Graduate Student Congress
General Meeting Summary
November 2, 2012

The meeting was called to order with all four officers and seven members present. October 2012 General Meeting Summary was reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports

The social committee mentioned that a November event will be selected soon. The social committee survey has gone out – members are encouraged to report their spring availabilities at this time.

Professional Development reported that the Nov 1 Career Pathways panel was a successful event, and organizers have already heard a great deal of positive feedback from attendees. The panelist who was to travel wasn’t able to join us, so we don’t have the $500 travel expense. A transcript of the event will be shared with the listserv and linked on the GSC website. Follow-up will include, at a minimum, a wiki site for career resources and spring workshops on resume tips and interview skills (for non-faculty jobs).

The conference site is live and proposals are open for submission! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Spread the word, submit a proposal, find faculty to give feedback at the conference, volunteer on the day, join the committee and/or serve as a peer reviewer for abstracts.

The only expense since our last meeting was the food for the Pathways Panel, so we still have around $400 in our account plus the $5,000 SGA funds for the conference.

Collective Action

Members reviewed a proposed letter to the editor drafted by the executive board. There was an extensive discussion of both the content and timing of the letter, given that President Capilouto proposed to address the university community the following Monday about a change in course in budgeting matters. After a lively debate, members decided that an abbreviated form of the letter should go out that day to the university community; if, after Monday’s forum, members feel unsatisfied with the President’s agenda, a longer version will be released to the media.

Members agreed that a working group to collect and analyze data to develop a clear infographic is a good idea. The infographic should be shared with the President and the Board, as well as the university community.

Members reviewed suggestions which were sent via the GSC survey on budget concerns. While members agreed that reaching out to Frankfort might be something worth considering soon, a walk out is not in the Congress’ best interests at this time. The administration does seem wary of press coverage, so the letter, if released, might be a powerful action. Another point to consider might be the impact of budget cuts on our SACS reaffirmation process – will the quality of programs and services be negatively affected to such a degree that reaffirmation is jeopardized?

There was no business for the open floor.