

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

January 30, 2012

- Meeting Attendance: 29
- Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
- President Aaron Rollins introduces 2010-2011 GSA President Luke Fowler
 - Luke discusses the GSA symposium
 - The symposium is more in line with academic conferences. Organized based on disciplines. This is the 10th annual call for papers. The GSA Symposium will be held in McCool hall on April 14, 2012
 - We will be sending out a call for papers soon so look forward to it. The research symposium is an opportunity for graduate students to present research in an academic setting. You will have the opportunity to hone your presentation skills and be judged on your work/research.
 - There were oral & poster presentations last year. Not as many presentations as we would like
 - If you have questions please contact me Nlf22@msstate.edu (Luke)
 - Student asks, how many presenters from last year?
 - There were about 30 (25 oral/ 5 poster)
- Aaron opens the floor for our Talk with the Dean
 - Dr. D'Abramo discusses National Graduate and Professional Student Week (April 5 M-T)
 - This is something that goes on at many universities throughout the US. Our goal is for next year is to have the GSA symposium during this week
 - There will be a screening of Ph.D movie April 3, 2012
 - We would like to have a forum (please let us know if you have any ideas)
 - Ice Cream social
 - Discounts will be offered for graduate students throughout the restaurants in Starkville
 - Please let us know if you have any additional ideas
- Aaron introduces our speaker for tonight, Dr. Deborah Lee from the Mitchell Memorial Library
 - Aaron wants to discuss the policy of turnitin.com and how GTA's don't get access to it so we as teaching assistants need help with catching plagiarism
 - He also announces that we will have a business etiquette dinner soon. Look forward to it
- Deborah Lee: Associate Director for CTL and library professor
 - CTL is open to graduate students as well
 - Responsible for turnitin.com at MSU
 - Access is restricted to instructors of record. If you are not, you will need to speak with someone in your department in order to get access.
 - Some faculty use turnitin for dissertations but students are not allowed to do so
 - Turnitin looks at websites/ internet archive, database of publications (articles), archive of student work.
 - She also discusses some strategies that you can use to lessen the likelihood that students cannot plagiarize
 - Make the assignment time important: Break the writing process down into its component parts (intro, outline, list of resources) Don't give the paper assigned at the end of the semester because you cannot view their writing process & work as it goes along
 - Have a discussion with your students about what your expectations are in the classroom. Explain why we care about academic integrity & research ethics, show them what legitimate research looks like so they know what you are expecting
 - Deborah also states that she works on the research council: some cases of academic dishonesty are the fault of the professor because the students are not given explicit directions
 - The real challenge is teaching students at this level of how they will provide information and synthesize information
 - Plagiarism is like pregnancy: either you're there or you're not
 - if you suspect a student of plagiarism, using turnitin is your best resource
 - Strategies to help your students
 - Tell them you will use turnitin, actually use it, and use it fairly across your class & treat every student equally, no cherry picking
 - CrossCheck: like turnitin but used by journal editors for your papers that you submit for publication
 - when you submit a paper on turnitin, you do have the option to opt out of the student archive
 - Deborah discusses some of the library workshops that are offered to help graduate students:
 - Survival skills for graduate students
 - There is a research guide that is specifically for the survival skills
 - Resources for grad students
 - List of all the workshops this semester
 - all workshops this semester are offered face to face & online (online workshops are archived in mycourses)

- The floor is open for questions:
- One student asks can turnitin be made available for GTA's?
- Deborah states that turnitin will not be available to GTA's but she will bring it up at her faculty meeting.
- Another student asks, how do teaching assistants become a part of the Preparing Teaching Faculty program for graduate students?
- In August a notice goes out to all grad coordinators & tell them that the program is beginning for another year and attach an application, there are eligibility requirements, the application is submitted, it is somewhat competitive, in terms of representations from diff colleges there is a lot of diversity, there are only so many available because of lack of resources, students have to spend about 15 hrs in workshops, departmental meetings, faculty senate meeting, or other workshops, then there is a capstone may-mester 3 hr course, we're working on now getting a certificate so that students can use it on their resume to be more competitive for jobs
- Deborah discusses additional library benefits
 - Library also has the ask a librarian service. You can contact them through chat, email, phone and any librarian would be glad to help you
- Vice President Vemitra White discusses the GSA Banquet:
 - if you have any ideas please let me know & if you're interested in helping please see me
 - The banquet will be held on Tuesday April, 24, 2012. Banquet is not open to all grad students, we are looking to invite students who are nominated for awards and the recipients
 - We would like a show of hands for people that would be willing participate (the etiquette dinner may be scheduled for the national GS appreciation)
- Aaron opens the floor for questions for the dean?
 - No questions
- Meeting adjourned 6:52pm