



**Graduate Student Council**  
Full Council November Meeting  
December 3, 2018  
Kerwin 311  
8:15pm - 9:45pm

**I. Call to Order**

*President*

Candra, Lauren, Indira, Meredith, Francesca, Franklin, RM, Josh, Tom, Krishana Present  
*N/A*

**II. Cabinet Report**

**E-BOARD**

- *Accomplishments*
  - Election Night Watch Party in Kerwin Lobby Tuesday, November 6
  - Received supplies from Student Activities for the Graduate lounge
  - Updated the budget for the remainder of the year
  - Finalized financial process for PPJ
- *In-Progress*
  - Moving forward with Melissa Troy as Online Student Rep
  - Working to finalize the logo for SPA Swag and process in which students can order gear
  - Updating bylaws to include language concerning GSC President Removal from GLC
  - Creating a budget for next semester to request additional funds from GLC
- *Upcoming*
  - KOGOD Red Dress Gala Jan. 25
  - Orientation for Spring Semester; January 10th - 40 ish new students
    - Allison will invite E-Board to that lunch
    - Thinking of doing something for new students next semester
  - Adding new students for the mentoring program for Spring 2019
  - Take group photo for a website
  - Last bulletin for the semester will be sent out next week
  - E-board meeting December 17th



### **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR**

- *Accomplishments*
  - The Professional Development and Academic Affairs committee has been formed since the last GSC meeting. Nancy (Elizabeth) Hale (MPA) and Nigel Stinson (Political Communications) have joined as committee members.
- *In-Progress*
  - The PDAA committee is planning a nonpartisan talk on immigration policy for the spring semester. An expert on immigration policy from the Pew Charitable Trusts has been contacted. We plan to include one more speaker either from within American University or an outside organization.
    - Sort of Q&A session. Preferably early next semester
  - Students that will take a required summer class have voiced concerns about the lack of a U-Pass during the summer session.
    - Not a university issue, AU has been pushing it, but because the way we define part-time WMATA doesn't think they'd get their money's worth by offering part-time students the U-Pass. All grades have been pushing for this initiative, but we're at the mercy of WMATA on this point.
- *Upcoming*
  - The PDAA committee and the Social Events committee will be co-hosting a "Study Break" for SPA graduate students on Tuesday, December 4th starting at 4:30PM. Stop by the graduate lounge get a hot drink and snack and fill in adult coloring books as a de-stressing activity before finals.

### **SOCIAL CHAIR**

- *Accomplishments*
  - Received quotes from venues for Gala locations and catering services
    - Figuring out budget, won't look at venues or sign contracts until this is settled.
  - Planned an end-of-the-year event in conjunction with Tom for stress-free activities and hanging out
- *In-Progress*
  - End of the year event tomorrow night!



- *Upcoming*
  - January: Welcome Back Happy Hour with new students – end of first week of classes. May do something after Orientation, but will be just for new students
  - February:
    - February 7 – Joint Happy Hour with Key Executive Program → Networking opportunity
    - February 13 – Galentine’s Day!
      - Josh: Dr. Bacon? RM: This year looking for alumni
  - March: Working on ideas
  - April: Gala
  - May: End of year happy hour and relaxation event

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- *Accomplishments*
  - Completed Canned Food Drive
- *In-Progress*
  - CSC is going to Habitat for Humanity Restore on Saturday 12/8 from 9am-2pm
    - Still 4 spots open, if you’d like to join, see the sign up link in bulletin, or talk it up in classes this week.
  - January Book Drive planning is in progress
- *Upcoming*
  - List of ongoing volunteer opportunities to Annaliese to put on the website and the bulletin
  - January: Will host Book, CD, DVD Drive throughout the month
    - Going to an org that sells them at second hand store, profits go into parent/child development services etc. Called “Turning the Page DC”
  - February: Connecting with nursing home facilities to set up Valentine’s Day visit
    - We will host a Card-making station in the lobby of Kerwin on a date to be decided at a the January meeting
  - March: Menstrual Product Drive
    - The committee is still in the early stages of planning
    - Themed around Intl Day of the Woman



- April: Nature Clean-Up
  - The committee is still in the early stages of this event
  - Crowd-sourcing for the event?

#### **MPA REPRESENTATIVE**

- *Accomplishments*
  - Established connection with MPA Program Specialist
    - Making some changes for new students, will learn more about this
  - Sent initial newsletter to all MPA students as the beginning of a monthly initiative
- *In-Progress*
  - Establishing communication with MPA students
  - Understanding MPA student priorities and needs
- *Upcoming*
  - I will send one final newsletter in December
  - I will start planning MPA/MPP town hall with MPP Representative for February 2019 before the end of the semester

#### **MPP REPRESENTATIVE**

- *Accomplishments*
  - Continued holding office hours on Monday evenings.
  - Held off-campus ice cream social this past Friday night.
  - Gathered feedback from classmates about a difficult courses
- *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 will 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.
    - I will write the emails and create the links for students/tutors to sign up over Winter Break. They will be sent out the first week back from break.



