GSA Exec meeting minutes  
November 7, 2018

Dates of upcoming events:

- Beach cleanup and TGI: Friday November 16, 4 pm cleanup, 5 pm TGI
- Next meeting: Thursday November 29, 4-5 pm, Andrews 222/226
- Holiday movie night: Friday, November 30, 6 pm, Andrews 326 – voting survey is out
- December digest send-out: Monday December 3?
- Holiday VIMS-wide party: Friday December 7, 7-11, White Marsh
- Dec. GSA Café: Thursday December 13, 9am-noon, CBH 2nd-floor conference room
- Holiday formal party: TBD but likely Friday December 14 or Saturday December 15
- January digest send-out: Monday January 7

Spring/fall party funding questions

- To be decided after the Holiday party once we know the income from the silent auction
- We need to budget more money for this next year, as prices for vendors like the bounce house have gone up.
- We will meet with party planners after January 1 if we need to discuss ticket pricing, expenses, etc.

TGI

- Carol now accompanies TGI committee members to Food Lion to buy the alcohol for the TGI events. This is easier on our treasurer

Holiday party

- No first year skit? GSA execs feel that this is an irreplaceable tradition. Lydia contacted David Johnson about it. We feel this is a very important part of first year bonding, especially for this year’s class as they didn’t get to go to Wachapreague due to the hurricane.
- Apparently we are no longer responsible for cleanup, as the whole event has changed so much. Amanda will ask about this in a very specific way.

Unionizing interest on main campus.

- Graduate students may be forming a union. There is an involvement/interest meeting at W&M on Friday Nov 9th. Amanda sent out flyer to other students (on department-specific listservs) to let people know. We do not feel strongly about this but we will keep up the information flow.

Storage space and equipment news

- Storing main campus heaters
Heaters were great at Grad Bash!
- Asked Dan Coleman where they are, he has just moved them to our storage shed here at VIMS but they are looking for other options on main campus.

- Organizing a Sowers Cleanup
  - It would be great if people who use the coolers, coffee supplies, and other equipment from Sowers could more easily find everything.
  - Jessie will organize a Sowers and storage shed cleanup next semester.
  - To be invited: TGI committee, spring/fall party planners, and GSA exec.

- Borrowing GSA items
  - We should make a “checkout form” for ourselves to keep track of who has what items.

Wachapreague Work Days

- First three days of spring break, drive down on Sunday March 3 and return Wednesday March 6.
- No wait list or deposit needed, we will likely have to deal with people backing out.
- Maximum 12 people including the van driver(s)?
- Food is TBD, Dick Snyder may do one meal, we may provide meals although it could cost up to $700.
- We will decide on food and other details at January meeting after Silent Auction.

Housing rent calculator on webpage

- It is on there as a little blurb, as per Jen Hay’s email request a few weeks ago.
- Link (it is in the last paragraph of the text):
  http://www.vims.edu/education/graduate/gsa/housing_board/index.php

GSA Service Hours Policy

- What counts as GSA service hours? Formerly advertised as 3 hours with no time unit specified.
- A formal written policy is in the works on what counts as service hours, including:
  - GSA-led, -facilitated, or -organized event.
  - The event required you to sign up for it or organize it by communicating with GSAexec or a grad student who leads a committee.
  - Exceptions: If you spend more than a semester abroad or you are a first year in your first semester, you can apply for a GSA research or travel grant without having the service hours.
  - Examples of things that count: volunteering at grad bash, presenting at scientist-walks-into-a-bar, helping with a cleanup for green team, organizing an event such as silent auction or grant-writing workshops.
• Examples of things that don’t count: attending events organized by your fellow grad students (but not volunteering at them or not organizing them), attending meetings such as green team or pdc meetings
• Jessie will write this up and put the “how-to” slides for Tribelink on the webpage.

Digest ideas
• Thoughts – we should focus mostly on GSA events and grad student funding opportunities, not too much repeat of what academic digest already says.
• We have so far had positive feedback about the digest. Yay!

SWMS-atVIMS bank account question
• Lydia sent out the email summarizing our thoughts, no response yet, we will come back to this if it becomes relevant again.

GSA café survey
• Survey to be sent out in January to gauge students’ thoughts and interest in continuing it, and to get suggestions for improving it in terms of timing, location.