November 7, 2013

- President’s Report:
  - Has not met with Dr. Bonner
  - RA’s can now serve on the executive council!!! (except during the summer)
- Treasurer’s Report: George not here
- Special Orders
- Stephanie Capps: How to Make Change at GWU
  - I would love to get to know everyone
  - Her job is to advise the E-Council and help out the Senate
  - Created a process for members to follow to get things done
    - Identify the problem
    - Meet with adviser for direction
    - Do your research: know the policies and have your facts straight, start at the bottom and work your way up: phone calls, website, ask questions
    - Get student perspective: formal complaints, not just asking around
    - Write a proposal
    - Present your proposal to the appropriate committee in SGA for approval
    - You and the committee chair will present it to the Senate for approval
    - You and the SGA president make a meeting with the appropriate personnel
  - Any student can follow this process, not necessarily just SGA members
- Matt Walters: His Infinite Wisdom about Student Government
  - Former SGA president, currently works in the Webb building
  - Happy to help anyone individually or as a group
  - Students are the center of the GWU process: you have to be a part of that process
  - Staff can’t do what the students want without student input
  - Need to clearly define what your role and purpose is within SGA
  - So why are you here?
    - Rick: like to be in elected office and make good change
    - Evan: wanted to have responsibilities within my class and make change
    - Nancy: wanted leadership experience
    - Nick R: make a difference and learn from it
    - Connor: wants to go into politics
  - What do you want to do specifically in SGA?
    - Mike P: see the internet function on a daily basis
    - Nick B: update the free weight room
    - Anna: represent the student body and their needs
    - Nick R: be a voice to the students and for the students (liaison)
    - Evan: get more students involved in school functions
    - Andy: get people excited about GWU, school spirit
    - Emie: not just a place to complain, but to support the faculty too
  - Change is only good if change needs to be made
  - We need to protect and promote what’s positive about GWU
  - Sometimes a group like this like the idea of being a group like this more than actually being a group like this
  - If you never get past the meetings and committees, you will never make change
  - One of GWU’s key pillars is being student-centered
• Involve the students in every single decision
• Represents a tremendous opportunity for SGA members
• GWU is going through a rebranding process of being more about the students and inviting more student input
  o SGA has the power and opportunity to be exactly who you want to be
  o There is tons of staff and faculty on your side and they want your opinion
  o Seize that opportunity: but know specifically what you want to accomplish, not necessarily just that you want to accomplish things
  o SGA needs a really reliable polling system
  o Start with a “we” mentality, not a “them” mentality: don’t just complain
  o It is your responsibility to decide what you want to accomplish and what you want to preserve
  o If you ask good questions, you get good answers
  o An informed perspective will get you farther than your frustrations
  o The time is right for SGA to speak up
• Questions
  o Nancy: your office? Second floor of Webb
  o Andrea: what did you accomplish as president? Didn’t have a lot of specific things in mind, but I ran and got elected. We weren’t sure what we even could do. We were the first SGA to get a pot of money delegated to us for clubs and organizations.
  o Nick R: what kind of power do we really have?
  o Anna: how can we fight the stigma that SGA is a joke? SGA has a more clearly defined purpose at other schools, it is not as defined here. You all have to define what your purpose and role is. You have to be the representatives of the students, so you need to figure out what they think and what to do with that.
  o Nick B: what are you working on other than rebranding? It’s a big thing with marketing. A big thing with fundraising is for the soon to be College of Health Sciences—not many Christian schools have that opportunity. Scholarships are huge too—find people willing to invest in them, constantly trying to make a way for GWU to be more affordable: would love student opinion
  o Dr. Tubbs: advancing online education at GWU is a big thing in advancement
  o Caleb: can we do online polling to assess student opinions? Great facet for communication

• Homecoming Report:
  o Delton: set a time limit for 10 minutes, no one can talk more than 60 seconds
  o Motion: Evan, second: Seth
  o Anna: it went great, but communications was hard because there are different organizations involved in homecoming—needs to be more united
  o Seth: have more people involved on time
  o Nick R: we should come up with a theme much sooner—set it at the end of each year for the following year—more time to prepare
  o Mariah: collaboration was great, props to Nancy and Emie
  o Rick: don’t think the parade went well personally
  o Connor: start working earlier on floats, have more time in general, dance was awesome
  o Caleb: start advertising earlier in advance for the parade and game
  o Delton: major increase in participation in parade but not as many spectators
  o Andy: get more athletes involved in parade
Nick B: food at dance was great
Bekah: play up the parade and class floats more with students outside of SGA and have different departments do floats
Evan: have sponsorships
Zach: get bands from local high schools to be in the parade
Emie: we asked 3 marching bands and they all turned it down, planning is still a huge deal
Nancy: the parade can be better if we start earlier but time constraints caused it this year
Connor: people were confused about banners, need better advertising, maybe have them walk across the field with them before the game
Stephanie: already been a conversation between SGA, alumni, and student activities and we will be planning for homecoming starting in January. Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting with ideas

• Survey Questions (5 per committee)
  o We do it right after Thanksgiving and begin assessing them in January
  o Each committee is required to present 5 questions to put on the survey
  o At least 3 questions pertinent to your committee

• Athletics Faculty Committee:
  o Need a female member who is a non-athlete
  o Caitlyn Brotherton volunteered

• Committee Meetings Reports
  o Student Life: we will meet this coming week
  o Communications: did not meet, but we made the Bonner video and we are writing a thank you note to him and we made the flyers
  o Special Events: same thing

• Pass the Gavel
• Adjournment at 8:05