

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

- Attendance: 23
- Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm
- President Aaron Rollins introduced the guest speaker for the day: Gail Payton
- Librarian Assistant (Gail Payton: Coordinator of Reference Dept. & Interim Assoc. Dean of Public Services) Worked at MSU for 17 years & works specifically with outreach.
 - Provided students with handouts for reference sections and discussed how to get one on one help with research & identifying sources
 - Advised student to email her on the needs and concerns of graduate students with MSU library.
 - Displayed the library webpage & discussed the information portal & how we have library guides & how they are used throughout the world.
 - Explained that there are several portals for different services (I.e. distance learning)
 - Explained that there is a designated librarian for each portal (i.e. distance learning)
 - MSU Library Services: Available to all MSU students
 - Ask a librarian (virtual, email, chat). There is always a librarian at the desk ready to answer virtual, chat and email questions
 - Traditional services include making an appointment with a subject specialist to talk one on one about your specific research topics
 - Help yourself guides with a link specifically for graduate students
 - The library also offers workshops throughout the school year. Offered thought the instructional media center to help with any specific technology needs
 - There are also library instruction workshops specifically for graduate students (ex: endnote software)
 - You can purchase the endnote program from the library and come to the library for workshops on how to use the program.

- Debora Lee can help arrange workshops if there is a specific topic that you want covered that is not listed as a current workshop)
 - -Students are able to register online for any workshop. There are also handouts and tutorials available for students.
 - Survival skills for graduate students. You can register for the workshops (SSFGS). The workshops were designed based on student and faculty needs that were thought to be interesting to graduate students.
 - Discussed the important of inter-library loan and how it can be used to get information delivered from other libraries and have delivered
 - Discussed the importance of checking citations for correct information. If you need help requesting information (books, journals) you can always come to the library for help.
 - Thesis and Dissertation format library help is coordinated through the requirements of OGS. This service can also be used to locate thesis and dissertations from other schools.
 - There is a research portal to address research issues that students faced over the years and provide a guide for each department (i.e. accounting, biology, etc) The guide provides information on each specific department program and provides specific reference tools for that area of study. It also includes information from the web and other schools.
 - Student asked about using Google scholar. Gail stated that we do use Google scholar as a reference and it is very reputable
 - Discussed the databases that are available (several have a description and a tutorial on how to use the database)
 - New discovery search engine. You can type subjects, names of books or authors, etc and it will search databases and other resources at the same time and pulls up the best information
- o Gail urges students to come to the library for help and to contact the library because it is very student focused
 - o Gail opened the floor for questions/concerns

- On discovery can you work with the program to help address concerns with a minor spelling error?
 - Can you work to address the time and hours of operation? The library should open earlier than 7 am?
 - Can the discovery provide advance search options?
 - Can you work to have a more quiet area of study?
 - Sign up for group study?
 - Can the library work with a dean to create a quiet room in different buildings on campus?
- President Aaron Rollins introduced the Dean of the Office of the Graduate School (Dr. Lou D'Abramo)
- Dean D'Abramo spoke briefly to the graduate students
 - The office is always open and if you have an issue or concern please feel free to come in and talk with us.
 - Student asked about students not walking in the crosswalk.
 - Dr. D'Abramo stated that students will have to take those concerns with parking services.
 - Dr. D'Abramo also talked about people on bicycles riding fast across crosswalks. There are rules against this. Michael Harris is the head of parking services.
- President Aaron Rollins excused the deans
- President Aaron Rollins stated that he spoke with Dr. D'Abramo about our student concerns that were addressed in previous meetings and stated that we should continue to bring our concerns to the GSA meetings
- President Rollins called for additional comments or concerns and adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm