

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, November 20th, 2020

11AM – Online via Zoom

I. Executive reports

- a. President – Zach Sandoval
 - i. Headspace for Work Proposal will begin
 - ii. Next meeting, we will talk about best practices and the guide to creating your own departmental organization
 1. This will give you the opportunity to brainstorm it more over winter break to begin working on it in the spring
- b. VP of Administrative Activities – Carson Gordon
 - i. No updates
- c. VP of Programming – Lacey Jenkins
 - i. GSAC Turkey Tom
 1. Post on social media using the hashtag #GSACTurkeyTom and the person with the most will get a gift card
 2. It ends today
 - ii. Post a photo of your pet using the hashtag #GSACSmartyPets and the one with the most likes will get a gift card from Fetchers
 - iii. GSAC recipes
 1. We are compiling a cookbook for our members
- d. VP of Public Relations – Kristy Workman
 - i. Follow us on instagram, twitter, and facebook
 - ii. Member spotlights
 1. Gotten a few responses back, but wanting to hear back from everyone
 2. Send her your name, preferred programs, program, activities involved in at EIU,
- e. Graduate Student Dean – Brock Hammond
 - i. Attended the NAGPS conference this past weekend
 1. Heard from guest speakers and went to workshops highlighting various topics
 2. Elected leadership positions
- f. Graduate School Laison – Austin Eichorn
 - i. GSAC attendance raffle
 - ii. Analysis of wellness survey
 1. A lot of students are using counseling center, but also a lot are using no services
 2. Students want more counseling center funding
 3. Students are wanting student insurance to cover outside counseling because that is a barrier right now

II. Proposal

- a. “The purpose of this proposal is to confirm the purchase of 150 Headspace for Work passes for the graduate student population at Eastern Illinois University. The purpose of this purchase is to support the prevalent need for additional mental health and wellness resources among the graduate students at Eastern Illinois University. The expenditure will cost \$1,348.50 at the cost of \$8.99 per pass. Passes will be available on a first-come first-serve basis and students can sign up for a pass through an electronic form. These passes can be used for a one-year duration and overall usage can be used for a one-year duration and overall usage can be monitored through an administrative portal.”
 - b. Unanimous approval – motion passes 10-0-0
- III. Guest Speaker - Frank, President of AIS
- a. The past week there were programs
 - i. Flagship program, Global Cultural Night, was virtual
 - 1. International students performed aspects of their cultures virtually
 - b. Experience of international students during COVID-19 pandemic
 - i. The hybrid system has helped and made it a positive experience
 - ii. Many students have been bringing up the topics of financial issues
 - 1. International students are struggling during COVID-19
 - 2. International students brighten up campus and bring diversity
- IV. Departmental Updates
- a. Aging studies – Heritage Woods of Charleston is doing an Adopt a Resident for Christmas; they are now accepting stocking stuffers if anyone is interested
 - i. If you call Heritage Woods, they will give you a room number and a list of what to bring
 - b. Biology – no updates
 - c. Communication Disorders and Sciences – no updates
 - d. Chemistry – no updates
 - e. Communication – no updates
 - f. Curriculum and Instruction – no updates
 - g. Counseling – no updates
 - h. Clinical Psychology – no updates
 - i. College Student Affairs – no updates
 - j. English – EIU writing center has had a lot of students coming through; they have been keeping very busy
 - k. Geographic Information Sciences – no updates
 - l. History – no updates
 - m. Health Promotion and Leadership – no updates
 - n. Human Services Program and Administration – no updates
 - o. Business Administration (MBA) - no updates
 - p. Political Science – no updates
 - q. Special Education – no updates
 - r. School Psychology – had a conference that went really well; it was interesting to hear from interns about how the transition to online services has been going
 - s. Sustainability – no updates

- t. Technology – African American Heritage Month is coming up; if you would like to get information about it or if you are interested in participating you can contact Yolanda Williams or Mary Fleming