

Graduate Student Association (GSA)
October 2011

- Attendance 22
- Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm
- President Aaron Rollins introduced Lauren Vasquez
 - Lauren talked about her Verizon Fellowship
 - She is planning on bringing Dr. Jackson Cats on Nov 3, 2011 at 7 pm in Taylor auditorium to speak about positive relationships
 - Lauren believes he has a message that can make a strong impact on campus and they are coordinating with outreach & sexual assault services, dept of gender studies, and other depts. On campus
 - She also talked about Macho Paradox (Dr. Jackson Cats book). Discussion on prevention of domestic violence and training programs (used by marines and athletic organizations)
 - Please attend and spread the word throughout your department
- Call for questions
- Aaron introduced Dr. Karen Coats
 - Does anyone have any questions for the dean or any concerns
 - Student asked how to become a dean?
 - Dr. Coats suggests earning a Ph.D, Post doc for some positions, get a faculty position, and get your name out there and let people know that you are interested in administrative positions. You will earn respect along the way and people will open doors for you.
 - She also talked about her teaching techniques; organized, effective, approachable, and enthusiastic
- Aaron Rollins Introduced Drew (social chair)
 - Reservations at Daves Dark Horse for our social event to get fellowship with other grad students
 - Trivia challenge
 - Tailgate (Nov 12 for the Alabama game)
- Aaron introduced (Carol Boyles) the liaison for the college of arts and sciences for the career center
 - Carol Boyles discusses how the career center can be helpful in resume critiquing, job searches, and interview preparation.
 - There is a staff member for every college to help students find a job after undergrad and graduate school
 - The career center is located in Montgomery hall on the 3rd floor
 - The job search for grad students is different in terms of what u need to do to prepare for the job search. It encompasses a lot more in terms of preparing for a research or academic field job.
 - She also distributed her handout detailing information on academic job search: tools, tips, and other considerations
 - She discusses how it's very important to edit and proof read your vita
 - The career center can look at your resume & vita and help you with content before you submit your application for applying for jobs
 - Your vita is the number one tool during a job search and you should make sure that they are easy to read
 - Consider the job you are looking for and you want to tweak your vita for each job that you are applying for depending on where you are applying to
 - You want to highlight certain areas depending on the type of position that you are looking for
 - As professionals in your field conferences are important and there are many depts. That do interviews at conferences and as graduate students we may want to take advantage of that for on the spot interviews and also for networking opportunities
 - Evidence of teaching excellence, Writing a teaching philosophy, composing a research statement, writing samples, etc (highlight your individual style and how you engage students, and make knowledge relevant to the students)
 - Even if you are not at the application stage, you want to consider all of these things during your time in graduate school so that you are not bombarded with this information in the end
 - Be specific and provide them exactly what they ask for. If they ask for 1-2 pages then only send 1-2 pages.
 - It's great to have as many people review your resume & vita as possible so that you don't glaze over the important things
 - Tips for thinking about going through the interview process: be focused in your selections of where you apply
 - Areas are really competitive (social sciences) so you want to make yourself stand out from others so that you get called back for an interview
 - Encourage students to utilize our career center contact. Look in the career center manual to identify your career center staff person.
 - There are also examples of vitas and resumes to give you a starting point (they are very basic)
 - What you should keep in mind is that when you create a vita or resume it will be very different from other people.
 - Make sure you keep it simple and easy to read in formatting to make it visually appealing. Be consistent in headings and formatting and don't switch so that it is cohesive and easy to read so that it does not get looked over.

- There is no limit on a vita but graduate students should keep it around the 2-5 page limit
- If you are just starting out you should seek out opportunities to review papers so that you may add that information to your resume
- Make sure what you put on your vita is relevant to the job you are applying for (no gender, birthday, marital status, or photos) These things allow for discrimination before the interview process
- Call for questions:
 - A student asks, if you are applying to be a presenter at a conference and only allowed to have a one page cv how do you alter it?
 - Carol responds, highlight the areas in your field that may be in line with the conference
 - Meet with the career center and go over the theme for the conference and it may help to identify what information is relevant to the conference and what carries the most weight in the eyes of the reviewer and the selection committee
 - Another student asks, how do you list publications?
 - Carol responds, highlight the publications and peer reviewed journals in reverse chronological order with the most recent first and later you may want to separate them for example (peer reviewed, scholarly, & additional publications)
 - One student asks, how to list publications if you are a first, second or third author
 - Carol responds, reverse chronological order or separate by publication and she does not recommend numbering publications early in your career
 - One benefit of the career center is that they even work with alumni
- Aaron addresses additional GSA information/updates/announcements
 - He met with coach Stansbury: allocating tickets to the games this semester for student organizations. If we don't use the allocated number of tickets then we will forfeit the right to use the tickets
 - Deadline for the TAGGS grant has not passed but the funds have ran out. We can offer suggestions to change the current set up in order to make the program more fair for students with later travel/conference dates
 - New rules for GSA travel awards: allocated 10 awards for the year. Each student who wins the award is required to attend the GSA banquet and discuss their conference presentations briefly. We have allocated 2 awards already so there is \$600 left in the budget for approval
 - Vice President Vemitra White is not at the meeting tonight but she is a liaison for the Black Graduate Professional Student Association: they will have their southern regional board meeting on the 11th of November. They are interested in cosponsoring a social event with GSA. We will discuss that in the meeting next month
 - If you are interested in information in the Christian Graduate Student Connection: contact Aaron for information
 - Robert Norris scholarship for students in the STEM areas for those planning on teaching. Contact Aaron if interested
 - Dates for GSA symposium (April 14, 2012 in McCool)
 - GSA Banquet (April 24, 2012)
 - Information on the Honor Code Council: for graduate students you can be subject to the committee. It is imperative that graduate students help serve on honor code board. If you are interested please contact Aaron. It's fair to be tried by our peers, more graduate students are needed to serve on the academic integrity board
 - Aaron opens the floor to any questions or concerns
 - A student voices concerns about the GSA website. Dr. D'Abramo stated that we will have to get with the secretary of GSA to discuss
 - Aaron asked did everyone get the informational email for the GSA meeting tonight?
 - Students respond, yes it is also listed on today's events on the banner account
- Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm