Call to Order: 10:04am (by George Morales)

Roll Call: (by LaTasha Lee)

Members Present: George Morales, LaTasha Lee, Michael (Mike) Cocuzza, Carlo Parker, Louisa Upadhya, Juan Barrenche, Amber Sobel, Nikki Diggs, Ramon Garcia-Areas

Advisors and Guests Present: Karen Esteves, Kris Killip, Charlene Nixon, Dan Partouche (Career Development Center), Kelli Rahm, Roxanna Melendez

Members Absent: Julianne Agonis, Mya Eaton, Faith Gordon, Noemi Coltea, Rachel McCray

Approvals

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the February 2nd, 2011 GSAAB Meeting was made by Juan Barrenche and seconded by Carlo Parker. The approval of the February 2nd, 2011 GSAAB Meeting Minutes passed by board with verbal affirmative vote.

March 2nd, 2011 GSAAB Meeting Agenda was amended to add discussion of paid positions and the voting of the Associate Director in the Absence of the Director in the section of New Business and Bylaws Committee topic. A motion to include the two additions to the agenda made by Mya Eaton and seconded by Ramon Garcia-Areas. It was put to a vote and passed by board with verbal affirmative vote. Carlo Parker made a motion to approve the March 2nd Agenda with the two additions and it was seconded by Ramon Garcia-Areas. The March 2nd GSAAB Meeting Agenda was accepted by the board by a verbal affirmative vote.

Open Forum

Michael Cocuzza introduced Kelli Rahm, a graduate student in the College of Business in the MBA Program. Kelli introduced herself to the board. She stated that she currently works with the Adams Center for Entrepreneurship, stating her interest in representing the College of Business Graduate Students on the board. She feels her experience in marketing and advertising to GSA.
Roxanna Melendez, a PhD student in Electrical Engineering, reintroduced herself to the board and would like to continue observing the board and join the board to represent the College of Engineering upon George’s departure.

Dan Partouche discussed the Career Development – GSA partnership and upcoming events that will be taking place. The first item he mentioned were the CDC Workshops on Location. He stated he has received confirmation from Gayle for the Non-Academic Job Search Workshop on March 31st from 5:30pm to 8pm in the College of Engineering in room 114; the other 2 we have not received confirmation. He stated that he would like to have the rooms set by Friday so that we can start advertising. The recommendation is that they should be held in Education and Arts & Letters because they would be adequate for both colleges; if we can have them posted to the College websites especially those that receive high traffic and/or on digital screens in College of Engineering that would be great advertising. Kris Killip stated that the Grad College would help to advertise it as well.

Old Business

Budget Hearing
Mike discussed the Budget Hearing held last month. In attendance at the hearing were George, himself, Louisa and LaTasha. He stated that we he was pleased with the letters that accompanied the budget proposal and think that it provided support of our requests. Furthermore he stated that we a lot of feedback from Student Government. This year’s proposal asked for a lot more money than SG had anticipated however George had a great speech and the letters had an impact. George informed the board of the Budget procedure stating that once the money is approved by SG then the Budget Committee will meet to propose allocations. Then it is the role of GSAAB role to accept or reject the recommendation by the Budget Committee.

There was a Motion made by LaTasha to Admit All Members to include Faith by phone and Heather. The motion was seconded by Carlo.

New Business

National Institute Health Volunteers
Juan and Amber stated that FAU will help host an National Institute of Health Regional Meeting. Volunteers will be needed to serve as Ambassadors for the Meeting to be held June 22nd – 24th in Westin. The volunteers will be needed from 8am-4:30pm and approximately 20 volunteers will be needed. The contact person is JoAnn Moretti.

Student Health Insurance
George stated the Student Health Insurance Committee received a quote from GM Southwest, which had a slight increase in benefits along with increase in cost. The current plan with United Healthcare would result in a 12% increase in cost with no increase. There is a 3 year arrangement with United Healthcare. Cathy Wallace heads committee and the new Chair will need to serve on this committee. There was mention of the consortium option, which the committee decided to pulled out of because FAU will have a better rate without others in consortium because they have higher claims or loss ratios which would result in a 22% increase and a decrease in benefits.
Committees

Travel

Amber gave a summary of the recent Travel changes and thanked LaTasha for sorting out document retrieval with the Google Docs application. She further stated that we will keep evolving the Travel process. There was discussion about the scanning because some files appear small. Several comments were made and it was agreed that we like that the process is becoming paperless. George inquired about the amounts funds remaining for travel. Amber responded that only approximately $44,000 has been dispersed, yet some have not been processed yet as there have been issues with getting them approved after we approve them from the UTC (University Travel Committee). In fact some students have actually travelled without UTC approval. George asked Heather if there was a possibility to get an approval without the UTC. Heather responded stating that for approval to take place there has to be an email from her.

