December General Assembly Meeting – Minutes
“All graduate students are members automatically”

Friday December 6th, 2019 at 3:00 pm
Location: Walwood Hall, Common Area
Donuts and Coffee were served at 2:45 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Parliamentarian – Robert Parsons
   a. Parliamentarian Parsons welcomed everyone, briefly explained Roberts Adapted Rules of Order, and called the meeting to order.

II. PROCEDURAL ITEMS – Parliamentarian – Robert Parsons
   a. The current meeting agenda was approved by the graduate student body.
   b. The previous meeting minutes were approved by the graduate student body.

III. WELCOMING ADDRESS – President – Craig Morris
   a. President Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.
   b. President Morris updated the body on the graduate tuition changes. The GSA has asked for the data used to make this decision and are working to identify programs that are going to be affected by the change. President Morris asked that all graduate students contact us via the GSA website (wmich.edu/gsa) with the subject line “Tuition Residency Policy Feedback”. Various departments and faculty are reaching out on how this change will impact recruiting, retention, and sustainability. The GSA is focused on data/fact gathering before moving towards an appeal.
   c. President Morris thanked the students for their passion regarding the various subject discussed, but reminded everyone to leave swearing out of future communications and called for everyone to retain their professionalism.
   d. Student (Brian) informed President Morris that according to his department that there are data conflicts between the faculty level and the university level. Vice President Herhold asked for both sets of data if possible.
   e. Deanna Hughes informed President Morris that the changes will result in an eight to ten thousand dollar increase in tuition for a 60-credit program for non-residents. She will email this information to Vice President Herhold.
   f. Adam Bennett informed President Morris about the impact of this decision. 77% of graduate students are in state, 5% are out of state, 18% are out of state
international, and annually 350 students that are eligible for in state tuition change do apply. He called for any students that are affected by this change to talk to the TAU as they have additional avenues for support.

**g. Vice President Herhold asked for all parties present to submit these pieces of information via the website so we have it in writing.**

**h. Zari Carpenter stated that the Deans of the Colleges were not aware of this change.**

**i. Brian called for GSA presence at the 12/12 Board of Trustee’s meeting.**

**IV. GFAC AND FUNDING UPDATE – Vice President – Claire Herhold**

a. Vice President Herhold announced the status of funding opportunities for graduate students.

b. Vice President Herhold announced the budget updates that are on the website.

c. Vice President Herhold called for more grant applications.

d. Olivia Gratz asked for clarification regarding certification grants and conference grants. Vice President Herhold clarified that you cannot apply for the same grant twice in the same year. She further clarified that data collection grants are for all research.

e. Deanna Hughes called for financial support for an anti-racism seminar from the GSA. Vice President Herhold asked that she talk directly to her after the meeting regarding how the support could be offered.

f. Fakazi Mlotshwa asked questions regarding the challenges of needing money upfront and how to obtain money prior to an event. Vice President Herhold clarified the differences between university policies and graduate school policies.

**V. GSA EVENTS ON THE HORIZON – Director of Events and Planning – Allison Grime**

a. Director of Events and Planning Grime stated that the lunch and learn event was very successful and that there are two more lunch and learn events in planning for the upcoming semester. She further called for more ideas from multiple departments in order to maximize the impact of these professional development events.

b. Director of Events and Planning Grime stated that the massage event was a success with over 80 people in attendance.

**VI. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – President – Craig Morris**

a. President Morris updated everyone on the status of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Four people have currently volunteered and he called for more.

b. President Morris stated that Read and Write Kalamazoo was postponed due to the meeting cancelation and reinstatement.

c. President Morris called for any ideas for places that will take group volunteers.

**VII. HILLTOP UPDATE – Director and Editor of Hilltop Review – Alexander Hoffmann**
a. Director and Editor of Hilltop Review Hoffmann gave updates on the status of submissions and called for more submissions. Currently we have five academic articles/creative works processed and three works of art.

VIII. 3-MIN THESIS COMPETITION – Director of Professional Development – Kyra Katte
   a. Director of Professional Development Katte gave details for the Spring 3MT competition. The deadline for the Spring 3MT competition is January 31st at 3:00 pm.
   b. Director of Professional Development Katte called for volunteers to review submissions, for helping run the event the day of, and submissions.
   c. Vice President Herhold reminded everyone that the application is very simple.

IX. OPEN FLOOR & GRADUATE STUDENT CONCERN UPDATES
   a. Ronnie Miller made a motion to have E-Board members give monthly updates on their duties and progress made towards any goals/objectives they have. Due to confusion over implementation and language about the motion, the motion was tabled until the general assembly meeting in January.
   b. Parliamentarian Parsons reminded everyone about motions have SMART goals.
   c. Zari Carpenter stated that GSA Ambassadors submit something similar for all committee meetings that they attend and this model could be used for the board.
   d. Ronnie Miller reported on the technological issues that the GSA is experiencing with the hyperlinks not working in the emails. President Morris stated that this is actively being looked at.

X. ADJOURNMENT – Parliamentarian – Robert Parsons
   a. Parliamentarian Parsons updated everyone to the changes to the open floor section of the GSA general meetings. The time limit is now set to 20 minutes.
   b. Parliamentarian Parsons reminded everyone to adhere to general respect rules; i.e. limiting side conversations during the meeting and to watch tone when speaking.
   c. Parliamentarian Parsons adjourned the meeting.