

Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC)
March 4th, 2010, 12:00 P.M.
Rathskeller Loft
General Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Members Present: Meghan Glow, Kate Hale, Madeline Landes, Zach Thuring

Advisors Present: Bill Elliott, Dr. Tina Veale

Members Present: Laura Castelon, Anne Coats, Byron Ebbert, Jeanna Probst, Bridget Purdy, Katlyn Schwarz

Guests: Krishna Thomas (Faculty Development Office)

I. Parking Proposal

- A. Kate passed around a revised version of the parking proposal.
- B. Supporting Documentation of the availability of designated lots on campus for the proposed parking of graduate students at multiple times throughout the day was presented to members.
- C. GSAC is proposing that graduate assistants on campus have the option to purchase a faculty parking permit. These students would indeed have to pay a little more to offset the cost to the University. The total cost for a year-long permit would be \$110.00.
- D. GSAC is also proposing that there be a reduction in the price of graduate student parking permits. A percent fee reduction was calculated through the configuration of the price difference between underclassman and upperclassman parking permit prices. That same difference was then subtracted from the current upperclassman rate to result in the price for a permit for a graduate student. If the fee reduction does occur, graduate students will still only be able to park in the student and upperclassman parking lots.
- E. Dean Augustine has reviewed this proposal and did not see any revisions that needed to be made at this time. In such case, the proposal has now been passed on to Vice President Nadler for review after a discussion that is to ensue with the head of the EIU parking division.

II. Student Insurance

- A. On March 11th, 2010 both Kate and Madeline will met with Dean Augustine and Bill Elliott regarding the current status of the student insurance policy revision. Dean Augustine did call this meeting to provide an update to GSAC on the current situation and progress of this issue as well as to gain some clarification on various aspects of the proposal.

- B. Dean Augustine asked that two open forums should be held for the entire campus community to attend if they wished. The purpose of these forums is to gain feedback and serve as a data source in the needs assessment process of this situation. These two forums will take place on March 29th and March 30th in the Charleston Mattoon room of the MLK Jr. Union at 6:00 p.m. Members were asked to pass this information on to the members and faculty in their departments.
- C. In the mean time, Bill provided members with an update on the action Dean Augustine is taking. Bill shared that Dean Augustine was contacted and spoke with the AETNA insurance representative regarding some options available to EIU and the cost and some specifics to these proposals. Currently EIU is looking at a plan similar to that of Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University.
- D. An update on the meeting with Dean Augustine and the GSAC Executive Board will be provided at a later meeting.

III. Faculty Development Office Enrichment Opportunity

- A. Krishna Thomas from the EIU Faculty Development Office was a guest at the GSAC meeting.
- B. Ms. Thomas spoke to members about an up-coming enrichment presentation regarding integrated learning. Dr. Pat Hutchings from the Carnegie Foundation will be on campus Thursday April 8th, 2010 that will be held in the Grand Ball Room of the EIU MLK Jr. University Union from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- C. Dr. Pat Hutchins presentation is entitled: *More than the Sum of the Parts: Fostering Integrative Learning*. The session will explore the meaning of integrative learning in the context of various academic settings, examine a range of strategies and designs to promote integration among courses, across disciplines, and between school and community and life and work.
- D. This enrichment opportunity will present a holistic model of development for integrative learning to help individuals make connections between various components and aspects of learning and development. A focus on learning communities and components offered in the Freshman University Foundations Course will also be included.
- E. Registration is required for this event. Individuals interested in attending this event can register through a link provided on the EIU Faculty Development website at:
<http://www.eiu.edu/~facdev/>
- F. Individuals can also contact Dr. Mildred Pearson or Ms. Krishna Thomas at (217) 581- 7051 for more information.

- G. Ms. Thomas also provided members with informational flyers that could be distributed and posted in the various academic departments on campus.

IV. Graduate Showcase Series: Donations

- A. Zach provided members with a sample script to utilize when approaching community members and business for donations for the event.
- B. Zach also proposed that sponsorship levels be created to reflect the level of monetary value of the donation by each of these individuals/organizations.
- C. The Following are the proposed sponsorship levels that correspond with the monetary range:
 - i. Patron= Under \$24
 - ii. Bronze= \$25-49
 - iii. Silver= \$ 50-74
 - iv. Gold= \$ 75+
- D. Zach also provided members with a letter of intent to give to business. This form will be utilized by business for tax exemption purposes if these individuals/organizations do in fact decide to provide donations.
- E. Zach also distributed sets of businesses that should be approached for donations. Each of these sheets of paper contained 5 businesses for individuals to approach for donations. Zach mentioned that if the organization asks if they can get back to you to please leave contact information so they can get back to you.
- F. Zach also reminds individuals to follow-up with these businesses if they were going to get back to you.
- G. Donations would ideally like to be turned in three weeks at the next GSAC General Meeting. Donations can also be dropped off to Bill in the Graduate School.
- H. If you are not able to complete the list of businesses that was assigned to you, please e-mail Bill or graduate@eiu.edu to inform them of this and the businesses that you were not able to cover. This should be done ASAP.
- I. Zack also gave a few pointers to individuals regarding the process of gaining donations. Zach mentioned that if a restaurant is on the list, do not visit this business at peak times, such as at lunch hours or prime dinner times. Also, Zack mentioned that members should also ask for a member of management when asking for donations. If these individuals ask you to come back another time, make sure to ask when a good time would be for you to come back and meet with them regarding this.

V. Graduate Showcase Series: Other Information

- A. GSAC is still accepting nominations for the *Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award*. Nomination forms and more information is located on the Graduate School website and the GSAC website at www.eiu.edu/graduate or www.eiu.edu/~eiugsac
- B. The deadline for graduate students to enter the graduate poster session during the showcase series on April 15th. Entries can be submitted electronically through the link listed on the Graduate School Website at www.eiu.edu/graduate. When on the homepage click on Expo 2010 on the left sidebar. Questions can be directed to the Graduate school or e-mailed to graduate@eiu.edu .

VI. Project Backpack

- A. GSAC is still excepting donations for this outreach project.
- B. Donations can be dropped off in the Graduate School to Bill. Departments that are collecting donations can also request that a GSAC member come by the office and pick the donations up to take them to the Graduate School.
- C. Advertising through a brochure and posters was also discussed.

VII. Friday Fiesta

- A. The graduate student social event will take place at Marty's at 4:00 p.m. All graduate students are welcome to attend.

**Minutes taken and submitted by Madeline Landes, GSAC Vice President of Administrative Activities.*