January General Body Meeting

Friday March 25, 2016 @ 3pm
Refreshments 2:45 pm

Location: Bernhard Center Room 157-158

I. CALL TO ORDER- Parliamentarian – Stephanie Goodman

II. ROLL CALL

III. PROCEDURAL ITEMS
   a. Consent Items
      i. Motion to Approve Current Agenda
      ii. Resolution: Motion Approved
      iii. Motion to approve previous minutes
      iv. Resolution: Motion Approved

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President’s Update - Mr. Damon Chambers

      There is a resolution to split the E-board position of professional development and outreach into two positions for the GSA E-board this next term. The divide into two positions allows for more time and development to be dedicated to both professional development and outreach separately.

      Motion to approve resolution
      Resolution: Motion Approved.

Recently we have interviews for the new E-board members and positions including new editor of the Hilltop Review. We will now have an opening speech from the new editor followed by questions and answers.
Nominee for Hilltop Review Editor - Zahra

Zahra is a masters student in marriage, couples and family counseling from at Western Michigan University. She moved here a few years ago with her husband from Iran. While Zahra doesn’t have any editing experience she does have leadership, communication and managing experience. Previously, she was an indoor soccer coach and is currently a coordinator in the international student affairs office. She has new ideas for the journal that hopefully, will do more to incorporate faculty members. She is also committed to gearing the journal towards current student interests.

Question and Answers for Zahra

Q: Will you be doing themed journals? Do you want to change the current overall format of the journal that accepts all topics and only except articles following a set theme each term?
A: As of right now, no, but I would like to include topics students’ are interested such as mental health or career outlook training. But I will have to see what the students want from the journal. Currently, the spring issue already is a themed issue.

Motion for open discussion on Hilltop Review Editor Nominee.

Motion seconded

For a two year positions there is a search committee. The committee chooses an individual, the GSA members ask questions and there is a vote for approval or disapproval of the search committee’s choice.

Question and Answers without Zahra’s presence

Q: How strong does hers or anyone’s English need to be to hold this position?
A: That is not a criterion for this position as it could be interpreted as discriminatory. We will have access to outside help for these issues, if need.

Previous Editor: If I may address this issue: I came into this position with a lot of editing experience and I have to say, it’s the leadership and managing skills that are really important. Articles go through a peer review and then an editorial board. So writing, grammar and formatting issues are fixed during the first rounds of the editing process.

No further questions asked.

Motion to approve committee’s nominee Editor of the Hilltop Review.
Dr. Susan Stapleton

This is an exciting time of year; many students are graduating. This is also a time of turnover for positions and awards. I wanted to thank all of you for being leaders and ambassadors for all the graduate students of Western Michigan University. I also wanted to hear if there were any questions or concerns because that’s what I am here for. I am here to help!

Installation of New Executive Board

Damon Chambers - President
Amaury Pineda - Vice President
George Lluberes - Parliamentarian
Anthony Daniels - Director of Legislative affairs
Fanny Fernandez - Director of administration
Zahra Ameli - Editor of Hilltop review
Gabriel Almeida Alves - Director of Public Relations
Christina Collins – Director of Events Planning
David Brennan – Director of Outreach
Thi Tran - Director of Development

Motion to approve new E-board member’s appointment
Motion seconded
Resolution: Motion passed

Installation of New Graduate College Ambassadors

Motion to approve new E-board member’s appointment
Motion seconded
Resolution: Motion passed

Special Presentations – Signature Quality Initiatives - Kelly Reid & NaTasha Schiller

V. AOB
VI. Adjournment