GSC-BoD Monthly Meeting Minutes
November -1st, 2011 at MCR –SFL Library

Directors in attendance: Terry Gdoutous, Bharat Penmecha, Brett Cornell, Toni Lee, Vicky Stolyar, Kate Fountaine, Eyrun Eyjolfsdottir, Mike Post, Artemis Ailianou, Allison Kunz, Lauren Edgar, Junle Jiang, Danielle Bower, Thevamaran (Deva) Ramathasan, Jelena Viscota

Start Time: 12:10 pm

1) Committee Updates:

Social:
Kate: Halloween party went on successfully. There was an incident involving a grad student which has been addressed by the Grad student’s office. This Friday’s Gush will be hosted by the Mixology Club. The date for the club night has been set as Nov-18. Jacob is taking care of the logistics.
Lauren: Would it be possible for Kate to get some sort of a GSC debit card so that expenses can be reimbursed directly?
Terry: The Chair and the Treasurer are the only personnel who have that access, since they are the only ones who are authorized to make transactions.

Advocacy:
Allison: Appointed point persons for committees on various issues of grad student life. Coffee hour has been resumed and will take place on Wednesdays.
Junle: ISP hosts a similar event for international students on the same day at an earlier time.
Allison: Will look into it and change the timing or frequency.

Academics:
Jelena: This year’s Poster session will be renamed to ‘Rising Researchers symposium “. The deadline for submissions is 7th of Nov. We haven’t had any submissions till now.
Lauren: How many posters are you expecting?
Jelena: Atleast 20. Else we may have to cancel the event.
Vicky: Since the event is scheduled from 2.00-5.30, it may be coinciding with the class schedule of many graduate students
Danielle: Asking the students to be present all through the event might also be deterring them from participation.
Lauren: Why do we continue to conduct this event annually if there is such little interest among the grad students to participate?
Jelena: The event had great participation a few years back when Jai organized it. It is a great event for graduate students to know about their peers’ research and help in establishing a cross-disciplinary dialogue among them.
Danielle: How would you go about publicizing the event to gain more participation?
Jelena: We have already sent an email to the graduate students list. We will make it sound a lot more attractive the next time around. I request all the BoD members to circulate the email among their respective options and spread the word among friends.
Vicky: Providing more financial incentive might be a good idea.
Bharat: Update on Everhart Lecture Series: The ELS has been a separate entity directly under the Dean’s office. They have their own committee currently headed by Liz Wang, which officiates over the event. The only involvement they expect from the GSC is in publicizing the event. Liz has agreed to attend the committee meetings and keep us updated.

Jelena: We have a series of events involving Alumni lined up for the next term.

**Sustainability:**

Toni: Plan to organize a volunteering event in partnership with “Friends of the LA river”, an organization to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River. Also plan to design an integrated website which will be a holistic resource for all on-campus sustainability related resources and activities.

**Publications:**

Artemis has turned in her resignation.

Terry: Is there anyone currently interested in taking up the position?

Vicky: What is the job description?

Terry: The Chair is responsible for the Meander and all other publications of the GSC. Meander currently has an editor. The Publications chair has been in charge of the GSC website but we could have a Webmaster.

Terry: I would like to discuss ways of revamping the incentive structure for Publications. Rather than just rewarding the contributing writers monetarily it would be better to help build a sense of community among the writers. One proposal is to arrange for a brunch/lunch for the writers for each issue.

2) **Issues regarding Athletics:**

Terry: The two issues of concern are a) The condition of facilities b) Greater access to the facilities for graduate students.

Artemis: The pools and the spa timings aren’t convenient for Graduate students’ schedules.

Jelena: The staff is not friendly. I have had several friends from various clubs and otherwise complain about this.

3) **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Terry: This year thanksgiving dinner would be hosted at Tom Mannion’s house. Since this is more of a social event, Kate could you appoint a point person and a few volunteers for the event?

Jelena: Since a lot of international students participate we should seek the involvement of ISP.

Junle: I will take up the charge.

4) **Visibility of GSC**

Terry: There was a suggestion at the Steering committee meeting to design GSC shirts for the BoD to increase the visibility of GSC on campus.

Allison: GSC logo patches would be much cheaper and a more flexible alternative.

Lauren: This idea was suggested earlier but didn’t materialize since there were way too many different opinions about how this should be done.

Mike Post: I have had experience with this. I will create the design and arrange for the T-shirts. I will get it done before the next BoD meeting.

Terry: I will organize a lunch with the clubs leaders who have received more than $2000 funding and discuss ways of improving GSC visibility.

Terry: GSC needs a representative for the Caltech-Y.

Deva: Since I am already involved I can be the Caltech-Y representative.

GSC T-shirts prepared by Mike Post were distributed to the BoD.

**Meeting end Time: 1:05pm**