

Graduate Assembly Meeting Minutes

Feb 10, 2020

Venue: 1201, Merten Hall

1. Director of Communications took attendance by roll call.
2. E-board members provide updates on respective campuses.
3. Natalie provides the following updates.
 - BOV meeting - presidential search to demand more transparency
 - Faculty Senate meeting, Feb 12th open to all Graduate Assistants
4. Recap of the last meeting on Graduate Student Funding in Nov 2019.

Austin presented on funding updates from candidates.

 - There will be a raise for MA and 3% for Ph.D. students.
 - All Ph.D. students will receive one standard stipend package (regardless of GRA/GPA/GTA position).
 - Non-terminal and terminal MA students will receive their own packages.
 - 12-month packages instead of 9-month packages.
5. Atis and Austin presented on Graduate Student Fees.
 - At Mason, tuition and fees are separated between in-state, and out-of-state, undergrad, grad, and law.
 - Mandatory Student Fee is broken down in a pie chart and funds are distributed as one large general sum without distinguishing between graduate and undergraduate.
 - At Uni. of Maryland, College Park (shown as an example), fees are further explained in lines. Additionally, graduate student fee funds are controlled by grad students.
6. Discussion on what to aim for at Mason
 - To have a clear breakdown of how fees are distributed.
 - Grad students get graduate fees to control the benefits and activities of grad students (as a possible outcome?)
7. Comments/thoughts/questions from the representatives
 - Makes sense to have a different pot of fees as graduate students needs are different from UG students
 - Require more transparency
 - SGA is funded, salary from Student Involvement
 - There is no clear breakdown of how funds are used

- There have been instances when the student funding board ran out of money and impacted grad student organizations. When UL gave the student funding board additional money, grad student organizations were not informed.
 - A proposal was raised on needing a sub-committee that is solely in charge of managing graduate student funds outside of GAPSA.
 - Question on large allocation toward Athletics fees.
 - Students from Arlington and SciTech campus do not get the same health services hours as Fairfax campus and made to pay similar student health fees.
8. Next course of action - E-board to write a resolution on what issues to push forward.
9. E-board will invite guests to have a talk before E-board draft a resolution.
10. Future topics of interest:
- How course fees are not covered by TA-ship [General finance]
 - Have a general breakdown of how course fees are allocated.
 - Career and professional development for grad students.
11. Reminder on upcoming Graduate Student Assembly meetings
- Mar 26
 - Apr 29