

MINUTES
Tuesday July 11, 2017

Present: Ana Aparicio
Megan Lyons
Natalia Grube
Ilya Geller
Jaclyn Taylor
Eman Abbas
Zenith Isidor

Absent: n/a

Motion: Jaclyn moves to further schedule the self-care courses sponsored by GSA

Discussion: Jaclyn spoke with a friend who is in the mental health counseling program. He is a Buddhist monk looking into discussing self-care classes to foster a sense community. The idea is a bi-monthly meeting to teach meditation that would be open to non-denominational or any affiliations or non-affiliations. It would begin with setting intentions, followed by 15-20 mins stretching, then a possible reading, then 30 minutes sitting and meditating. This would be a drop in/out setting. She is thinking of Tuesday or Wednesday 7:30 pm as availability is more likely for students. Location just needs room and dimmable lights. If people like this, we could open up more days in the future. Student-lead workshops is the goal for the future. This is open to all graduate students. We will utilize G-Blast to advertise as well as Facebook group posting. Refreshments will be provided in lieu of payment to the organizer. Ana suggested this be put into special projects budget. Before that budget is submitted, we will add in the cost for this. Ilya is against setting specific year goals so Eman suggested setting semester “focal points” and re-assessing what worked and didn’t work before the spring semester.

Second: Ana

Vote: All in favor, No abstentions, No objections

Discussion: Outreach and spreading information

Jaclyn suggested reaching out in general by word of mouth to spread information, lots of misconceptions exist about the GSA and our purpose. Eman offered for one person at each campus to distribute business cards, information, or perhaps have food as well to attract people. We could reserve Hunter tables two weeks in advance for these marketing moments. During common hours, no one is supposed to have classes so we could book tables during this time. Ilya suggests reaching out to more students. Individually everyone should be reaching out to their departments. The purpose is to bring awareness of GSA, open meetings, and bring overall GSA interaction to graduate departments. Ilya wants to map out social areas and physical areas of where outreach can be focused. An August meeting for that will be scheduled by doodle poll. Everyone should go through campus websites to look for contacts, locations, as well as reach out to anyone interested in mapping. Potentially the results can be placed on website. The addition of “hang out” places to map may also be considered. Ana and Zenith stated they can go into different orientations at Silberman to speak to large groups and introduce GSA as a thing they can be involved with too. They will bring flyers about travel grants and other information.

The point is to show that GSA is advocacy body for the graduate students. We can also use CommonTime to refresh everyone's memories of the GSA. Ana wants everyone reach out to their programs to find out about large group meetings to represent GSA. *CONTACT: your department, receive orientation information and dates by Tuesday the 18th. Then will all move forward from there.* Flyers will be created about general information and travel grants and should be distributed to departments by email or in person.

Discussion: Meetings

We will hold 1 meeting/month but may have two meetings a month for 2 months during club registering as that is very busy and time sensitive. A Doodle poll will be sent later about when the monthly meetings will be, most likely Tues, Wed, Thurs. We will set the semester schedule ahead of time to commit to the monthly times. TENTATIVE DECISION: WEDNESDAY 12 NOON (once a month).

Discussion: CommonTime

CommonTime is a day of workshops instead of internship and classes. Can we host one for Silberman? Clubs do want to host it, so all agreed to let students lead it if they want, we can help if needed.

Discussion: Marketing and Online presence

New look for the website will include getting photos taken that are consistent. Bios will be updated as well to reflect newly elected board members. We discussed the possibility of sending all departments or colleges the photo and bio of their representative(s) so they know who to go to. The first G-Blast will be a welcome letter and advertise a town hall style first meeting to get as much input as possible. We need to stress all year that meetings are open to the public for all ideas to be heard.

Moving Forward:

- Ask Dene to give everyone access to google folder through GSA account as a universal place to organize minutes and have all documents on hand
- Next GSA meeting: AUGUST 17 NOON

Submitted: _____