

**UNITED GOVERNMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**

ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES – November 12, 2014
ATLAS 229
5:00 PM

I. Welcome / Food

II. Call to Order

III. Announcements

- John L. (psych): There are new positions opening for Spring 2015: social chair, communication chair, and co-senator positions. Details are as follows:
 - Communication chair: meetings every Wednesday, 1 office hour per week, operate facebook, website & twitter, taking meeting minutes, paid position
 - Co-senator: sit on committee, LEDGE (?) council, way to see where student fee money is going, paid hourly from CUSG
 - Social chair: work with president to plan social events, attend UGGS officers meetings
- Laura (psych): Send an email to UGGS if you are interested in one of those positions ASAP

IV. Approve meeting 10/29 minutes: Minutes Approved

V. Open Forum

- Will (CHEM): ELISS Program: goal is to foster interdisciplinary research. We were in 2nd place a week ago -- so keep getting grad students to fill out survey.
 - Will (CHEM): Reasons CU would be good: We have many good interdisciplinary programs on campus. We nearby institutions (NIST, NCAR) that we could partner with.
 - Laura (psych): What does this get us? Will: If successful, it will be a voluntary, extracurricular program for a team of grad student on campus. Help network to get other fellowships for graduate students.
- Drake (Planetary Science): UGGS talking to El Dora about student passes being limited to under 25
 - John (psych): Reason was to avoid fraud, because people can use old student IDs. Started conversation again to use student enrollment form instead of student ID.
 - Lauren (psych): UGGS will be subsidizing some passes for El Dora ski event
- Drake (Planetary Science): People from department aren't applying for travel grants because it isn't enough to cover a full conference trip -- interest in giving fewer but larger travel grants
 - Will (CHEM): Intentionally did the opposite to give more people a chance. Also, getting the award may be better for boosting a CV rather than getting full funding.

- John (psych): Continue bringing these ideas to meetings. At the end of every spring, UGGS sets the budget for the next year. UGGS student fee increased by a dollar next year, so we'll have extra funds.
 - Scott (Psych): Working with career services on non-academic career training. Possibly have a person from career services, Annie Piatt, to come talk to UGGS about plans for future workshops at the next UGGS meeting.
- VI. **NAGPS update - Kate Allison, John Lurquin, Laura Michaelson**
- Kate (EDUC): Went to conference to learn from activities of other graduate student government organizations.
 - John (Pres): This is a great network, which we pay fees to be a part of.
 - Kate: Currently a focus in NAGPS on the problem of graduate student debt. John: Started Grads Have Debt Too campaign. Kate: Umbrella for grassroots action, especially given that subsidies for grad programs have been dropped and that we have lower default rate and higher interest rate.
 - John (Pres): UGGS gave a talk on Data Driven Decision Making. Part of the goal was to advertise the survey we use (are implementing now), so other graduate students could use it.
- VII. **Graduate Student Climate Survey - John Lurquin, Laura Michaelson**
- John (psych) & Laura (psych): Deadline for survey is December 8th. Only 300 students (7% response rate). Please continue to encourage grad students to fill out survey!
- VIII. **Campus Climate Symposium (Friday 11/14 3p)**
- John (psych): Goal of the symposium is to discuss power dynamics within higher education and how communication can occur between people of different power levels. What happens when there is conflict and who to go to when conflict occurs?
 - Laura (Psych): Previously organized at a different time (Tuesday mornings) and student groups have pushed for a time change so more students come. It's important to have a good showing.
 - Julie (Speech, Language & Learning Sciences): Come even if you are a bit late
 - Scott (Psych): Friday instead of a Tuesday
- IX. **Students Activities Office (Sarah Alcorn)**
- Sarah: Student groups have been complaining about miscommunications and the inability to access information. Trying to combine Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Involvement. The new center should be available Fall 2015. Assembled group of students and faculty, called the Implementation Committee, who are planning the merger. Groups are visiting other schools to find successful models; have found many schools do have a single office and that works well.
 - Ben (Poli Sci): UMC board oversees office allocation, but this is not part of current merging plans. There at least needs to be some more transparency in this process between funding and space allocation for groups.
 - Sarah: Everything presented to LEDGE (?) council by December 1st, so it can go through budget next spring.
- X. **Discussion on department-level graduate student organizations**

