Minutes for a Meeting of the Graduate Student Government
Monday June 15th, 2015
5:15 PM in GLRC 202

I. Call to Order: 5:15 PM

II. Approval of Agenda
   a. Motion by Menon
   b. Second by Meng
   c. Motion passes unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes from: May 11th, 2015
   a. Motion by Bethany
   b. Second by Joe R
   c. Motion passes unanimously

IV. Welcome New GSG Members
   a. 2 new members were in attendance, David Porter and Rafael Gil-Figueroa

V. New Business
   a. Amendment to current budget (Meng Tang)
      i. A line item has been duplicated for Softball, but for an amendment for the budget must be approved by the general body.
         1. Will “If we don’t amend the budget will softball get an extra $1,000?”
            a. Meng “No.”
      ii. Motion by Shelly, second by Kristen
      iii. Motion passes (19 in favor with 2 abstentions)

VI. Officer Reports
   a. President (Chelsea Nikula)
      i. IT updates
         1. There should be a simpler way to reset your password if you forget it rolling out later this summer, it should utilize account security questions
         2. US banking card for Michigan Tech ID cards will be an opt in instead of default for new students
         3. IT will help set up electronics for PhD or MS defenses the day of your defense if you let them know beforehand. They can also help set up a web conference for committee member that are abroad, they need a 2-week notice.
      ii. Facilitators for orientation are needed
         1. Facilitators will participate in discussions with new students, they get a free lunch and do not need to be a part of GSG. New facilitators will need to take a brief training. If you are interested, register through the link on the email
sent out.

   a. Menon “New graduate students are placed in tables with one experienced facilitator there to answer questions. Orientation presentations are wide and varied but facilitators are there to give information on their specific department for new students. I strongly encourage anyone to be a facilitator.”

iii. Potlucks are held at Canterbury House every Wednesday evening, everyone is welcome, no need to bring a dish if you can’t.

iv. Softball feedback
   1. Jarod is looking for feedback on the softball league.
      a. Joe R. “Have a way to rake the infield in between games to clean up the infield”

b. Vice President (Will Lytle)
   i. United Healthcare plan for the fall has been decided with a deductible of $750 and a premium of $1,893 with 75% of it being covered by Michigan Tech for supported students.
      1. Karen C. “When does it go into effect?”
         a. Will “Goes into effect in August with final details in July.”
   ii. A health insurance rep will be here in August to discuss the details of the plan
      1. Menon “Is the school looking into alternative options for payment plans?”
         a. Will “A payment plan may be an option, they haven’t decided yet.”
      2. Ida “Is there anywhere else to find this information yet?”
         a. Will “Plan details have not been released yet, but should be posted in July.”
   iii. A student received an information request from AETNA, have other students received this? (Yes.) Will is looking into it.
   iv. The Work-Life committee is currently discussing childcare options on campus and in our community.

c. Treasurer (Meng Tang)
   i. Budget updates: Account balance is $74,239.70
   ii. Surplus funding: At least $38,625.38, will be finalized upon closure of the 2014-2015 budget
   iii. Discretionary funding: $0/$8,000 spent
   iv. Long distance call of $0.01 appeared on statement, E-board discretionary fund is being used to cover it. This seems to be a recurring cost, no long distance calls were made.
   v. Travel grants for summer are due June 19th with 30 applications currently and 49 total available.
      1. Abhi “Could funds be spread across two different
conferences if not all the funds are used up?”
  a. Meng “No”

d. Secretary (Joe Fedie)
  i. Nominations for new PR chair are now open and will close at our meeting on July 13th. Requirements for PR chair include: must be an on-campus graduate student, be willing to learn to code in HTML, and publicize our events through social networking and posters around campus.

VII. Committee Chair Reports
a. Academic (Shelley Jeltema)
  i. Alumni breakfast will be August 17th.
  ii. Our first Lunch ‘n’ Learn will be held during orientation (August 27th) to discuss how to pick an advisor and how to build a professional relationship with them.
  iii. The Academic Committee is working on plans for Professional Development Day.

b. Social (Bethany Klemetsrud)
  i. Orientation picnic is August 26th from 5-8pm will be at the Hancock beach, all GSG members are encouraged to attend.
  ii. Quincy Mine tour is August 29th primarily for new students and will start at 10:30am and will run to 3pm.
  iii. First Friday Social will be September 4th from 4-6pm it is a great time and allows for the newest graduate students to meet GSG and the graduate school.
    1. Chelsea “First Friday Socials are held the first Friday of every month and are hosted by various departments on campus. Graduate students are always welcome and encouraged to attend.”

c. PR (Kristen Therrian)
  i. Nothing to report

d. Softball (Jarod Maggio)
  i. Nothing to report

VIII. Liaison Reports
a. University Senate (Gorkem Asilioglu)
  i. Does not meet over summer

b. Undergraduate Student Government
  i. Does not meet over summer

c. Food Insecurities Committee (Sasha Teymorian)
  i. They are developing smaller committees, if you are interested in
getting involved contact Sasha, Chelsea, or Will.

d. Friends of the Van Pelt Library (Kevin Waters)
   i. Nothing to report

e. Research Advisory Council (Muralee Menon)
   i. Nothing to report

f. IT Governance Group (Shelley Jeltema)
   i. Nothing to report

g. International Group

IX. Old Business & Discussion Items
a. Meet & Greet Reports
   i. None held

b. Questions or Concerns from GSG Representatives
   i. Ida “Need further clarification on the new health insurance plan, what are copay and deductible?”
      1. Will “Copay and deductible will be paid by graduate students.”
   ii. Abhi “How does information flow between other departments, specifically from the department to graduate students?”
      1. Ida “Get an email with the minutes from the faculty meetings.”
      2. Menon “MEEM has a student advisory council that has group leaders with faculty advisors that discuss problems with undergrads mostly but is used by grad students to talk with faculty.”
      3. Abhi “Seems like most departments do not inform graduate students about the status of the department. Maybe it would be good to have someone sit in on faculty meetings to discuss funding, paper publications, and number of grad students.”
      4. Tyler C. “Physics has a Q and A session where faculty discuss the current affairs of the department with graduate students.”

X. Adjournment
a. Motion by Muralee
b. Second by Meng
c. Motion passes unanimously