

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Day: Wednesday August 27th 2008

Location: Engineering north, room 108

Time: 5:30pm to 6:50pm

Attendance

- Signed in representatives = 73
- Advisors = 3
- Total attendance from head count = 84

I. Call to Order:

President Mumbe Kithakye called the meeting to order

- a) Presidents Welcome: Mumbe welcomed everyone at the first GA meeting, presented the members of the executive committee to the GPSGA, Dr Smolen the GPSGA advisor and the co-advisors (Dean Emslie and Dr Payton). She briefly outlined our goal for the year and encouraged the reps to sign up for committees
- b) Dean Emslie: Explained about the graduate college and functions of the graduate college. He said that this year we have 200 more graduate students than in the past. International graduate student numbers are the highest since 2003. He mentioned that three to four deans from different colleges talk to him about getting good quality graduate students. He mentioned that the graduate college is working with the GPSGA to recruit quality students. He also mentioned some new benefits/changes for the graduate students:
 - (i) starting Summer '09 the graduate college will pickup 3 hours of summer tuition waiver as well
 - (ii) thesis and dissertations submissions will be completely online and therefore no more margin restrictions on the document
 - (iii) online diploma application submission
 - (iv) starting this year online submission of plan-of-study
 - (v) no more letter grades for thesis and dissertation hours
 - (vi) addition of a letter grade to I (incomplete) grade
 - (vii) doctoral candidates recognition (on February 18, 2009 doctoral candidates will be recognized during the 2009 research week)
 - (viii) announcements to alert students for external fellowship applications. For more information on the incomplete grades and research grades he asked the students to check the registrar website.

He said that the graduate college is here to help the graduate students get their degree in a timely manner and he asked that everyone read the emails sent to them from the graduate college.

II. Minutes presented on overhead.

VII. New Business:

- a) Order of general assembly meetings: Mumbe raised the questions of how strictly should the Robertson's rule be followed for the general assembly meetings. Rep. Shaw pointed out that it was followed last year to varying extent. Communications director Hendratta followed up by saying that although the Roberts's rule was not strictly followed it was still necessary to follow the rule so that the GPSGA could have some structure. A motion to follow the Robertson's rule loosely was raised by Rep. Raven and seconded by Rep. Krishnamurthy. The motion was passed with one nay.

Mumbe discussed the resignation of the secretary and parliamentarian. Both resigned due to unexpected opportunities meant that they would no longer be able to commit to the positions. Providing a description of each position and encouraging reps to consider these positions and indicate an interest by either emailing or speaking to a member of the board after the meeting.

- b) Presentation of Budget: Treasurer Sandeep presented annual budget of GPSGA to the assembly. Rep. Matousek asked why \$1000 was allocated for O'Colly. Sandeep said that money would be used to advertise about the events organized by the GPSGA. Rep. Krishnamurthy asked why a balance is brought forward for the next year. Sandeep said some amount of money needs to be left for the next year. Hendratta added that there needs to be an amount left for next year in order to sustain the main activities of the GPSGA. Hendratta made a motion to approve the budget; motion seconded by Rep. Shaw. During the discussion for the motion Rep. Raven enquired if the balance brought forward was from the excess leftover from the travel grants. Aravind responded that it was not from the excess travel grant. The motion was passed without any opposition.

VIII. Committee Reports: Each officer described their committee and asked students to sign up for their respective committees.

The following reps signed up for the different committees

Finance and travel

1. Firew Gudero
2. Robert Schukei
3. Brian Faga
4. Amanda Glasgow
5. Muthanna Abdulwahig

Communications and membership

1. Christy Baker
2. Morgan Ashworth

Constitution and By-laws

1. Firew Gudero
2. Michael Malahy
3. Annie Farris
4. Thomas Walraven

Research Symposium Committee

1. Doug Applegat
2. Suzan Mathew
3. Sungah Kim
4. Zarrina Azizova
5. Aaron Mittelstet
6. Michael Mueller
7. Abena Aman
8. Muthanna Abdulwahig

Phoenix Awards

1. Nikkie Dunnigan
2. Suzan Mathew
3. Sungah Kim
4. Abena Aman
5. Zhanna Shotrova
6. Ola Shadiya
7. Chris Black
8. Dave Schaap

Policies and Procedures

1. Jason Davenport

Intergovernmental:

1. Sunil Mathanker
2. Heather Orr
3. Lauren Gorman
4. Megan Walker

IX. Officer Reports: Mumbe reminded the reps that as per the GPSGA constitution all reps must be members of a committee. Reps were encouraged to sign-up either at the meeting or online at the GPSGA website.

X. Meeting adjourned around 6:50pm.