Minutes – GSC BoD Meeting, 02/02/2011, 101 Schlinger


Meeting opened 12:05pm

1. Brief Committee Reports
   1. Social Committee:
      January was a good month for Social Committee - we sponsored a Contra Dance, had the term party at the start of term (hard to say if this was better for attendance since we accidentally picked the Saturday of a 3-day weekend...) and had an outstanding GUSH (thanks to Shaun Swanson!). In February we're planning a joint "sausagefest" (BBQ) with the CPA on February 18th at the grounds outside of BI. We're also planning a Club Night with USC and UCLA grads on February 25th. And plans are underway for a spring formal! As always, we could use more help in planning/organizing/setting up and cleaning up at these events.

2. Advocacy Committee:
   • Faculty Health Committee finally has a Chair Changhuei Yang. Health Insurance negotiations will be up soon.
   • Chocolate-tasting event – on Valentine’s day in collaboration with the Women’s Center
   • Need S2S representative – people to help advertise the program and promote – will send request to the BoD and Artemis will talk to Kevin Austin to find out exactly what is involved in being a representative.

3. Academics Committee:
   • Caltech Video Lectures: Some Caltech courses have been recorded with videos available at Caltech Courses. Right now the selection is limited. The Academics Faculty Committee is discussing the possibility of video-taping of lectures/classes – making them available only within the Caltech network, and only the Professor’s/Lecturer’s face can be visible... investigating the legal issues involved. At the moment, people in the class are not aware that previous years’ lectures have been recorded and are available.

3. Treasurer’s Report
   Tax Season – will be issuing 1099s although nobody needs one. Looks like we are going to have a big surplus – is encouraging more spending over the next year to ensure we are meeting our budget and providing a good range of events and activities for graduate students. Looking at about $6000 for the surplus. For the Quality of Life Survey, we are looking at getting an independent service to analyze the data – this will reduce the burden on time for analysis, but it also gives greater weight to the results having an
independent organization to verify the results. The cost will be slightly more than previously budgeted, also due to expected prizes handed out for returning the survey.

Joe – suggested that we allocate a few other bigger prizes for the secondary part.

Terry – moved to increase Advocacy Committee’s Survey budget from $1000 to $3000. Seconded by Joe Meyerowitz. Will be put to an online vote to ensure quorum.

4. Proposal to reimburse fuel costs for GSC events

Terry - For buying supplies for various events, we discussed reimbursements for fuel costs – this is standard in many academic contexts, also the IRS makes it tax deductible if you are not reimbursed. This will be particularly relevant for those who are driving to Mammoth for the BoD Retreat.

The IRS rate is 55c per mile, Caltech’s rate, maybe 48c or 52c per mile? Probably will go with a lower rate – 25c or 35c per mile? Will cap the amount at $500 per year per person.

5. Funding Request by eClub for Alumni networking event – Cole Hershkowitz, President of the Entrepreneurship club on campus.

The entrepreneurship club will host a networking event in April, will invite grads and undergrads, and an equal number of venture capitalists, businessmen and businesswomen. Aiming for 75 students, half undergrad, half grad – hopefully host at the Alumni house. There will be some screening process to get onto a list and then have a first-come, first-served basis.
Would like to do dinner to facilitate the networking – looking also for organizations to invite. Perhaps a small fee for attendees. Has there been an event like this before? Not to Cole’s knowledge – haven’t had a networking event yet, although the Alumni association has run small events with 8 invited students etc…
How big is the club? Mailing list has around 1000 people on it -

Joe - Suggested reducing the amount of funding to $500 for now and voting on that – then if there is need, they can submit a request for further funding, especially if there is huge demand for attending the event from the graduate community.

Funding request of $500 for the eClub Networking Reception. Moved by Joe, seconded by Artemis. Vote: 9 yes, 1 abstained. Motion approved.
6. **Introduction of Taso Dimitriadis – new Catalina Area coordinator**

Brief introduction – Community building and working with the Resident Associates – every Monday, free bagels and coffee in the Cats (specifically for Catalina residents), introduce resources

Calendar coming out today:
- Superbowl party on Sunday, volunteering with the food bank on Feb 12th,
- Cat-women’s night – watching a movie
- 21st Feb, Cooking program/demonstration and food
- 4th March, Mardi gras – café, blues, New Orleans style
- 10th March, Stress relief – massage tables

7. **GRB Update and Honor Code Issues**

Rob – Maggie is out of town for about another 4 weeks. Before she left, they discussed the bylaws of the GRB, potentially moving them out of the bylaws of the GSC and making them stand-alone bylaws. On each case, we need at least 2 advocates and only have Rob and Maggie, so while she is away, no case can run.

There have been a lot of issues with things not going smoothly. The hope now is to separate the bylaws, re-edit them and change the language a little bit – solicit input on revising the process to make it smoother, advertise the GRB process and educate people on the process. Seems like a number of people push the Honor code issues to the side. Will be meeting with the Board members, meeting with Felicia – but will keep the GRB separate from the Grad Office.

We need a second person to be elected as an Honor Code Advocate, so that the cases in the next two weeks can go ahead. The revision of the GRB by-laws will take some time, need to go through due process and be consistent with any legal restrictions. Also need a fallback system for appointing people in case the GRB goes through turnover problems some time in the future.

Terry, Toni and Patrick offered to be a temporary advocate for the next 2-3 weeks.

8. **New program “Pick a PI”** ([http://www.pickapi.com](http://www.pickapi.com)) - interactive database for rating, reviewing, and getting information about potential PIs, Advisors.

Postponed until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.