

Meeting Minutes
11/21/24

- Approval of meeting minutes from October, 2024 Council meeting
 - Motion to approve was made by Hezekiah Williams (*Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering*)
 - Motion was seconded by Christopher Wahl (*Electrical Engineering*)
- Guest Speaker, Mike Hildreth (*Dean of the Graduate School, Associate Provost and VP for Graduate Studies, Professor of Physics & Astronomy*)
 - Housing
 - Working on constructing new buildings at The Landings
 - Fill out survey to ask that they not be any more expensive than current cost
 - Mary Ann McDowell is doing Mentoring Up
 - Pilot for mentoring faculty
 - Mike is optimistic that there will be much more support/fundraising for Masters students
 - This is being worked on
 - Davis Gikundi (*Architecture*)
 - Asked if this is for all Masters students or just students under the Graduate School
 - It's for ALL Masters students
 - Academic Programming for grad students
 - Grad School is willing to help support this
 - Patrick McQuestion (*Kroc Institute for International Peace*)
 - Asked about subsidizing child care
 - Benchmarking data is needed, it's all over the map
 - Needed to make a case
 - Not a fast process
 - In the works
 - Question was asked about Grad student stipend increases
 - There has just been an increase
 - Arts and Letters will get another one next year
 - We'll try to keep ahead of inflation
 - Patrick McQuestion
 - Is there a possibility of the Graduate School funding GSG?
 - Academic Component, yes
 - The Graduate School contributes to the Conference Presentation Grant
 - Student Government at large funds itself
 - We probably want to keep that division
- Committee Reports (refer to [agenda packet](#))
- Thomas Poitevin, GSG President (*Economics*)
 - Presented slideshow regarding financial situation of the GSG

- Ad hoc committee formed
 - Objectives
 - Evaluate current and future financial situation
 - Provide recommendations on Student Activity Fees & other sources of revenue
 - Financial situation
 - Costs have increased considerably while revenues (Student Activities Fees) remained constant.
 - Large rollover during covid so not a dire situation then
 - Expected total expenses this year \$222,224
 - Expected revenue \$151,300
 - Rollover end of last year was \$108,669, given our projected costs this year, it would drop to \$37,745
 - If the difference between costs & revenues remain around \$70k, the year 2025-2026 & forward would lead to a deficit for GSG
 - See [Ad hoc Committee Report](#) for more information on
 - Breakdown of GSG's expenses in 2024-2025
 - History of Student Activity Fees
 - Recommendations of the Ad hoc committee
- Christopher Wahl
 - What is the PD funds for 'past chairs'?
 - Coleson Weir, GSG Treasurer (*Economics*)
 - These are PD funds from previous year's chairs who have not yet spent their PD funds
 - Funds need to be spent prior to graduation
- Ashini Kaushik, GSG Social Chair (*Biological Sciences*)
 - When was the last time the Student Activity Fees were increased
 - In 2015, they increased \$7.00
 - Last year, they decreased \$2.00
- Hanna Jewell, Quality of Life Chair (*Biological Sciences*)
 - Why did it decrease?
 - Mimi (*GSG Advisor and Director of Grad Life*) advised against it but last year's officers went ahead with decreasing it.
- Patrick McQuestion
 - Thank you for your work. My department asked for a financial report
 - Coleson Weir
 - Laurie & I are working on this so that finances will be transparent.
- Question was asked about PD funds and committee allocations
 - PD funds aren't that much considering how many hours chairs & officers put in each day contributing to the GSG in many kinds of ways
- Motion made to increase Student Activity Fee from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per semester
 - Motion approved by Hezekiah Williams
 - Seconded by Coleson Weir
 - 28 in favor

- Motion passes
- Announcements
 - Please share survey info with your departments
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.