

A&S Graduate Student Association Minutes for the Oct. 18 Meeting



Wednesday, October 18
James Blair, Rm 221
6.00-7.00 pm

I. Announcements

A. Upcoming Meetings

New location: James Blair, Room 221

6-7 pm

Wednesday, November 15

Wednesday, December 8

B. Graduate Research Symposium

Friday, March 30th & Saturday, March 31st

Announce Call for Abstracts to Departments

Call for Abstracts Deadline: Friday, December 1

Submit abstracts at <http://www.wm.edu/so/gsa/symposium/index.php>

C. GradBash

Saturday, November 18th in the Sunken Gardens

Tailgate from 11 am-1pm

Last Home football game 1pm-4pm

GradBash 4pm-7pm

(Expect lots of food, beverages, live music, and kickball)

D. Updates from the Student Assembly

II. Items for Discussion

A. Vote on Ex Officio Amendment

Attached Ex Officio amendment was distributed during September meeting.

B. Halloween Party

Friday, October 27th in the Law School

*Everyone must get 2 members from their department to help

C. Vote on Conference Funding

III. Adjournment

Attendance

	<i>Name</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Where did you spend fall break?</i>
1.	Mimi Poe	mmpoex	Psych	X
2.	John Miller	jdml4	AMST	
3.	Meghan Revelle	mkreve	CS	MD
4.	Pete Harris	prharr	Physics	Here
5.	Joanna Conder	jxcond	PP	Shenandoah Valley
6.	Zach Hilpert	zmhilp	AMST	Here
7.	Nate Finke	nhfink	CS/COR	Milwaukee, WI
8.	Jonathan Holley	jwholl	Bio	Wilimington, NC
9.	Elise Larsen	ealars	Bio	DC
10.	Gwen Kennedy	gmkenn	PP	Williamsburg – Yay!
11.	Andrew Sturtevant	akstur	History	Northern Neck of VA
12.	David Brown	dabro3	History	We had a break?
13.	Kristie Schmidt	kmschm	Chemistry	Here
14.	Jeff Pawson	jspaws	CS/COR	

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Mimi. She started with a few announcements. First, James 221 will be the room we are meeting in for the rest of the semester. Second, the Ombuds search committee is still accepting nominees for the new Ombudsperson. If you would like to nominate a professor, please pass his/her name along to Mimi. Gwen suggested Paul Manna from the government department.

Mimi then gave an update on the Graduate Research Symposium. Bill Philips has been confirmed as a speaker. Additionally, Barnes and Noble will probably be sponsoring another speaker for us. Many college administrators and budgetary types have been confirmed as attending as well. New to the Symposium this year is a workshop given by Robin Cantor Cook on “Presenting Yourself with Confidence and Control.”

The call for abstracts is currently online at <http://www.wm.edu/so/gsa/symposium/index.php>. Abstracts can also be submitted online at <http://www.wm.edu/so/gsa/symposium/abstracts.php>.

Once students have been notified that their abstract has been accepted, they will have the opportunity to submit a 10 page paper to be judged for cash prizes. The complete details of the prizes have not been worked out yet, and more details will be available after the abstract deadline passes.

Department representatives are asked to hang a poster in their building where grad students will see it and make sure people are aware that the call is out already.

Gwen and Joanna are the volunteer coordinators for the Symposium and will need people to help staff the event and will be asking for help from the department representatives in the future.

Next, Mimi announced that Grad Bash will be Saturday, Nov. 18. The day will start with tailgating at 11am in the Sunken Gardens until the football game starts at 1pm. After the football game at approximately 4pm, Grad Bash will begin and go until 7pm. Grad Bash will have food, live bands, and beer. The whole day only costs \$5.

Gwen next gave the Student Assembly update. If anyone is interested in trying to stop Starbucks from buying the College Delly, they can join the group on Facebook. The undergrads feel that there is not enough night life in town and want to preserve what little there is. The owner of the Delly has not yet decided what to do about selling, and Starbucks is not the only company with a bid on the table.

Finally, Gwen reminded us to let her know about any issues you would like to see brought before the Student Assembly.

The first item for discussion was the Ex-Officio Amendment. Meghan asked if ex-officio implicitly means that officer does not get a vote, and even if it does, should we explicitly say so just in case? Mimi and others felt that ex-officio does imply that the person holding that office does not get a vote, so no additions were made to the amendment.

Zach asked what if there were personality conflicts between the past and current presidents and the current president did not want to appoint the past president to the ex-officio position? Would the current president be forced into making the appointment? Meghan said, and others agreed, that since it is an appointed position, if there were some sort of conflict or reason the current president did not want to appoint the past president, then there was enough leeway in the constitution for that to occur.

Gwen made a motion to close discussion. Kristie seconded.

Gwen moved to vote with a second by Elise.

Mimi called for a vote on adopting the ex-officio amendment, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 for, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The next item for discussion was the Halloween Party to be held Friday, Oct. 27 from 9pm to 1am in the law school lobby. Tickets are \$5 for grad students and \$10 for law students. There will be a DJ, food, beer, and a costume contest. Department representatives are asked to hang up a poster in their building and also find at least two volunteers from their department to help out the night of the party for 30 minute shifts. Volunteer jobs include set-up around 6 or 7pm to move furniture and put up decorations, checking ids at the door and bartending (must be TIPS Trained), floating around and keeping an eye on entrances and exits, and post-party clean-up. Please e-mail names of volunteers or have them directly e-mail Meghan (mkreve@wm.edu) by October 25.

The final item for discussion was a review of the applications submitted for supplemental conference funding. The GSA has enough money guaranteed to give out 17 awards this school year. The Dean's office gave us money for 7 awards this fall, and we expect but are not assured to get the same for the spring semester, for a total of 24 awards for the year. Gwen suggested that we give 8 awards per semester (fall, spring, summer).

Gwen motioned to give 8 awards for the fall 2006 semester with a second by Meghan. Elise moved to make a friendly amendment to change it to a maximum of 8 awards this fall, and the motion passed. Mimi called for a vote on granting a maximum of 8 awards this fall, and it passed unanimously.

There was a discussion on how to allocate the funds and what to give preference to in an application. The general consensus was that applicants who are accepted presenters should be given preference. Elise felt that we should fund non-presenters because they have fewer sources of funding available to them. In the instructions for applying, it states that the applicant must first apply to the Student Activities Conference Fund. No general consensus was reached about whether this rule was fair and if the GSA should stick to it. In future meetings, there needs to be further discussion on generating consistent guidelines for judging Supplemental Conference Fund applications.

Gwen moved to grant awards to the 4 applicants who did apply to Student Activities funding and were presenting at their conference by unanimous consent, and the motion passed.

Next, Gwen moved to grant awards to the 4 applicants who did not apply to Student Activities funding but were presenting at their conference by unanimous consent, and the motion failed. Mimi called for a vote, and by a vote of 9 yes to 1 no, the 4 awards were granted.

All but one of the applicants were presenting at their conference. One applicant's conference is in January and therefore outside the range of dates eligible for fall funding. One applicant did not submit the proper application and instead wrote a letter. These three applicants were rejected.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.