- John (psych): Some departments have their own student liason groups, but many don't. This should be something that every department should consider and we'll be looking at some models of departments that do have groups.
- Paige (physics): Physics has a group, GLC (Graduate Liason Committee), started a year ago. Started because of misuse of space after a small library was removed and graduate students became interested in the revamp process. Also started due to complaints about how an exam works. Group set up a survey for physics students who've taken the exam to possibly inform faculty action. This group is for finding out what is going on in the department.
 - Structure: Have one member who sits in on faculty meetings. Meeting Thursdays at lunch every other week. There is no official hierarchy/officers and open to all physics grad students. Usually 6-12 students per meeting.
 - Faculty members have been receptive to the group.
- Eric (aerospace): AGSO (Aerospace Graduate Student Organization): a liason between faculty and students, but mostly a social group. Have weekly coffee hour, social at Dark Horse, ski trip. Funded by department with a couple thousand dollars a year. Also do some professional development on programming languages and took over printer in graduate student lounge. Have officers that meet every other week and organize events. Involvement is supported by free food.
 - Scott (Psych): Does department funding fluctuate over the year? Eric: Once a year they submit a budget.
- Paige (physics): Setting up a wikipedia for physics grad students. Department is hosting website. Physics doesn't currently give funding to the group, but may be open.
- Alan (CHEM ENG): Have a GLC, with subcommittees (e.g. faculty relations, UGGS). Meetings happen once a month. Chemical Engineering is very involved in organization and recruitment of new students. Have a group for mentoring first year students. Have an activity committee (happy hours, summer events). Have professional development for non-academic career paths. Faculty is very receptive to the student group. This is 3rd year of GLC (structured form of this group). There are 3 main people who organize meetings, and then committees may have committee heads.
- Will (Chem): Can grad students be in a faculty meeting about tenure?
 - Paige: Cannot for physics
 - Alan: Not certain for chemical engineering
- John (Psych): Does this sound of interest to other departments?
 - Will (Chem): Like the idea of attending faculty meetings
 - Richard (Atmospheric Science): Have all the subcommittees, but there is no communication between the groups
 - Paige (Physics): The great thing about the GLC is that people can come to update on different areas
 - Ben (Poli Sci): Political Science has a split between newer students and students who've passed comps
 - Alan: Try to foster getting to know each other between years. Have pre-comp students help more advanced student prepare for dissertation talks, in addition to late-year students acting as mentors to newer students.

- Laura (Psych): For next time, send an email to UGGS info about how these departmental student groups started (if one exists in your department)
- John (Psych): UGGS will possibly feature one group on the website to help students get ideas for their department. Will (Chem): Maybe do a blog.

XI. **Discussion on department rep selection process:** postponed

XII. **Meeting Adjourn**

MEETING ATTENDANCE

| NAME | Dept |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Drake Ranquist | APS |
| Piyush Agrawal | APS |
| Eric Threet | ASEN |
| Jacqueline Cameron | ATLS |
| Cassiane Cladis | ATLS |
| Richard Bateman | ATOC |
| Christopher Maloney | ATOC |
| Alan Izar | CHBE |
| William Hartwig | CHEM |
| Melinda Markin | EBIO |
| Kate Allison | EDUC |
| Logan Blizzard | ENGL |
| William Anderson | FRIT |
| Alana Wilson | GEOG |
| Patricia Helfenbein | HIST/ALAC |
| Diba Mani | IPHY |
| Christoper Cummins | LAW |
| Michael Gillis | LING |
| Sarah Alcorn | LING |
| Nicole Ridgwell | MUSM |
| Paige Warmker | PHYS |
| Ben Purser | PSCI |
| John Lurquin | PSYC |
| Laura Michaelson | PSYC |
| Dan Gustavson | PSYC |
| Scott Schafer | PSYC |
| Scott Brown | RLST |
| Juliana White | SLHS |