Graduate Student Government of
Michigan Technological University

Meeting Date: January 25, 2016

I. Call to Order
   A. Meeting is called to order at 5:16 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda
   A. Motion to approve by Menon
      1. Second by Karen
      2. Passes unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes from January 11th, 2016
     A. Motion to approve by Lydia
        1. Second by Omkar
        2. Passes unanimously

IV. New Business
    A. International Graduate Student Communication and Cultural Center (Joy Collard)
       1. Program designed to help international students master the English language through day to day language sessions. Located in Walker 102, sign up for one on one appointments or group discussions. Feedback has been positive with participants reporting increased confidence in teaching communication, increased listening skills, and an increased ability in defending thesis or dissertations. Sessions can last up to an hour and typically meet two to three times a week. The IGSC3 website can be found here. On Wed. January 27th in Walker 107 they will have a social event from 5:15 PM to 6:30 PM.
       2. Q&A
          a) Dr. Murthy- How many students utilize this?
             (1) Averages between 50-60 students per semester.
          b) Karen- Are you looking for more coaches or need more participants?
             (1) Right now we want more participants, right now we have 14 available time slots.
          c) Giovana- Should students just show up or how do they sign up?
             (1) Email is the best way, samathe@mtu.edu is Sylvia Matthews’ email address.
          d) Dr. Murthy- Is this information part of graduate student orientation?
             (1) We are not currently part of it.
          e) Nithin- This is only for students right?
             (1) Yes this is only for graduate students, or if you have a spouse they can go with you.
    B. Discretionary Funding Request: African Night (Efe Plange)
       1. ASO is requesting $2,500 for the African Night event. ASO is primarily made up of graduate students. Most of the performances will be from third party
performers. $2,500 will help cover the star fashion show, Madafo the story teller and Bichini Bia Dance Group.

2. Q&A
   a) Giovana- How much are the tickets?
      (1) $10 dollars and should have around 250 attendees.
   b) Menon- Do you have the budget/attendees from last year?
      (1) We don’t, but we had a lot of excess food so we are budgeting for less. The bridge closure was scheduled for the same day as our event, that affected attendance. There will only be one venue for the event this year, which will be better for attendance.
      (2) Joe R.- They are requesting the same amount as they did last year.
   c) Nithin- How are you going to advertise this event?
      (1) We are going to put posters around campus before hand.

3. Voting
   a) Motion was made by Shelley to provide $2,500 and purchase 10 tickets for Husky FAN to distribute to students in need.
      (1) Motion was second by Beth
      (2) Passed unanimously
   b) Pass 27, Fail 0, Abstain 1
   c) Motion passes

C. Discretionary Funding Request: Chinese Night (Yan Yan)
   1. CSSA is requesting $1,000 for their Chinese New Year Celebration. Funds will help cover food costs. Total event will cost $4,800 and the remaining will be obtained from other sources (USG and Chinese Embassy). Volunteers and performers will get free admission.
   2. Q&A
       a) Avi- It's going to be on Feb. 15th., the day before the Career Fair?
          (1) We couldn’t schedule for the week before because of Winter Carnival.
       b) Chelsea- How much are tickets going to cost?
          (1) Early bird tickets will be $12, normal rate tickets will be $15.
       c) Dr. Murthy- What do you pay the dining services for?
          (1) They help prepare and serve the food.
       d) Giovana- How many people came last year?
          (1) Roughly 350-375 people last year, we increased our budget this year to prepare more food as we ran out last year.
   3. Voting
       a) Joe R.- Last year we funded them for the same amount, and a discretionary funding request needs to be made 4 weeks before the event so we need to suspend bylaw 6.E.ii.3.
          (1) Beth makes motion to suspend bylaw 6.E.ii.3
             (a) Second by Menon
             (b) Passes unanimously
       b) Motion by Will to fund $1,000 and purchase 10 tickets for Husky FAN to distribute.
V. Officer Reports

A. President (Chelsea Nikula)
   1. Housing and transportation meeting will be Thursday at 4 PM in GSG offices
   2. Lunch with Alumni Association Board of Directors on February 5th, make sure to RSVP by Feb. 1.
   3. 3 things we should look into discussing:
      a) We should discuss changing department allocations in the near future.
      b) University policies that affect graduate student rights need to be addressed and
      c) Review the experience tech fee.
         (1) Menon- Will we need to make subcommittees for each of these topics?
             (a) If we get enough people.
   4. Thesis submission seminar will take place Jan 26th PM from 4-5 PM
      a) Menon- Do they have any way of adding another session?
      b) Chelsea- It is recorded and put online, but she will ask Dr. Charlesworth.
   5. Library poster design workshop will take place Feb 1st 12-1 PM and March 22nd 12-1 PM in Library 242.
   6. Allie Irwin will be giving a talk about body language Feb 12 at 2 PM.
   7. University Budget Forum will take place Feb 4th at 11 AM at DOW 642.
      a) Karen- Will this be a good time to talk about tuition waiver for graduate students who do research but don't get stipends?

