

Minutes - AUGSA meeting
August 19, 2009-08-19

Updates:

Robbie's progress report: Robbie presented his progress report. Pressing issues include the signing authority for purchasing. Suggested that Amanda be appointed as interim treasurer, Heather as interim secretary, and Ron as interim VP.

AU emails: MBA program students have Athabasca University email addresses, but other grad programs do not. AU did offer a virtual media space for students. We are concerned about a lack of credibility for students not having athabascau.ca email addresses. Robbie will follow up with IT and discuss our concerns.

- Robbie will draft a letter and put it up on a Google docs account for us to review.

Suggested that we all send a signature sample to Robbie - can be scanned and then used for letters and correspondence.

Student services and ID cards: we suggest publicizing the opportunity to arrange for student ID cards. Robbie will look at

Carol London regarding deacanal searches. Representatives needed for Social Sciences and Humanities. Urgent that a student be available for the search committee for interviews and meetings.

- Amanda has offered to be the student rep for the search committee. Robbie will forward the information to Amanda. Any comments re: GSA priorities or concerns, please forward to Amanda.

Contact info for GSA members on website - Robbie will update information on the GSA website. Robbie may be able to obtain GSA emails for the members of the council and will investigate this. Robbie will put request in to IT this week.

Logo competition:

No submissions yet. Heather and Amanda will bring up the logo competition again in the MAIS coffee room.

Robbie will also be looking into creating an insert to go out with grad course packs, introducing the GSA and what we do.

Role of the AGM:

Items of business will be dealt with, executive reports, budget approvals, notification of amendments to bylaws, election of council, appointment of auditors. Broadly speaking, role of AGM is to give students at large opportunity to see how GSA is being governed and to raise concerns and/or questions.

- Accountants suggested running the AGM in July 2010 to give a chance for full end of year review and accounting. This will also allow for 2008/2009 financials to be presented and to give a year end report.
- We suggest an open house or round table forum in the winter to allow for executive reports, etc.

We'll have an Open House and interviews/reports from Executive prior to election or by-election - give an opportunity to generate interest for the exec - perhaps end of September or mid-October. This may be problematic, though, as it will have unelected executive in place for six months or more.

- End of September - we'll set up an Open House at that time. Heather will set up a Twitter account for the GSA. Coordination will take place through google docs.

Special Committee to review the GSA bylaws and governing documents:

Robbie did some research on items that need to be reviewed (obligations, dispute resolution, procedures for ammendments of agreements). Also need to look at proportional membership and whether council numbers need to be adjusted.

- We'll all work on the review of the bylaws (special committee to include the entire council).
- Reviews to be conducted via Google Docs.

Vacancies and elections:

There should be representation from each program. Up until now, the executive has managed to represent each of the programs - a dual role.

Other business:

Website redesign and update - Heather and Robbie will work on the redesign of the GSA website.

Graduate Citizenship Award - reminder of upcoming deadline to apply for this award (October 1).

CRO: Robbie will be contacting Jacqueline Cote to see if she's willing to serve as CRO.

HR/Administrative process: concerns regarding the oversight and management of the coordinator position. Dale has experience with virtual teams, and can help to provide guidance and support. Should be looking at Robbie's roles, and what the council expects in terms of goals. Robbie will post his two week reports on google docs so that the council is aware of progress and accomplishments.

Job network: looking at setting up some kind of employment networking for grad students, to try to pool resources and job tips.

Teaching assistantships - the council should have documents in approximately three to four months from AU to review potential collective agreements.

Next meeting: Thursday September 17, 2009 6pm (MST).