Graduate Student Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2009

Presiding: Kurt Sollanek

Present:

Kurt Sollanek, Exercise Science; Sara Alberti, Communication Disorders; Nancy Leaman, English; Laura Lentz, Counseling and School Psychology; Shannon Nolan, Psychology; Emily Bowers, Mathematics; Brian Mason, Business Administration; Mark Fisher, Computer Science; Simbi Ebenuwah, Public Health; Caitlin Carbonell, Information Technology; Ebony McClease, Women Studies; Dr. Sandra Holley, Dean of Graduate Studies; Mrs. Arlene Lucibello, GSAC Coordinator; Dr. Jerry Hauselt, Psychology; Dr. Peter Troiano, Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. Ces Thompson, Graduate School; Chief Joseph Dooley, University Police.

Meeting called to order by Kurt Sollanek at 3:03 pm.

Roll Call confirmed those present.

Old Business:

Approval of September minutes:

No questions were raised regarding the minutes from the last meeting, nor were there any corrections made. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes passed unanimously.

Reports:

Web Committee:

Mark Fisher reported he went to training last Friday. There still is no access to the Graduate site. Dean Holley suggested speaking with Paul McKenzie in order to get access to the old GSAC website to help in preparing the new GSAC website.

Dining Service Committee:

Mark Fisher and Emily Bowers were unable to attend the Dining service meeting last Friday. Emily sent an email to request the minutes from Friday’s meeting.
Faculty Senate:

Kurt Sollanek attended meeting. The meeting focused on disruptive students. Dr. Peter Troiano also attended the meeting and shared his views. He spoke on threatening students in the classroom, and how to deal with it. He also spoke on student’s’ rights and about the disruptive student policy.

University Information Technology (IT) Committee:

The committee will meet every Friday. Kurt Sollanek represented GSAC. He reported that the committee’s goal is to create a vision statement and a mission statement. The committee consists of 7-9 faculty; 7-9 administrative staff; and and 2-3 students. The committee is headed by Dr. Wendy Chang. Another goal of the committee is to develop a 3 year plan to update I.T. at southern.

Research & Conference Committee:

Mrs. Arlene Lucibello stated that there was no new information to report.

Reports:

Budget Report:

No new information to report

Graduate Dean’s Report:

1. Graduate Open House

Dean Holley informed the GSAC members of the upcoming Graduate School Open House to be held on Thursday, October 22nd from 3-7 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center. She encouraged the members to help in informing undergraduates and potential graduate school applicants about the event. Representatives from every Graduate program will be present to discuss what is needed to get into the program. Goal is to have 1000 fulltime students, and currently we are shy 10 students of that goal.

2. Graduate Research Competition:

The Graduate School Graduate Assistantship (GSGA) program consists of a graduate student working with a faculty mentor at least 20 hrs a week. The assistantship can take one of three forms: administrative, research, or teaching. The student is allotted $16,000 over the course of the year.

The Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program supports a graduate student working on their own individual research, in conjunction with a faculty mentor. These students are allotted the amount of $8,000 over the course of the year.

3. Holiday Baskets: Kurt Sollanek asked if each department would place a box for collection of non perishables for families in need. Mrs. Lucibello added that they are working on a new name for this event which previously was called “Adopt a Family”. Boxes will be available for collection in the Adanti Student Center.
New Business:

Chief Joseph Dooley presented information on parking issues. The lots available to Graduate students are 1 and 2 which open at 4:30 and the Commuter garage which stays open throughout the day. Future plans to increase parking for Graduate students includes a new commuter garage near Moore Field House. He noted, however, that the construction of the new garage will present many challenges specifically in terms of where to house the cars normally parked in the space where the new garage will be constructed. Another challenge the Police face is the thefts that occur in parking lots. Graduate Students feel that officers are not where they should be and there is a need for more police officers in areas. Chief Dooley encourages students to make use of the shuttles. They are also working on increasing lighting in dark areas as well as cutting back trees and bushes blocking security cameras. Electronic notification of safety alerts is available. Students are able to sign up on the Southern website in lower left corner. According to the Daily Beast blog, Southern is the 22nd on the list of 25 for America’s safest schools.

NSHLLA Budget:

Sara Alberti presented the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSHLLA) budget which requested $300, $150 is dedicated to support related organizations (through fundraising activities) such as Relay for Life, Buddy Walk, and Autism Walk, the other $150 would be for guest speakers and refreshments. Mrs. Arlene Lucibello suggested that the Communication Disorders (CMD) Department could request funding for the guest speakers which would leave $150 for refreshments. A motion was made to accept the budget of $300. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously allocating $300.00 for NSHLLA.

Other:

Refreshments:

Mrs. Lucibello noted that the fruit and cheese provided for the GSAC meeting had not been consumed by the meeting attendees. She asked if the members wished to continue to order fruit and cheese for the meetings or to order only beverages, e.g. water and soda. A motion to restrict refreshments to beverages was moved, seconded, and passed to change refreshments to just drinks.

Meeting adjourned by Kurt Sollanek at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Mason, GSAC Vice Chair