



Graduate Student Council
Full Council November Meeting
November 5, 2018
Kerwin 311
8:15pm - 9:45pm

I. Call to Order

President

PRESENT

Candra

Lauren

Katherine

Meredith

Wendy

Indira

Franklin

Tanar

Josh

Jose

Rachel Marie

Katherine

Tom

Briana

Annaliese

Krishana

Francesca

ABSENT

N/A

II. Cabinet Report

E-BOARD

- *Accomplishments*



- Discussed and created standard operating procedures templates for all members of the council
- Voted on new Finance Team
- Approved nominations for Community Service committee
- Approved new updates to the Bylaws (includes new language for PPJ and President's duties)
- *In-Progress*
 - Midterm watch-party in Kerwin Lobby 11.6.18
 - Discussed potential events for the Mentoring Program that could also be done in conjunction with the Academic and Professional Development Chair
 - Potential fundraising opportunities to raise money for the Gala and other events for SPA
 - E-Board talking about fundraising - t-shirt, sweatshirts, swag as some ideas. Franklin: couldn't get official AU logo for undergrad club - may have to be SPA specific.
 - Status of Graduate Lounge supplies
 - Working on it - funding issue from Student Activities
- *Upcoming*
 - E-board meeting (closed) Monday, November 12
 - Election Night Watch Party in Kerwin Lobby Tuesday, November 6

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

- Tom: One event before finals - "Study Break" in the lounge so students can come through, get a snack or something.
- T: Next semester a professor at the Pew Center that Bachelor recommended who works in immigration policy who would be interested in coming to speak. Early next semester.
- T: Forming committee, trying to get bios into the committee - please reach out and we can put it together.

SOCIAL CHAIR

- *Accomplishments*
 - GSC Kickball game with GW Trachtenberg School
 - Had 16-20 students attend.



- Connected with GW Student Council to plan HH for the end of November.
- *In-Progress*
 - Co-hosting the SPA Election Watch Party in the Kerwin Lobby
 - Working with the SPA Events team to begin preliminary planning for the Gala - Specifically budget from last year to figure for this year. Next step is venues.
- *Upcoming*
 - November HH with GW Student Council
 - Potential event: ice skating near the Capitol in December - planning to begin soon.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Since the October Full council meeting, the Community Service Chair recruited and confirmed five members to serve on the committee. On Friday, November 2nd at 6:00pm, the committee convened for the first monthly meeting.
 - AU is collecting canned foods currently, we are doing a giant push starting next week - flyers and online presence. Paypal set up, as well. Katherine: Second Harvest will sell to you at their prices.
- *In-Progress*
 - The first meeting accomplished: dividing responsibilities for the Can Food Drive that will be taking place November 11-18th. Additionally, events were mapped out through March.
 - December will be an event with either Habitat for Humanity or Wider Circle. Probably December 8th in the morning. One person into Habitat and will be coordinating logistics. Room for appx. Ten people.
 - January will be a Book Drive.
 - February will be Valentines to a Nursing Home.
 - March will be a menstrual product drive.
- *Upcoming*
 - Details related to events in January through March will be ironed out more at the December meeting. Committee members have taken up the



responsibility to think through action items to make this year's events successful.

- The next meeting will be Friday, November 30th at 6:30 pm.

MPA REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Since being elected MPA representative, I have been observing my MPA courses and AU with a renewed critical eye-- one that is seeing not just for myself, but for the program as a whole. Excitingly, I have begun talking to MPA students, meeting new students and getting a general understanding of the student body, in order to understand how to best serve the body. I have done brainstorming and activity mapping to explore various ways to engage and support the body. After having a conversation with the GSC President, the ideas that I have put on a "short-list" are a spring semester town hall, a monthly email with pertinent information for MPA students, and an event to prepare students for graduation and/or making the best out of the last year of the MPA at AU (and in DC).
- *In-Progress*
 - Beginning in November, I will send a monthly email to MPA students with pertinent information, available resources, and anything else related to MPA students. I will also begin planning a town hall/coffee chat for the early spring semester to get targeted feedback and ideas on how to best serve MPA students.
- *Upcoming*
 - The monthly email will begin this month featuring the end of semester/finals tips and positive thoughts to MPA students as they finish their semester.

