

SASgov GB meeting 1/30

Exec Updates:

- Social:
 - Welcome back Happy Hour at Clarkville
 - Over 200 attendees
 - Hard to predict how many people who will show up. Usually fewer people come as the semester progresses.
 - A little hard for people to get pizza and drinks if they were not in the front of the venue
 - Hit venue's capacity
 - Possible whiskey tasting event
- Public Affairs:
 - More BEN Talks applications than last year
 - This week selections will be made for who will be attending
 - The blog is up now. Past events that we have funded are up.
 - We need faculty judges for BEN talks! Especially from the natural and social sciences!
 - Will judge someone from another field than their own (e.g. someone in the Humanities will not judge entries in the humanities).
- Finance:
 - Travel grants will open Feb 13th - March 12th
 - Covers travel from Jan 1st - June 30th
- Policy:
 - No updates - will discuss different issues later on the agenda
- Communications:
 - Proxy someone for GB meeting: need to e-mail Ida, at least an hour before meeting (exceptions are budget and finance).
- President:
 - Meeting with Jess Mertz (Penn Violence Prevention)
 - Policy Change Supposedly Coming
 - PVP Feels Adequately Funded
 - Needs help with outreach
 - Really hard to reach out to SAS rather than many other schools such as dental for example
 - Fellows Idea
 - Something like the CTL fellowships
 - May be possible to do something like this as soon as next year.
 - Meeting with ETP
 - Dean's Office will cover medical insurance when on leave
 - Family Leave Funding Available at any time; Personal Leave Available in Coursework only
 - Personal leave is when you don't have a documented reason for going on leave, death in family without therapists recommendation, etc.
 - This is not put in writing by the school, rather grad chairs are supposed to know
 - We are not allowed to put on file. Potential ways of distributing information: Facebook, DP?
 - Is this something that is better discussed through a newspaper etc. to force the university to act?
 - The DP has an archive thus something we can turn back to in the future if we need to
 - We know of people who did not know of this and had to pay for
 - Could this disappear when Eve is replaced in 2019?

- Possibly (this is also the case for travel funding), however, if it is less likely when it is something students know about and utilize
 - Confirmed Sexual Harassment Policy is Set to Change
 - Dismissal Procedures
 - Eve not aware she is in charge of Academic Grievance Committee.
 - This is why it hasn't been meeting.
 - It is all really confusing the way it is set up
 - Agreement that policy needs to be clear; Roll into Beth's Handbook initiative?
 - Eve is the Dean for another year!
- GAPSA
 - Union Update
 - Vote at end of March? (optimistic)
 - CAPS Survey
 - Not up last time we looked
 - Student Health Advisory Committee
- Research Council
 - Feedback Directed to Grad Students During Program Review
 - One Pagers
 - One-Page Summaries of Each Program
 - Have now been released to Grad Chairs, who can disseminate info as they please.
 - Shows statistics on completion rates, admissions, demographics, etc.
 - Was sent a few days ago from Beth
- Now in Possession of Graduate Chairs
 - They are expressly permitted to share
- Individual Meetings with Graduate Groups to Review
- Budget clarification:
 - Running a Surplus in:
 - GAP
 - Need More Social Events
 - Discretionary
 - Encourage Groups to Apply
 - Contingency
 - One-Off Events/Programs/Expenses
 - Any Sustained Encumbrances Requires Us to Reallocate from an Established Fund
 - Surplus will not be as large next year, certain funds (GAP) are set to be cut by as much as 1/2
- Proposal for Solidarity Fund
 - **What does this fund do?**
 - Supports students who face sudden unforeseen financial difficulties
 - E.g. unexpected dismissal; medical leave without knowing/implementing Eve's policy; travel ban; personal loss/trauma
 - Supplements funding we already offer for travel, events, parties
 - Helps unrepresented constituents, and builds solidarity in SAS at a precarious time
 - Demonstrates need to the University
 - As is what happened with travel grants.
 - **Application and Review Process**
 - Online application (not entirely anonymous)
 - Statement of need
 - Optional additional materials (not required)
 - Cross-listed funds (GAPSA Solidarity Fund)
 - Application history
 - Solidarity Fund Review Committee
 - VPs Policy, Finance, Financial Operations

- 5-10 Committee Members
 - Online scoring process, VPs make final decision
 - Two week review process, funds received within the semester
- Would successes with this fund cut away from other funds in the future?
 - As with travel grants, could possibly propel university to start their own fund, lessening the need for sasgov to expand its own.
- & Professional Development Funds
 - **What does this fund do?**
 - Supports students who incur expenses as a result of pursuing work or career opportunities which are not currently covered under the rubric of the SASgov Travel Fund
 - E.g. traveling to job interviews, network events, teaching training, etc.
 - Targets students in later years who are applying for either academic or non-academic jobs
 - Perhaps also applies to research in various disciplines.
 - Demonstrates need to the University
- Motion to vote pursue both Solidarity and Professional Funds passed, as well as motion to consider what it would look like to pursue them together.
- Committee Meetings
- Happy Hour at New Deck