- Meet with Professor Taryn Morrissey after getting feedback from constituents. Most of my constituents' primary concerns have already been passed along to GSC and to the dean's office, so I plan to set up a meeting in January after the break.
- Coordinate with fellow representatives on a town hall to take place in the spring.
- *Upcoming*
  - Determining when office hours in the spring will be held. Will most likely be on Tuesday evenings before my 8:20 class.

### GOV REPRESENTATIVE

- N/A

### THSP REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
  - Program of Study issue resolved. Yay!
- *In-Progress*
  -
- *Upcoming*
  - THSP and JLC Town Hall on 5 Dec at 1900 (7 PM)
    - MGC Rm. 245
    - Takes 3 days to reserve room and confirm
    - A lot of people are going
  - Donate things to friend's base in Afghanistan
    - Can do money donations to Paypal and give over to Josh

### JLC REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
  - Built more of a rapport among JLC students. Trying to position myself as someone they can come to with questions, concerns, etc.
    - Draft to E-Board, send out to students in January
  - Sharing my ideas with faculty - attempting to get them interested in my efforts to improve/bring together JLC.
- *In-Progress*



- Townhall - Partnering with THSP rep, Joshua to make this happen. He's been great at pushing this event through. We are hoping for a good turnout.
- Advance planning for a town hall in the spring semester. Hopefully, this will occur in the first week.
- Developing an E-blast to JLC students. Trying to figure out what significant information to include, how frequent, etc.
- Developing a resource list for SPA students, trying to make one specific to JLC students also.
- *Upcoming*
  - Town hall for JLC and THSP students on Dec. 5th
  - Beginning of semester SPA town hall (would the other programs be interested in partnering with me on this? It could be an SPA-wide event)
  - E-Blast to JLC students (mid-January), and resource list (mid-January).
    - Talk to Krishana about newsletter experience

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

- *Accomplishments*
  - a) Launched an International Students Survey and we receive 22 answers between November 7, until December 2, we will let more answers to come until the end of this week.
  - b) Obtain a database of SPA International Students, still trying to figure out if every International Student is accounted for in that list.
  - c) I met with Renee Howatt to learn about the International Students Mentorship program that was put together last year. Still, need to have further conversations regarding this program, but the idea would be to relaunch it next semester, including new International Students starting next semester.
- *In-Progress*
  - Survey analysis and proposal analysis to set up an agenda of activities.
  - Trying to complete an International Students database.
- *Upcoming*
  - Summer internship workshop for International Students to be held in January.



### **PUBLIC PURPOSE JOURNAL (PPJ)**

- Flyer on PPJ submission process
  - Push out online, bulletin, in classes etc.
  - Broad in topic, analytic in focus

### **III. New Business**

#### *A. SPA Swag*

- Discuss submissions from the t-shirt contest
  - i. [LINK HERE](#)
  - ii. For each design, all of those styles and colors are included, but each campaign has a minimum of 5 t-shirts that must be sold for it to be worth the price. Can offer more than one design, but people would have to buy at least 5 of each design.
- Go over information about logo usage
  - i. Not allowed to put “AU” on them, and we have to run the final design by SPA Marketing and Dean
- Tentatively plan when the shirts will be available for sale
  - i. Email Lauren about choices for t-shirts by Friday
- Krishana: Are we trying to name the school? In the long-term
- How should we price them? Think about it.
  - i. \$40 for sweatshirt? Compared to \$50 that AU sells
- Lauren will find out if we can find the SPA logo instead of AU logo.
- Depending on how it goes, we can have another design contest.
- Wendy and Josh’s idea: ‘Merican on the front, on back: Our students are earning the A → Lauren will mock this up
- “‘Merican University School of Public Affairs” “Our Students are earning the A”

#### *B. Meeting for Next Semester*

- Fill out poll for new meeting day and time for next semester
  - i. First week of the semester will be meeting but moving forward will be first week of the month.

#### *C. Gala*

- Discuss gala updates
- Tentatively plan a recurring date for Gala planning meetings
- RM reached out to some venues for quotes and catering options. Reviewed, but hanging on if we’re able to use ticket sales to cover cost of



venue (If yes, we're ok with almost any of the venues). Potentially say "proceeds" go to Kevin Sutherland Fund. See if we can transition over to proceeds model, since it's been pretty well established, and have money from his photographs, as well.

- District Winery (flat fee per person), River Boat Cruise things (Old Town Alexandria), Clarendon Ballroom (right off Orange line, large club), Glen Echo (cheap, carousel), Lincoln's cottage, Army Navy Country Club (Lauren and Josh have connections).
- Marine Corps Ball Washington Hilton.
- Contact RM with questions, concerns, ideas

#### *D. SOP for Funding Request*

- Discuss the new process for requesting funds
  - i. Email Francesca with questions on new budgeting process and for newly allotted amounts

#### *E. 25Live*

- GSC only gets one spot on this; Wendy currently has access and three other people through other means.
- Contact Wendy if you need a room! IT TAKES 3 DAYS FOR A REQUEST TO BE APPROVED.

## **IV. Adjournment**

*President*