

GSA Meeting
October 12, 2010
Sprague Room
7:00pm

In attendance: Sean Thompson, Elizabeth Mongrello, Daphney Joseph, Lauren Turenne, Andrew Parzyck, Jeff Ambroise, Christopher DaCosta, Cindy Sanders, John Nieman

I. Welcome

Daphney thanks the dedicated souls who are here. We're glad to have you and appreciate you being here.

II. President's Report

We're doing well with our budgets, getting a lot of requests. The new process seems to be working well.

We are piloting a Brown Bag Leadership Lunch program on Friday the 22nd by inviting Higher Ed grad students to join the Vice President of Student Affairs from the University of Hartford in talking about hot topics today in Student Affairs. We are hoping to see how the lunchtime Friday program turns out, then will look for proposals from graduate societies to sponsor their own luncheon. If interested, the GSA would work with grad societies and hopefully help provide snacks or food of some kind.

III. Vice President of Programming

Again, the Brown Bag lunch series is an effort for the GSA to provide some form of programming for grad students, specifically in their area of interest. We are piloting the program with the help of the Counseling Society. The next luncheon is on November 12 and we are hoping to chat about spirituality.

If you are part of another program and want to see something geared towards your interests, please let us know. If societies are interested in sponsoring, let us know and we can provide a food budget so that it does not come out of your regular budget.

In general, please let us know of issues and topics you want to talk about so that we can program more events, discussions, etc.

The Holiday Social is coming up in December. Come enjoy the holidays with us. Next semester's programs are up in the air but for the etiquette dinner, which will definitely happen again.

As usual, please contact me with ideas!

IV. Promotions and Marketing Chair

I'm having some technical difficulties with e-mail. Am trying to figure out mail merge so that hopefully everyone will be getting emails about meetings and other programs.

We're looking into getting some cool promotional items. Be on the lookout!

Please, everyone spread the word about meetings, etc. We need you to be here to tell us how we can support you.

Secretary

As usual, the minutes are online. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

V. Approval of Scholarship Requests

The following conference scholarships were approved under Finance Motion #GSA 2011-6.

Robert Szczepanski

Request \$1000, will receive \$1000

Despina Mavroudis

Requested \$1000, will receive \$708.01

The following conference scholarship requests were denied. Please contact Chris DaCosta with questions or concerns.

Marissa Digangi

Requested \$1000

Kimberly Shellman

Requested \$1000

VI. Approval of Grad Society Budget Requests

The following graduate society budget requests were approved under Finance Motion #GSA 2011-7.

Central Counseling Society, \$2500

Communication Society, \$2500

Graduate Performance Music Society, \$2145

Graduate TESOL Society, \$2500

Daphney got a lot of emails requesting info about how to start societies. However, many of these societies already exist. Please check to see if you can get involved in an existing society.

If one does not exist, to become a society, just submit a budget request noting that you are not already recognized. You need a faculty advisor, and once the budget request is received, an account will be formed.

VII. Discussion of the Week

With the many deaths, suicides or killings that have been happening in the LGBT community, Daphney can't help but think about the university as a whole. How is Rutgers dealing with the student's death? As an undergrad, tragedies like this impacted me. I attended vigils, etc. How does this work for us as grad students? If I weren't involved in Student Activities, I don't know that I'd be at LGBT Center Sponsored events.

Let's talk about our connectivity to the university. Where is our place here at Central as grads?

- I actually feel more connected as a grad, because things were so new to me, and I do more things now.
- As an undergrad, living on campus, I felt much more connected to campus. Now I feel very far removed from the institution I attend. I try to go to events, talk to students, etc, but at the same time, especially with the field I'm going into, higher education, you have to have a distinction between being friends and an authoritative figure with my students. I feel more removed as a grad.
- I would have to agree. When I was an undergrad, living on campus, I was really connected. As a grad, I have a whole life outside of my grad school.
- The death at Rutgers impacted me because I don't know what students are thinking or feeling about the Rutgers tragedy.
- I agree, if I wasn't working at CCSU, I probably wouldn't have heard about the incident unless I'd watched it on the news, where there's so much garbage already. The fact that I work on campus makes it easier for me to attend events, but trying to get a grad student connected to campus if they're not already working on campus is extremely difficult.
- A lot of the programs are made more convenient for undergrads as well. The university has a conception of the grad student being different from an undergrad. Needs are different, and the university tailors more to the undergrad student. For undergrads college is life. For grads, college is not life.
- Is there an institution just for graduate programs? There are a lot of institutions that have grad housing, but it's still connected to an undergrad program. I can see that institution, if it were to exist, having lots of issues getting funding.
- I think I've heard of something called the graduate academy? There are just a few programs involved, very small.

Most of us are second year grad students at Central... is it important to you to connect with CCSU as a whole? We are all very connected to our programs, but what about connectivity to the university as a whole.

- I think that my second year was where I made my connections with my cohort. Having to take that semester off that I did, if I didn't have those connections, I don't know that I would have come back. Those connections supported me, even if those students have moved on or not.
- Is it important to build a connection with those outside the cohort? Do we get excited about our class? Yay 2011.

- I think GSA is charged with that job, but how do we do that?
- Cohorts are small groups and don't get around a lot. Our professor has been teaching lots of the classes I need for my degree. That's what has made the difference – I've had a great experience because of the constants that come with the small group. It has been very beneficial to have that close-knit group in terms of soundboards, communication, etc.
- In terms of the whole campus, no not really. I'm starting my thesis next semester and connectivity to the campus is not at the top of my list of needs.
- GSA has felt the need to create community, but perhaps we can rely more on the classroom experience to create community. We need to engage faculty as best we can.
- Think there is a sense of caring, it just seems to be more valuable to care for our cohort and less essential to care for Central as a whole.

What do you need as a grad student? If we could pinpoint everybody else's need and find a common need, we can attempt to create a community around that. So let's think about that, and bring it back to our next meeting.

VIII. Open Floor/Announcements

CCSU's PRIDE is acknowledging National Coming Out day tomorrow. Wednesday, 12-6pm. Students coming out as whatever they choose to identify. It's not about sexuality, it's about who you are, and what you're proud of.

Don't forget the Brown Bag lunch next week!

Next meeting Nov 16. 7-8pm. Sprague Room.

Get scholarship requests for next meeting in by Nov 9 before next executive council meeting.

We are accepting society budgets until December.

Thanks for coming 😊