

Graduate Student Association (GSA)
Monday, August 29, 2011

- Meeting was called to order by President Aaron Rollins at 5:32 pm.
- President Rollins introduced himself, the agenda for the meeting, and the Graduate Student Association in general.
 - He also introduced Vice President, Vemitra White
- President Rollins introduced guest speaker, Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Provost of MSU
 - Dr. Gilbert spoke on graduate school success, taking advantage of opportunities put before you, and being the best graduate student you can be
 - Dr. Gilbert spoke on raising the standards of graduate education at MSU and improving the quality to separate ourselves from other universities. He also stated that President Mark E. Keenum is also dedicated to the quality of growth and understanding and a commitment to graduate education.
 - Dr. Gilbert mentioned that although graduate students only make up 20% of the overall student body population at MSU we should keep the following things in mind:
 - Graduate students are a great value to MSU
 - Graduate students have the largest impact on the national reputation of MSU (specifically doctoral students)
 - Goal for MSU: To provide the highest quality education and become the most prestigious university possible.
 - Dr. Gilbert encouraged all graduate students to get a doctorate degree and go into academia
 - Student's should take advantage of teaching opportunities while in graduate school
 - Get involved with your major professors and co-author a manuscript and get involved in research in your field
 - Student's should participate in conferences and government programs such as NSF and Fulbright
 - Future faculty are ambassadors and representatives for MSU
 - Encouraged students not to limit themselves in their choices and their upward potential
 - Expand your credentials, become multidimensional, and see out every experience you can
 - Dr. Gilbert also spoke on getting involved in the community
 - Graduate students are allowed to run for Student Body President at MSU
 - Raise your voices as graduate students collectively and be heard.
- Dr. Gilbert opened the floor for questions
 - GSA student asked why our tuition and fees are going up every year?
 - GSA student asked if we could be provided with a breakdown of tuition and fees?
 - GSA student asked about procedures for becoming a TA?
- President Rollins introduced Dr. Karen Coats, Interim Associate Dean of The Office of the Graduate School
 - Dr. Coats encouraged students to take advantage of all graduate school opportunities
 - Stop by the Office of the Graduate School to get information about the Fulbright program.
 - If you are a minority in the STEM areas, please get involved in the AGEM program
 - Please also stop by OGS to find out additional information about upcoming NSF workshops
 - Dr. Coats spoke on the value of a graduate education
 - Graduate programs are rigorous and should be. Graduate school gives you preparation, training, and endurance for your field and to enter the work force
 - Value the experience that you have with your major professor and gain all the knowledge you can through participating in research with them.
- President Rollins closed the meeting to GSA students/members only

- He explained that there needs to be a time during the meeting where GSA members feel comfortable discussing issues, questions, and concerns amongst the members before bringing them to faculty.
- This will provide a sense of anonymity for the members and to ensure that concerns have been discussed collectively within the organization.
- President Rollins opened the floor for students to speak freely about any concerns
 - Students did not voice concerns at this time
- President Rollins discussed travel awards
 - Students who are planning on traveling to a conference should apply for the GSA travel award.
 - Please also be aware that the Office of the Graduate School also offers TAGGS (Travel Assistant Grants for Graduate Students)
- 2011-2012 GSA Officers were selected for the following positions
 - Nominations for Secretary (***Sarah Chavada Davis***)
 - Marchella Thomas
 - Hillary Zelenka
 - Sarah Chavada Davis
 - Nominations for Treasurer (***Rosanne Scammahorn***)
 - Christopher Ferrell
 - Rosanne Scammahorn
 - Mani Bhavaraju
 - Nominations for Social Chair (***Drew Nicholas***)
 - Hilary Zalenka
 - Drew Nicholas
 - President Rollins encouraged all students who were not selected to hold a position on the executive board to become involved as an ambassador and participate in executive board meetings or to become a part of the social chair committee.
- President Rollins called for additional comments or concerns and adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.