MPP REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Sent out an introductory email to MPP constituents with my contact information.
 - Represented MPP's at the budget meeting on Oct. 25.
 - Met with Candra to discuss goals for the year.
- *In-Progress*



- Organize a volunteer tutor program for students in economics and statistics courses. Tutors would be older students comfortable with those subjects. I plan to send out an email asking people to volunteer and provide the times they are available. I plan to do this soon after Winter Break. I will compile the list of people and times in a spreadsheet and make it publicly available. Individual students can then coordinate with the tutor as to the exact time and place to meet. This will serve to benefit first-year students who need extra help. It will also provide an opportunity for community service and resume building for students who tutor.
- Meet with Professor Taryn Morrissey after getting feedback from constituents. Ideally, these meetings will be monthly. The first meeting will likely be in December or January.
- *Upcoming*
 - Organizing a social outing to meet and hear from MPP students. Tentative plan is to go to Haagan-Dazs in Bethesda on Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 PM. I will make an event graphic in the coming days. I will then make a Facebook event and post in the MPP and other SPA Facebook groups. I will also ask Jessica to send out an email invite.
 - Tentatively planning to hold office hours on Monday's from 7-8 PM in Kerwin (Ward) Lobby. These will continue through Dec. 3rd. There will not be office hours on Nov. 19 since I will be out of town. I will send Jessica an email and also post in the Facebook groups.

GOV REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Met with Candra to discuss goals and expectations
 - Discussed the role of GSC with gov students
 - Gov students have 2-week campaigning course - weird schedule... impacts how they bill your hours. Speaking to Gov Advisor and putting together on-pager, how to ask off of work etc.
 - Informed gov students about the SPA Grad Lounge.
- *In-Progress*
 - Hoping to organize a town hall style forum with both Political Communication and Political Science students. Maybe partner with other Reps to do this.
- *Upcoming*



- N/A

THSP REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Kickball Game vs. GW on October 20th
 - Prospective Student Happy Hour on October 26th
 - Current Student Happy Hour on October 26th
 - Intern Happy Hour on October 30th
- *In-Progress*
 - Starting a roster of all THSP students. Working with Wendy to reach everyone.
 - Planning a THSP/JLC Happy Hour December 7th from 5-7 at Logan Tavern. In contact in venue, unsure what budget should be? If partnering with Club, would be open to everyone... Wendy: Open to prospective students? Minimum commitment of \$2,000 - No. Vetoed. RM: Try to rent just a single space.
 - How many people will come to the event, drink tickets are expensive, Josh thinks around 30 max. C: Let's say no more than \$300 right now.
- Upcoming
 - THSP/JLC Happy Hour December 7th

JLC REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Conversations with faculty regarding ways to bring Justice, Law and Criminology graduate students together and allow them to voice their experiences, concerns, needs, interests, etc.
 - Conversations with fellow graduate students regarding what they would like to see change or improve within the JLC program. The most frequent feedback I got was the need for more support for the students who started as undergraduates in the dual degree program that have transitioned into the graduate program. Access to orientations would be very helpful for these students.
 - A lot not able to participate in orientation - very frustrating for them. Resource list for JLC - jobs, maybe networking opportunity,



also internal AU resources... RM: Resources given out at orientation can be given.

- *In-Progress*
 - Looking into collaborating with another representative to host a graduate happy hour at the end of the semester
 - Looking into ways to contact all the students in the JLC program. Contacting Shelley Morris, and considering starting a Facebook group for JLC students.
 - Setting up a date to host a “town hall” for JLC students to come and voice their experiences, concerns, etc. Trying to figure out where to start with that.
- *Upcoming*
 - Nothing is set in stone yet. I hope to have an event confirmed within the next two weeks.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
 - Drafted proposals and activities for this year for international students
- *In-Progress*
 - I have a meeting with ISSS in order to coordinate some training sessions for SPA International Students regarding summer internships, OPT and in campus jobs. Not many SPA students have been attending - there is a communication issue in reaching out to international students.
 - Compile a list of international students within SPA b/c trouble with reaching out to all of them.
 - Work on getting a list of resources developed for international students... end of this semester planning some initiatives. Holding a meeting next week with as many international students that we have.
- *Upcoming*
 - I am planning to hold a meeting on the week of the 12th with all international students in order to present our initiatives.
 - Aiming to have a first activity for the week after Thanksgiving with ISSS and the Career Center. Regarding internships and summer internships - requires paperwork, information, and work. Contacting international students who have already graduated from SPA for their input.



