GSA Meeting Minutes February 21, 2011

I. Executive Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. JOA Version 7.1
         1. Voting on now that everyone has seen it (New Business)
      ii. New Funding Request form posted online
         1. Since GSA is a governing entity, provides a mechanism for funding requests
      iii. Two Funding Requests to be voted on today
      iv. Need a representative for the Library Advisory Committee
          1.
   b. VP of Communications
      i. Lecture Series Grant
         1. If you have feedback on the form passed out, please email Cericia
      ii. Submit your Research Fair abstracts
   c. VP International
      i. No report
   d. Academic Chair
      i. Putting together a lecture/workshop on Licks
         1. Already have feedback on items to include in workshop
         2. Will encompass paper writing/thesis writing
   e. Social Chairs
      i. Laser tag
         1. Coming in the next two weeks on a weekday
      ii. Friday, March 11: Avalanche game
      iii. Ski day in April on a Saturday
      iv. E-Days event
         1. Similar to last year with food/drink at a Golden venue
      v. Need someone to take over social events for next year
         1. Interested parties should see Andrea
      vi. AiCHE Conference will be hosted here next year
         1. Looking for collaborators for 2011-2012, contact Cory
   f. Treasurer
      i. No report
   g. Advisor Report
      i. No report

II. Department Representative Reports
   a. Math/CS – Doug
      i. Possibly request that large changes to tax structure (like the 1098 T) be announced in advance so students can plan accordingly
         1. Three grants and two semester’s tuition showing on this year’s, while last year’s was two grants with one semester’s tuition

III. Committee Reports
   a. Rights and Responsibilities
i. Posted to website two weeks ago, with no feedback as of now
ii. Every Council member needs to read through and come to the next meeting with feedback please

IV. Old Business
   a. No old business

V. New Business
   a. Silver Diploma Costs
      i. Budgeted amount has not covered actual costs for the past couple of years, resulting in a $20,000 outstanding balance this year; similarly high outstanding balances in previous years
      ii. CFO & Graduate office have typically covered this outstanding balance, but this cannot continue indefinitely
      iii. Options
           1. Distribute the graduation costs over the semesters during degree pursuit at Mines
               a. Semester costs would go up, but would not see a huge fee at the time of graduation
           2. Silver-plated diplomas
      iv. Discussion
           1. Option 1 would give GSA the responsibility to cover the cost as a graduate student fee
              a. The cost would be the same, but distribute throughout the years here
           2. Start buying the diploma at the beginning of the year rather than at the end of the year
           3. Cannot be decided on an individual basis; need to buy in bulk
           4. In talking to other graduate students, people like the idea of silver diplomas
           5. Ph. D. pays student fees for a longer time than Master’s student, so are paying more than the Master’s student when all is said and done
           6. People are in in favor of keeping silver diplomas
              a. Will most likely to a vote of the graduate population to enact a graduate student fee to maintain silver diplomas
   b. Resolution 2011.1: Joint Operating Agreement with ASCSM
      i. Motion to approve, seconded, discussion
         1. Joint meeting for fee changes for administration
         2. Places a standard for working relations between ASCSM & GSA
         3. 10 yay; 0 nay; passed
   c. Resolution 2011.2: Funding Request for Jason Delborne
      i. Look at Science interactions outside academia
      ii. Doug: Two weeks of meeting with policy makers in DC; was done last year as well
      iii. Discussion
           1. Instead of $500 for each, we could award a lower amount
2. Possibly put in a different, non-presenter, non-conference travel grant; like a workshop
   a. Problem with opening up another mechanism for travel grants is a judgment of value on the workshop
   b. Advisor has to sign travel form, so would have to sign off on this as well
   c. Value of this is that it opens up another outlet for graduate students other than industry and academia
   d. Maybe a grant from the state of Colorado is more appropriate for this kind of request
   e. Option: Authorize this as a specific “travel grant” and students will use this as their travel grant for attendance if they choose to

iv. Motion to approve, seconded
   1. Motion to amend, seconded
      a. Amend the $500 to $200 and require that this be their travel grant request, left to individual to decide to use it

2. 7 yay, 2 nay

v. 7 yay, 2 nay

iv. Resolution 2011.3: Funding Request for Finkl Tour
   i. Trip to Chicago for MME students to a steel plant
   ii. Motion to approve, seconded
   iii. Discussion
      1. Why do graduate students have to pay more?
         a. More funding available to graduate students
         b. Funded in 2008 and 2009 without a Council vote
         c. Double the number of students this year as last
      iv. Motion to amend, seconded
         1. 7 yay, 1 nay, 1 abstain
      v. All in favor as amended
         1. 7 yay, 1 nay, 1 abstain

VI. Announcements
   a. Email will be sent to departments about attendance record and implications for Research Fair award; i.e. missing more than two meetings each semester revokes the program specific Research Fair awards for that department