GSA Meeting Minutes, 1/16/2006

- Updates from last semester:
  - RTD bus passes (a student vote is needed in April, and the passes should be ready in Fall 06 if approved)
  - Child Care and Presidential search (no news)
  - Resignation of Cary Allen as social chair brought up (nominations for the position later in the meeting)

Rob then welcomed Prof. Reuben Collins (Physics) to speak about ± grading:

- The proposal originated in Chemical engineering, as a way to give more flexibility to professors (allow different students within a grade range to be differentiated with + or - designations).

The proposal would probably set up the following system:

- A+ = 4.0 (ie, no A+)
- A  = 4.0
- A- = 3.66
- B+ = 3.33
- B  = 3.0
- B- = 2.77
- etc

- The proposal is in grad council right now, requiring a vote for recommendation to be sent on to faculty senate. (next session is after the next GSA meeting)

- A few concerns were raised about the system:
  - "Will professors be more likely to assign B-, C+ than C?"
  - "Most grad classes are small, causing bigger fluctuations in grade that could be increased by ± grading."

- In response to the first concern, professor Collins pointed out that students may be able to recover from grades B- or lower incrementally with B+, A- grades (unlike the current system, where only an A will suffice). He also mentioned the possibility that this will impact all students (current + incoming) if the registrar won’t keep two systems running simultaneously.

- Other business:
  - Social chair nominations are open, Lindsay Rothfelder (EBGN) nominated herself
  - Research Fair date tentatively set for Wednesday, week of E-days (Friday also possibility)
    - request to contact E-days committee and let them know
  - Working on dates for home-buying, investing, etc workshops this semester