

Meeting: Assembly

Date: Friday, January 15, 2009 3:30 PM

Location: Fine Arts Auditorium

Attendees: 46 department representatives

Agenda:

1. Announcements

- The Grad Pad Focus meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 26th at 4:00. Assembly members are invited to attend in order to provide input.
- A Town Hall will be next Tuesday at 1:00 in the Wells Library E174 to discuss the balance between enrollment and stipends. All are welcome to attend.
- The GPSO interdisciplinary academic conference is on Friday, April 9th.
- The SPEA representative addressed the Assembly to announce that the SPEA/Kelly commons is closed for the rest of the year. This area is a study place and a central printing area. This closure will cause SPEA and Kelley students to study and print elsewhere which will put pressure on other departments and spaces. The SPEA representative made this announcement in order to give a heads up to other department representatives.
- GPSO town halls can be organized for departments to let departments know about what the GPSO does and what it has to offer the graduate community. If a department schedules a town hall, there will be food provided and a GPSO officer will lead the discussion.

2. Research Database

The GPSO would like to set up a multi-purpose database for graduate students. Students will be able to upload their research interests, skills, and CVs. The database will have a search functionality to help graduate students find resources and research partners across departments to facilitate research collaboration. The database could also be a repository for scholarships and funding information.

Assembly members raised the following questions:

- Will the database only be accessible to IU graduate students in order to preserve privacy? The answer is yes, a valid IU login and password would be required to gain access to the database.
- In order to make this tool worthwhile, there would need to be a high level of involvement by the graduate community. Nick stated that it would be advertized many ways (weekly announcements, GPSO website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and most importantly professors would be involved in helping get the word out to graduate students.

3. Calendar

Nick is on the IU Calendar Committee which is currently considering Labor Day as a standard IU holiday and a five day fall break. It is unsure how this break would be given i.e. two days off in October or a five day break over Thanksgiving. Another possibility is to have the fall semester start earlier. Nick raised this topic in order to get feedback to bring to the committee.

Representatives raised the following concerns:

- There were multiple representatives who stated their support for a fall break.

- One representative stated that many other schools have a separate fall break.
- One representative stated that without the fall break, there is increased pressure on students who don't have enough downtime in the fall semester.
- One representative stated that the break could be given around Rosh Hashanah depending on when it falls.
- Several representatives stated their concerns that if the fall semester started a week early, that some students would not be able to complete their summer internships.
- There were concerns that since AIs have to return a week early that an additional week would cut even more into summer break, summer internships, and summer study.
- One student raised the concern that starting a week earlier would potentially complicate international student's arrival and attendance at the beginning of the fall term.

4. Haiti

In order to find out how to aid the victims of the Haiti earthquake, Nick will send out email about how to give to the relevant organizations. There are several organizations on campus including CLACS (Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies), the IU Creole Institute, and the Kelly School who all have relief efforts.

5. Big Sisters/Big Brothers Presentation

Hani Bashour, the graduate chair for the IU Bowl For Kid's Sake, addressed the Assembly and stated that graduate students are needed to form bowling teams to bowl to raise money. This event contributes to the organization's operating budget. The organization matches mentors to underprivileged children in Monroe County.

6. Budget Presentation

Ken reviewed what we spent in the fall semester and what is projected to be spent in the next semester.

7. Elections

Next month there will be elections for the five following positions: President, Vice-President, Treasure, Liaison, and Parliamentarian.