Bylaws

Louisa and Amber headed the discussion regarding the Bylaws Committee. Louisa mentioned that there has been discussion of permitting the Associate Director the rights to vote in the absence of the Director at GSAAB meetings. Amber stated that this has been a common theme from the the Directors Meeting and there was further discussion about what happens in terms of the Northern Campus. George stated that it was an interesting situation, especially with 2 directors on the Northern Campus, compared to a Director and Associate Director on the other two campuses. Thus how would the voting work. Heather stated that the Northern Campus has 2 directors because we didn’t know if we would have a TC Director. George asked then should we split them. Faith stated that the Northern Campus is under-represented in terms of the number of hours allotted to the directors of the Northern Campuses. George and Mike informed the board that it is proposed for Directors to have 10 for TC and Jupiter 20 in the new budget. There was discussion about the role of Directors and Associate Directors. Heather provided clarification regarding the Broward Council stating that Broward represents multiple campuses and there is a Director and Associate Director. It was mentioned by Faith that there is a geographical issue. Heather stated that she is not recommending in one way or another but it is something the board needs to think about. The time allotted to the discussion was expiring and there was a Motion to extend the discussion on the item by 5 minutes by LaTasha and the motion was seconded by Mike. Louisa state she is not sure how to resolve the issue. Mike inquired about the student representation from the campuses and George responded that a gracious estimate is Northern representing 10% and Broward 20% of the Graduate Student population. Mike state that we should table the item and have the Bylaws committee discuss and come up with recommendations to bring to the board for a vote. George concluded that the last official meeting of GSAAB is April 6th and hopefully we can bring it to a vote then. Furthermore, Heather stated that the Board should have the bylaws in front of you before voting on this because this would be a change in statutes which would then go before the Senate for approval. There are a number of issues that need to be changed in the bylaws so we don’t want to keep going to the Senate with minor changes for changes to our bylaws. Thus there needs to be changes submitted to the board at least a week before the meeting to the GSA Advisory Board by the Bylaws
Committee. George recommended that the Bylaws Committee come back to GSAAB with changes for April 6th meeting and then bring it to the Senate. There was a Motion to have the matter tabled and have the Bylaws Committee come back with amendments to the bylaws and vote on the changes at the April GSAAB meeting by LaTasha and it was seconded by Carlo. The Board agreed.

Research Day
Juan and Amber led the discussion about Research Day which will be held April 8th (correction to the agenda which read April 9th). The committee was nervous about the low numbers of abstracts but then at the last minute we received a wave of applicants. So far 91 abstracts will be submitted. We are currently organizing the speaker. In terms of a potential speaker Kris Killip will be speaking with the Communications Officer at Harbor Branch to have a speaker discuss the research involving the dolphins affected by Gulf Oil spill. Additionally Creative Services is working on the Invitation which will be disseminated by email to students. There are Judges still needed, at least 2 per college. The goal is to get 20 judges. Carlo will work with Kris to coordinate the Judging responsibilities. Additionally, Poster size was discussed and LaTasha & Ramon discussed common sizes as well as printing companies to send to students. Lastly, Rachel & LaTasha are working on the Abstract book.

UGPC and UGC Report
During the UGC meeting there has been review of the Academic Dismissal of Students Procedure. The College of Medicine was exempted from the policy due to their accreditation and existence of their own policy. Mike distributed a handout of responsibilities and roles of the two Committees.

Chair Report
The committees have been doing a great job of getting back to the Chair about what is going on. George stated that he missed the last Directors meeting due to the birthing of my new daughter there is not much to report. The next Directors Meeting will be hosted at the Broward Campus. The main matter on the table is that he will be graduating and has been grooming Mike as the new Chair. Thus, George stated that he will be stepping down as Chair and representative of College of Engineering. Roxanna has expressed interest in serving as representative of the College of Engineering.

BGC Report
A Doodle was sent out to find out the meeting for the next Directors meeting. On March 25th 3-7pm there will be Yard Sale Fundraiser, which is free for students; table for non-FAU students will be $10. The funds from the fundraiser will be used to provide funds for additional programming that will allow guests to attend. There is need for musicians and entertainment for the event. There was a recommendation by Amber to use Owl Radio which is free. Additionally, there is FAU-L which is a listserv was recommended by Dan for advertising to get Faculty to get aware of the Yard Sale.

BRGC Report
Ramon and LaTasha will be putting on a Mixer at McCormick and Schmick's to provide a networking and social media following the College of Science and
Integrative Biology Retreat Talk on March 25th. The Research Day will be Friday, April 8th. Additionally, several other events in late March and April include Grad Bash March 23rd 6-8pm in the Alumni Center and April 1st a GSA Mixer at McCormick and Schmick’s. A Etiquette dinner will take place April 15th at Mariposa there will be volunteers needed for the event; George and Tasha volunteered to assist at the event. There will be graduation events in the Graduate College on May 5th and 6th, further details will be announced closer to the date.