PUBLIC PURPOSE JOURNAL (PPJ)

- Happy Hour at Front Page November 10 at 5:30pm, [RSVP](#)
 - We tentatively have 2 writers set to join our event and speak. Human trafficking, and civil liberties (religious realm). There will be food, please share event with your constituents!

RM: SPA does school-wide thanksgiving dinner on November 18th, please let your people know! Whole spread... in Kerwin lobby.

Lauren: Katherine and Wendy had birthdays! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! (Thanks! -K)

III. New Business

A. Confidential Pilot Program

- Discuss detail of the program

B. Gala

- Discuss potential dates for Gala and development of budgetary needs
- Kevin Sutherland was a student at SPA who tragically died, the money we raise goes to his scholarship fund. Technically two different scholarships: one supporting internships (for undergraduates) and one for the memorial (right after he died).
- Going to start looking at themes, dates, costs etc.
- Fran: Can we fundraise for the gala? Cash donations or in-kind donations. RM: There are special regs for alcohol, but other in-kind stuff probably fine.
- Wendy: Auction off other items... Self-care day, maybe in tandem with Tom. Start working on events, can donate proceeds to gala.
- Going to start working on concrete things on gala next semester, right now focusing on a date. RM: Order pictures ahead of time (Not 5 days before). Candra: Raffle tickets last year was not great. Letting people know ahead of time. Plan for end of January for be a part of Gala committee. RM: Can start thinking of themes.
- Candra: If you have a venue idea, send to RM.
- Joshua: Marine Corps Ball, what sort of venue. Somewhere that will share their space with us. Look at capacity and add 50-100. Were probably 200-300 people who were there.
- Krishana: How will clear up the scholarship funds? C: Figuring this out with undergrads... Franklin: Rolled out as for undergrads, maybe were trying to figure out who can fund this.



- Meredith: Maybe Gryphon in DuPont? Have relationship and is a big space.
- Tanar: Time frame? Shooting for April, 8pm-11pm.

C. Board of Trustee Meetings

- November 15-16
- GLC requests two representatives from each GSC to be present at the designated times that's TBD
- Waiting to get scheduling things done. BOT meets to discuss various university funding. One or two designated for each member to attend - would prefer two people from each organization. Candra will send out information as it comes in. Can have more than two people if lots want to go.
- Funding meeting, student activities meeting, and maybe one or two things we'll be at.

D. Online Student Representative

- Provide update about this position that will begin Spring 2019
- Some online students last year did not feel very involved on campus organizations. Been working with Director of Online program and an online student to figure out what that position would look like - aim to start next semester.
- Suggestions from students for bylaws on online student reps. Hope to push out to full council next month. Depending on interest, if not a lot of people interested in position, thinking of having Melissa Troy officially make her the online rep by appointment.
- If you know online students, let them know about this!

E. SPA Swag

- Discuss the creation of SPA specific t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. to sell for students.
- Would like to start selling stuff before Christmas.
- RM: working with Lisa because they have partnerships (can get us discounts and approval for SPA logo). Can do campaigns where there's a minimum to sell and we'll only pay for what we buy.
- Lauren: If you have a clever design idea RM: Does graphic design.
- Candra: Lauren will head the project. Send ideas to Lauren! Two weeks we should have a design ready to go. Open up to student body.



- Tanar: How long for shirts? RM: ordered and printed within like a week (unless online system can get shipped to themselves).
- Krishana: long-sleeve t-shirt or sweatshirts!
- Lauren: T-shirt contest RM: Free ticket and t-shirt if you win!

F. Graduate Student Clubs at American University

- GLC is compiling a list of all clubs available to graduate students. If there are any clubs/organizations housed within SPA, have them SPA GSC president.
- Email Candra if you know of other clubs. Josh to put C in contact with Lavanya.

IV. Adjournment

President