

Student Advocacy Committee Meeting

February 17th 2023 @ 5:00pm

Representatives present: Galeano, Salimi, Burns, Elmi, Ilesanmi, and Mostbauer.

Excused Absence:

Unexcused Absence:

Guests:

Discussion Points:

1. Agenda setting
 - Information about how the meetings usually run.
 - Committee introductions.
2. Past initiatives and brainstorming for this year
 - Example of a past initiative Representative Ilesanmi had been working on getting childcare more accessible for graduate students after he noticed it was still hard for many students to take advantage of the program.
 - Another example of past initiatives was Funding and expanding Food for Thought Food Pantry.
 - A possible direction is encouraging more graduate student RSOs to utilize the Globe more.
3. GAU:
 - Want to establish a relationship with the GAU to support graduate students with better pay and insurance and fully support their cause.
 - Increase the minimum pay of the stipend in the engineering department. The stipends are not standardized across the campus.
 - The known problem is that stipends need to be more competitive than other schools.
 - If possible, fully support GAU at their annual negotiation.
 - i. Build a connection/relationship with GAU that would facilitate open dialogue with GAU members about what COGS can do to help.
 - Look into the complexities of increasing the stipend.
 - Create a liaison position with the GAU to go to their meetings and bring minutes to committee meetings. Representative Burns is a member of GAU that could help foster a stronger relationship.
 - A relationship with the GAU can also proliferate more avenues of advocacy that would otherwise not have been brought to the committee.

- Representative Burns and Representative Elmi can work together on the GAU relationship.
4. Future meetings – Once a month on a Friday at 5 pm.
 5. Preferred communication for the committee – GroupME
 6. The Globe:
 - A graduate student association was trying to plan a conference far in advance, but they could not reserve a spot at the Globe despite the advanced notice. Now they have to use the Student Union, which charges much more. The Globe needs to be available for graduate students.
 - The timing has been a significant issue. Extending operating hours to later would allow for more usage by graduate students but might constitute more employee hours, requiring higher wage funds to extend these hours.
 - Representative Ilesanmi and Representative Galeano to set up a meeting with Jesse to continue discussions. First, contact RSOs to see if this issue needs to be addressed; if so, use the meeting to discuss this with Jesse.
 7. Medical school activity and service fees
 - During the later part of medical education, students continue their studies at satellite campuses. It is currently unknown exactly how much they pay these fees, but they cannot participate in the events held on FSU's main campus in Tallahassee.
 - Representative Salimi will look into medical student A&S fees and determine the best options to accommodate them despite their distance from the main campus.

Meeting adjourned: 5:50 pm.