NGC Report

Faith reported that there was a successful mixer at the Yard House and another mixer will be planned soon. Additionally it was added that the Beach cleanup was a success. There is a Grad Student Appreciation and Mentoring Event is coming up. The Girl Scouts are looking for volunteers for Saturday, April 2nd for an Environmental Event titled “Going Green and Growing Strong,” which is aimed at educating about the environment which is Earth Day. Additionally, as Chair of Strategic Planning Committee Faith stated that she would like the Campuses provide a template of activities prior to the start of the semester.

College Reports

Michael Cocuzza, College of Business

He invited all to attend the recurring Thursday evening talks by Executives which come to speak at Office Depot Center. The Business Plan Competition pot of awards is up to $125,000.

Nikki Diggs, College for Design and Public Inquiry

Stated that she wanted to retract a previous statement of entire college moving to Boca, it is actually just the Public Administration program that will be moving to the Boca campus. Additionally, she stated that she would like to work with administrators to establish a computer lab for Grad Students in her College.

George Morales, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Last week was National Engineering Week and the College held K-12 activities/program to get into local schools involved and interested in engineering. Also the Engineers without Borders program will begin work in developing nations to facilitate on projects. At a recent meeting many students and advisors commented that they are happy with the Travel awards that have been received.

Ramon Garcia-Areas, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine

The COM has officially received LCME accreditation. The College has also just recently held its Research Day. The IB Retreat will be held later this month for the PhD Students in the College.

Carlo Parker, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

There is currently a search for new Dean for the College. Ann Boykin, the longest serving Dean at the University, will be retiring. Additionally, $1600 for her endowment has been donated and Christine E. Lynn pledged $500,000 to the endowment. There will be a Research Program hosted by Sigma Theta Tho. On March 25th there will be a gala at the Westin Hotel for Dr. Boykin.

LaTasha Lee, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

The College of Science Research Day will be held Friday March 25th and will be held in conjunction with the Integrative Biology PhD Program Retreat in the Colleges of Science and Medicine which will take place
March 25th and 26th. Following the Research Day the IB Retreat will have a Distinguished Alumni talk by a recent graduate, Cathy Trivigno, PhD FAU c/o 2010. There will be a keynote speak by the National Cancer Institute Laboratory of Genomic Diversity Chief of the Genetics Section, Dr. Stephen O’Brien who has worked on the topics from HIV to the Florida Panther. There were also recent inquiries about funding from students on the Broward Campus about funding for research. Heather stated that the Committee should draft a preliminary Research Grant policy like that drawn up for the Travel policy.

Open Forum:

- Karen stated in reference to the need for computers mentioned by Nikki that for those interested there are proposals being accepted for those requesting computers using funds from the new Tech Fee. Thus, this is an opportunity to approach the administration in the college to upgrade computers or provide computers for a computer lab for the Graduate Students.
- George stated that NAGPS announced there a bill or proposal to have loans for Graduate Student will have interest will accrue and we need to be aware of these changes

Important Dates

Next GSAAB meeting April 6th.

- March 3-4, 2011 Graduate Student Appreciation (GSA North Campus)
- March 7-13 Spring Break
- March 15, 2011 10am Research Day Committee Meeting
- March 2011 Yard Sale GSA Broward
- March 22, 2011 10am Research Day Committee Meeting
- March 23, 2011 Grad Bash at the Alumni Center, Boca Raton Campus
- March 28, 2011 CDC/GSA Workshop "On Location"
- March 29, 2011 10am Research Day Committee Meeting
- March 29, 2011 CDC/GSA Workshop "On Location" CV Writing (possibly A&L)
- March 30, 2011 CDC/GSA Workshop "On Location" Academic (Ed)
- March 31, 2011 CDC/GSA Workshop "On Location" Non-Academic (Eng)
- April 1, 2011 Mixer in Boca at McCormick and Schmick’s
- April 5, 2011 10am Research Day Committee Meeting
- April 6, 2011 10am GSAAB Meeting
- April 8, 2011 Research Day
- April 15, 2011 Etiquette Event at Mariposa restaurant at Nieman Marcus and the speaker Patricia Stephens 4 course meal free for grad students
- May 5, 2011 Graduation (partnership with Grad College)
- May 6, 2011 Graduation (partnership with Grad College)
- May 13, 2011 or Maybe 14 or 15 GSA Mixer Summer students intro

Roll Call: (by LaTasha Lee)
Members Present:  George Morales, LaTasha Lee, Michael (Mike) Cocuzza, Carlo Parker, 
Louisa Upadhya, Juan Barrenche, Amber Sobel, Faith Gordon, Nikki Diggs, 
Ramon Garcia-Areas

Advisors and Guests Present:  Heather Bishara, Karen Esteves, Kris Killip, Charlene Nixon, 
Dan Partouche (Career Development Center), Kelli Rahm, Roxanna 
Melendez

Members Absent:  Julianne Agonis, Mya Eaton, Faith Gordon, Noemi Coltea, Rachel McCray

Motion to Adjourn by Ramon, seconded by Juan.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23am  by George Morales.