B. Vice-President (Will Lytle)
   1. The MUB has created a special menu for student orgs, a cheese pizza is now only $10. They may be willing to add more items to this menu as well.

C. Interim Treasurer (Joe Reath)
   1. Account balance: $92,629.44
   2. Budget standing: $29,806.41/$85,413
   3. Discretionary $1,200/$8,000
   4. Surplus: $4,912.99/$42,122.80
   5. Travel grants are open till Feb 19th.
      a) Menon- What if someone is traveling to a conference before the end of the session but doesn’t receive their confirmation by February 19th?
      (1) Joe R- That is an unusual circumstance, we would have to consider that.

D. Secretary (Joe Fedie)
   1. Make sure to hold your Meet & Greets by February 19th to remain in good standing.
2. **Academic Chair Special Election**
   
a) **Nominees**
   (1) Lydia Lytle
   (2) Tyler Capek
   (3) Betsy Kruppe

b) **Motion to close nominations by Joe R.**
   (1) Second by Menon
   (2) Passes unanimously

c) **Motion to vote by Rafael**
   (1) Second by Shelly
   (2) Passes unanimously

d) **Voting Results**
   (1) Lydia 3, Tyler 4, Betsy 21, Abstain 1
   (2) Betsy is our new Academic Chair

VI. **Committee Chair Reports**
   A. **Academic (Shelley Jeltema)**
      1. GRC needs judges for both poster and talks.
      2. Resume and CV workshop January 29th from 3-4 PM in MUB Ballroom A.
         a) Godwin - Who can attend the GRC banquet?
            (1) Shelley- GRC participants, award winners, and selected invited guests.

   B. **Social (Bethany Klemetsrud)**
      1. IPS and GSG Ski day was a success.
      2. Cross country ski day will be 2/14/2016 from 1-5 PM at the Tech Trails
      3. Dance party will be March 18th (7pm - ?)
      4. Ph.D Movie will be March 25th (6-10 PM) in Fisher 139.
         a) Giovana- Two ideas for socials: short movie competition and a fall semester scavenger hunt.
      5. We will have a GSG member social on Sunday February 7th, we will be watching the Super Bowl and having a Chili Cookoff and Potluck.

   C. **Public Relations (Avinash Subramanian)**
      1. New website unveiled, it will be launched publicly this week.

VII. **Ad Hoc Committees**
   A. **Housing and Transportation**
      1. See President’s report.

VIII. **Liaison Reports**
   A. **University Senate (Gorkem Asilioglu)**

   B. **Undergraduate Student Government**
      1. Special budget group will be meeting with USG.
      2. Educate students on how to vote in the upcoming elections.

   C. **Research Advisory Council (Muralee Menon)**
1. RAC will be meeting on Thursday, and will be changing internal deadline for proposals. All proposals need to be submitted 4 days before the actual submission date.

D. IT Governance Group (Shelley Jeltema)
   1. Still working on getting software for computers that are available to all students and to only buy the software that is currently being used.
      a) Menon- I know you can ask IT to install specific software, how do I do that?
                     (1) You need to submit a ticket and if you only have a trial version then you need to have your advisor you need to purchase the license.

E. Friends of the Van Pelt Library (Kevin Waters)
   1. Book sale at the Library during the Saturday of Winter Carnival

F. Council of Philanthropy (Wesley McGowan)
   1. No report

IX. Old Business & Discussion Items
   A. Meet & Greet Reports
      1. Giovana- ECE had theirs Dec 10th, and had a lot of the normal complaints: parking, housing etc. Having shuttle from Wal-Mart to Daniel Heights instead of the MUB would be nice.
      2. Ulises- Chem Eng also had theirs, a student had an issue figuring out how many credits should be taken the semester they need to graduate. IPS and graduate school needs to communicate more.

B. Other Concerns
   1. Menon- Daniel Heights contract goes until June 30th but have no way of ending it even though they are graduating in the summer or if they want to move off campus at the beginning of summer.
      a) Sumanth- The manager for DH said he would get back to the committee last year on this, but didn’t

C. Announcements
   1. IASNR will have an international conference will be at Michigan Tech will occur this semester and abstract deadline is 1/31/2016 and needs volunteers.
   2. Sumanth- The student is not here right so can he apply for the travel grant?
      a) If the student qualifies for our requirements, yes.

X. Adjournment
   A. Motion to adjourn Beth
      1. Second by Shelley
      2. Passes unanimously