out to Eric and we can try and get them involved.
-if you have a vendor, there is a form that they can fill out. Talk to Andrew or Eric or Tim.

External Committee Reports

-No External Committee reports

NEW BUSINESS

We have a new UNL EVP.

GSA Bill #4- spring 2022 welcome back event.

Khaid- if we can't have it inside can we have it outside?

Tim-No, there is no alterative at this time.

Baba Yussif-I am not sure if people would be comfortable to come with covid being a thing.

Tim: we would need to send out a poll to know how much food to get and the size of building.

GSA Bill #4 Passed 8:04pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm