Graduate Student Government of Michigan Technological University

Minutes for Monday August 10th, 2015

I. Call to Order
   A. 5:17 PM

II. Approval of Agenda
   A. Motion by Menon, second by Zach
   B. Motion passes unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes from: July 13th, 2015
   A. Motion by Meng, second by Kristen
   B. Passes unanimously

IV. Welcome to New GSG Members
   A. Avinash Subramanian, from CS department and is new PR chair.

V. New Business
   A. Surplus Funding Request: GSG Website (Avinash Subramanian)
      1. $500 requested for a wordpress template that will allow easier updating without coding knowledge. It will involve a sleeker design and be mobile accessible. Plugins will be purchased as necessary and should take roughly 45 days to complete.
      2. Meng “We have more than $42,000 in surplus funds with two requests passed so far totaling $1,700.”
         a) Ali “Will the new website require no coding and will be more secure?”
            (1) Avinash “Yes wordpress is more secure than the current model and security plugins can be purchased, it will be much easier to maintain.”
         b) Will “Does the $500 include labor?”
            (1) Avinash “It does not.”
         c) Basha “Will IT help design the website?”
            (1) Avinash “No, their input will be very limited and will involve giving GSG a work domain.”
         d) Menon “We should organize the website so that PR chair transitions will be smoother than in the past.”
            (1) Avinash “Yes, the new interface will be much cleaner and simpler to use than previous years, we will organize the file systems well and have instructions for updating.”
         e) Jacque “Is this $500 a one time cost?”
            (1) Avinash “Yes, it is a one time cost, with plugins ranging in cost for 40-50 dollars each.”
         f) Motion by Shelly for the full $500 with any remaining funds given to Avinash for his work on the website
            (1) Second by Menon.
            (2) Passes by majority.
         g) Funding request passes: 28 for, 1 against, and 2 abstain.
VI. **Officer Reports**

A. **President (Chelsea Nikula)**

1. Next general meeting is September 21st.
2. International student welcome needs assistance for the Wal-Mart shopping trips. Several volunteers will be needed to help at Wal-Mart, on the shuttle and at the pick-up location on August 18th and August 21st from 6-9 pm.

B. **Vice-President (Will Lytle)**

1. Facilitators are still needed for orientation, with training sessions the 20th and 24th.
2. Health insurance has been finalized and the information has been sent out to all graduate students. If you have any questions send them to Will, he will put together a frequently asked questions list for the health insurance forum this semester.
3. United Health Care rep will be on campus during orientation week.

C. **Treasurer (Meng Tang)**

1. Account balance: $93,075.63
2. Budget: $3,653/$85,413
3. Two surplus funding requests have been passed but none have been reimbursed.
4. IT has changed their monthly cost for GSG offices and this month it was $8.99.

D. **Secretary (Joe Fedie)**

1. Nothing to report.

VII. **Committee Chair Reports**

A. **Academic (Shelley Jeltema)**

1. August 24th there will be a seminar, “Job Searches for International Students” in the Alumni Lounge of the MUB.
2. Professional Development Day will be separated into industry and academia evenings. Industry Evening (Sept. 2nd) will deal with resumes, cover letters among other information. It will be at Career Services from 5-6 pm, with dinner to follow. Academia (October) will cover post doc, professorship and other info with several specialists present to answer questions.
   a) Basha “Will graduate students have targeted opportunities for the career fair?”
      (1) Chelsea “We are working with Career Services to put together a Graduate Student Day to happen in the spring.”
   b) Jacque “3-4 positions for graduate students to work in the Graduate School will be open for processing applications”

B. **Social (Bethany Klemetsrud)**

1. August 26th 5-8pm at Hancock Beach we will have Orientation Picnic. “We need all your beautiful smiling faces there.”
2. August 29th from 10:30-3pm will be the Quincy mine tour.
3. Sept 4th from 4-6 will be the First Friday Social.

C. **Public Relations (Avinash Subramanian)**

1. Showed 5 templates for the website. Admin tools are much simpler than the current website and are much easier to work with.

D. **Softball (Jarod Maggio)**

1. Softball regular season is over with and the playoffs start this Tuesday and will finish on Saturday.
2. Volunteers are needed for setting up the picnic on Saturday after the championship game.
   a) Volunteers will need to move tables, chairs, and set up the canopy.

VIII. Liaison Reports (No Reports)
   A. University Senate (Gorkem Asilioglu)
   B. Undergraduate Student Government
   C. Research Advisory Council (Muralee Menon)
   D. IT Governance Group (Shelley Jeltema)
   E. Friends of the Van Pelt Library (Kevin Waters)
   F. Food Insecurities Committee (Sasha Teymorian)
   G. International Group

IX. Old Business & Discussion Items
   A. Meet & Greet Reports
   B. Questions & Concerns from GSG Representatives
      1. Will “Should we broaden the shopping horizons from Wal-Mart to other local areas for new student trips? Not necessarily to implement this this year but to plan it going forward.”

X. Adjournment
   A. Motion to adjourn Zach, second by Omkar
   B. Motion passes unanimously