UK Graduate Student Congress  
General Meeting Summary  
September 6, 2012

Review of the Congress’ mission was followed by introduction to this year’s slate of officers: Heather Davis, President, Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation; Frank Appiah, Vice-President, Statistics; Eir-Anne Edgar, Secretary, English; and Brad Fox, Treasurer, Mathematics. Members quickly introduced themselves by name and program.

The April 2012 General Meeting Summary was shared with the members. A treasurer’s report of $627.21 plus $5,000 in SGA funding (primarily for the conference and this fall’s speaker) was shared by treasurer, Brad Fox.

Upcoming events were shared with members:

Graduate School Research Open House – Friday, September 14, 2:00 p.m., Gillis Building Front Steps
Members were encouraged to attend to learn about important resources available in the Graduate School and to familiarize themselves with who does what and where within the building that ties us all together. RSVP to Heather Davis (heda222@uky.edu) to attend.

2nd General Meeting – Date and time TBD – In order to find a time best suited to the greatest number of members, the officers will create a Doodle poll for the list-serv.

Career Pathways Outside of Academia– Speaker and Panel – November 1 or 8 (details to be finalized soon)
Dr. Patrick Osmer, Vice Provost, Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School of the Ohio State University, and chair of the Council of Graduate Schools’ commission on Pathways through Graduate School and into Careers will join us for a discussion on opportunities for careers outside of academia. Graduate students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Interdisciplinary Conference – Friday, February 22, 2013
Details forthcoming. UK Graduate Students and Faculty are encouraged to present research through panel discussions, poster presentations and on stage in a translational way that anyone can understand. UK Faculty will provide feedback and support for students who participate.

Additional events will be planned in coordination with committees. Standing committee volunteers were called upon. Each group of volunteers met and selected a chair.

Professional Development
(Fall Lecture Series, Spring Conference, Support of Professional Development Workshops)
Initial Members: Heather Davis, Chair; Maranda Miller; Becky O’Brien

Social
(Social events and Research Open Houses)
Initial Members: Carolyn Troha, Chair; Joe Fields-Elswick

Fundraising
Initial members: Brad Fox, Chair; Shannon Frazier

Members unable to attend general meetings are encouraged to join committees. Contact the committee chairs to join. For questions about the purpose and work of any of the committees, contact any of the GSC officers. Additional committees and/or taskforces may be formed ad hoc with approval by the Executive Council at any time. Committees cannot commit to any funding without prior approval from the Executive Council.
Following committee selection, the voting representative process was explained. Elections will be held in October. Full information is available at [http://sweb.uky.edu/StudentOrgs/GradStudentCongress/representatives.html](http://sweb.uky.edu/StudentOrgs/GradStudentCongress/representatives.html).

Open Discussion:

1). For graduate students pursuing language requirements, are there (or can there be) sections that are specifically for graduate students?

Result: Frank Appiah will bring this item forward to the Graduate Council.

2). Grad students, auditing, and the Graduate School. The Graduate Bulletin states that students are allowed to audit courses, but students have been unsuccessful in registering for audited courses with the Grad School. They do not "want to hear" if students are auditing, which doesn't officially enroll students in the course.

Result: Frank Appiah will bring this item forward to the Graduate Council.

3). United Students Against Sweatshops - in an effort to get the UK Bookstore to carry non-sweatshop produced clothing, is attempting to partner with student orgs to raise support. Will GSC sign their letter of protest?

Result: Member will provide draft of letter for Exec Council to share with members prior to next general meeting. A vote will be held at the meeting by the voting reps as to whether or not to endorse the letter. (Information was also shared with the member about contacting the 4 SGA Graduate Student reps, as well as presidents of other student organizations, to move the agenda item forward.)

4). Qualifying Exams - the Grad School is late/non-compliant in issuing notices to depts for Grads to take their exams.

Result: As this was the third complaint about policies and/or service within the Graduate School, members embarked upon a discussion about how address these issues. Member Joe Fields-Elswick will work closely with Frank Appiah (and the other officers) to develop a quantitative/qualitative survey of student service experience with the Graduate School. Upon approval by the Exec Council, the survey will be shared with the general membership for a vote at the October meeting. In October, a taskforce will be formed, if the survey is approved, to get the survey out to graduate students and to create a report with specific recommendations for change based upon the results.

5). Member wants to promote new student organization featuring Arabic events.

Result: Member was encouraged to share event dates/times with GSC Officers for inclusion in our list-serv newsletter, and also to seek sponsorship through the Student Organization office to be eligible for SGA funding. Member might also work with the GSC Social Committee to co-sponsor some events.

6). Can we create a list of resources for parents? (Both Grad and Undergrad). Areas to start: local preschools, school districts, and any support/programs offered through or by UK.

Result: This will be an agenda item for October – need to form a working group to develop list of resources.

7). Officers share a desire to have broad representation of all graduate students at the GSC General Meetings – across disciplines, age, gender, etc.

Result: Members were asked to reach out to their fellow graduate students to grow our numbers and ensure that we are truly representing all graduate students.