GSA Meeting Minutes, 11/7/2005

-Some news:
  - NYU grad student strike
  - Ref. C passed (so tuition won't go up too much), ref. D didn't
  - ASCSM will conduct a survey regarding fee increases pertaining to the RTD bus pass and money for student groups
  - Alumni Assoc. forming a committee - they want more involvement with the students - there will be a speaker Nov. 29th

-BOT meeting:
  - grad students concerned board doesn't really understand how grad school and research work at this institution
  - Pres. search: criteria due Nov. 10th, and there is a meeting Nov. 20th (Sunday)
  - Board has legal authority to pick new pres, but this year (unlike previous instances) has no advisory committee (so no faculty, staff, student or alum involvement)

-Treasurer:
  - school is holding a financial education program, now thru April: classes in banking, credit, house buying, salaries, retirement, etc

-Academic chair:
  - house buying workshop (end of Nov or so), with 2 realtors and a loan officer

-Social news:
  - Thanksgiving Day event at the Coolbaugh House - RSVP to Cary
  - no October event (because of the new alcohol rules), so money will be redistributed to Nov. and Dec. events

-Child care:
  - committee put together a draft application
  - people involved (administrative): Ann Walker, Kirsten Volpy, Dan Montez, Roger Kester
  - tax exempt status doesn't look promising
  - how to set up? tax issues? how to disburse funds? how to audit?
  - legal concerns: all in writing, explicitly saying what we are and are not endorsing, etc
  - financial aid issues: will this money negatively impact what student is already getting (ie, loans)?
  - run numbers on potential monetary impact to students
  - write down whole process, application, appeals
  - make retroactive (good thru beginning of this semester)
  - everyone should look at the application - are we getting the info we need?
  - appeals process should include if financial situation has changed since last year's taxes
  - some kind of "why you need this" essay?
  - get feedback from students for budget committee
  - talk to someone at Stanford (model program) about pitfalls, legal issues, etc

-Blastercard committee:
  - alum cards
  - building access for contractors
  - dept/research copy cards
  - legal name change vs personal preference/nickname
  - withdrawing from school ($25 fee to close out account)
  - funds can be transferred from old cards
  - dept. cards should be done 2-3 weeks

-Public Safety: Alicia Jessop is our committee member