

Minutes for the Second Spring 2018 All GSA Meeting

5/9/18

AGENDA

- Welcome
- President's Report
 - Highlights
 - Travel award
 - End of year BBQ
- Nominations Committee
 - Introduce nominees
- Treasurer's Report
 - Projected budget
- Committee Reports
 - Housing – Lease updates
- Report from the Office of Graduate Student Services
- Scott Rohde – Director of Public Safety

NOTES

- Welcome
- Nominations Committee
 - Ballots were provided on entry with a ballot box near the door.
 - Going down the ballot, each nominee stood and introduced themselves.
- Scott Rohde – Director of Public Safety
 - History of parking issues at Wesleyan
 - Parking has been a problem for the last ~40 years.
 - Work was started on a new plan about two years ago, replacing decals with hang tags and limiting where people could park.
 - The number of citations this year under the new plan was much lower than last year.
 - Wesleyan is trying to become primarily a walking biking campus with the introduction of Spin Bikes.
 - Parking for grad students
 - It's been difficult to determine how to fairly treat grad students, since their needs are sometimes similar to those of faculty/staff and other times like those of undergrads.
 - For 2018-2019 there will be two options for grad student parking:

- Basic parking – For \$5 a semester or \$10 a year grad students will be able to park at their residence. (It was unclear whether parking at Vine Street was also permitted.) For an additional \$5 a year, students can register a second car which can be parked only at Vine Street. Undergraduates pay \$125 for similar privileges.
 - Additional option – For \$68 a year, in addition to being able to park at their residences, graduate students can park in Faculty/Staff lots after 5pm. (They will need to inform Public Safety if they will be there after 1am.) Parking in these lots would probably also be available at any time in the summer, but this was not definite. Under this plan, a second car would be free, but could still only be parked in V Lot.
 - Graduate students who live off campus are also encouraged to register their cars so that if there is a snow ban and they park in a Wesleyan lot they won't get ticketed. For \$10 a year, the assigned lot for students who live off-campus will be Vine Street.
 - Registration will begin in early August.
- President's Report – GSA President Melissa King
 - Highlights – Highlights from this year include the introduction and awarding of travel awards, a number of successful happy hour events, and increased attendance at GSA events and meetings.
 - Travel award
 - The second travel award of the year was given to Will Setzer from Physics.
 - Some clarifications on how the award can be used: the event does not need to take place in the same semester as it is granted, just before the next award is given. It can also be applied retroactively, i.e., you can apply for the award even if you will already have given your talk by the time the award is granted. The award is given in the form of a reimbursement.
 - End of the year BBQ – Will take place on May 23, behind Russell House. Bringing games is appreciated as are volunteers to cook and setup – e-mail Melissa King if interested.
- Treasurer's Report – GSA Treasurer Katie Sagarin
 - Activity fee – The graduate student activity fee will be increasing to \$30 for 2018-2019. This increase is to help support the new travel awards and an increased slate of events.
 - Budget – The GSA is over budget this year and will be next year as well, due to these innovations, but there is a surplus from previous years to cover it.
- Committee Reports
 - Housing Committee
 - The new lease has been finalized. The only major change is to the quiet hours. To avoid issues with these quiet hours, inform your neighbors if you're having a party and practice musical instruments in the CFA.

(There is also funding available to let you hold parties elsewhere, so long as they are open to all graduate students.)

- When disposing of large items such as furniture, contact Physical Plant or use Freecycle. If these items are just left outside, the entire building will be fined.
- Report from the Office of Graduate Studies –Director of Graduate Student Services Cheryl Hagner
 - Graduating students – This year's class at potentially 55 students is the largest. That 55 includes 20 students completing PhDs and 35 MAs, with a possible 100% completion rate for BA/MAs.
 - Incoming students – There are 55 incoming students for the fall including 23 BA/MAs.
 - Stipend/housing increases – Stipends will increase by 4% for 2018-2019, going into effect on June 1. Housing increases will also go into effect in June.
 - Insurance – Gallagher insurance rates are now posted on the website. Enrollment is in August.
 - Dependency allowance – Applications for next year are due May 20.
 - Activities/events – Events for this semester included career workshops, CAPs workshops, WordPress workshops and the Graduate Student Speaker series.
 - Increasing visibility
 - Graduate students now have their names autopopulated on their department websites with profiles that they can update.
 - The Office of Graduate Student Services posts graduate accomplishments when they are notified.
 - There is now a link on each department site for more information.
 - If you're going to a conference where people might be interested in becoming Wesleyan graduate students, bring back their contact information.
 - Support continues for 87 stipends per year, tuition remission, and the contribution to health insurance.