

## **Student Organizations Meeting: ALA, ASIST, SLA, TLA Friday, August 3, 2007**

### **Present:**

Allison Barrett Scripa	Anna Leah Keene	Carolyn Anderson
Debra Valine	Dr. Cortez	Dr. Mehra
Erin Dominick	Jackie Porter	Jamie Osborne
Jason Roberts	Josh Hogan	Melanie Taylor
Melissa Rawlston	Sarah Hilker*	Cheryl Crannick*
Samantha Owens	Robbi DePeri	Dr. Pemberton

\*Chaired the meeting

The Student Organizations Meeting was held in Room 321B to include DE students and students who could not make it to campus to attend. Students introduced themselves by telling the office they hold and adding anything about themselves. After these introductions, the meeting began.

### **Orientation**

Orientation Weekend for new SIS students will be held on August 17 and 18. Jamie made us aware that Tanya Arnold needed 1-2 more campus students to be on the Campus Panel. Those students who wish to volunteer should contact Jamie or Tanya.

### **Recruitment**

The importance of Recruitment cannot be overemphasized. Many of the present members will be graduating in the spring, and the student organizations will need active members to take over those responsibilities. Meetings will be open for members and non-members to attend and efforts will be made to make the dates of the meetings public to everyone. Robbie asked if all the meetings are going to be arranged on Centra so DE students may attend, and Sarah replied that it is important to accommodate DE students. Dr. Cortez added that the student organizations and participation in them will be emphasized at Orientation Weekend.

### **Role of Student Organizations**

Sarah opened discussion by asking for feedback about activities such as Brown Bag Lunches, putting information on the ListServ, and inviting everyone to attend. Jamie suggested that each organization sponsor a Brown Bag Lunch. An example of a topic for the Lunch could be Grant Writing. Sarah added that Brown Bag Lunches should be continued and would be a great place to showcase faculty research and projects and to have workshops for resumes, cover letters, and interviews. Dr. Mehra also suggested that these would be good times for informal presentations by faculty. Other thoughts on the

role of student organizations: promoting information about scholarships, internships, conferences, etc. Also it was restated that all meetings will be announced on the ListServ and open to all members not just officers.

### **Some Specifics**

Cheryl opened discussion on the following issues: the SIS Website and Student Pages ([www.sis.utk.edu/organizations/](http://www.sis.utk.edu/organizations/)), compiling a 2007-2008 “Log” briefly describing what we have done and how so that can be passed on to next year’s officers, the importance of each organization making an “Officer Manual” if there is not one, the Fall Picnic at Tyson Park or elsewhere, and Cohort events so there is no redundancy or conflict with dates. Cheryl also opened the floor to discussion of Cohort events with DE students and on-campus students.

-Robbie reported that the Cohorts are somewhat in limbo because so many graduated in May. The Middle Tennessee Cohorts are fairly active and want to have an event during the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville in October.

-Jamie reported that she and Krishna Adams will continue to organize the On-Campus Cohorts activities. In September, this group will visit a School Media Center and in November, a visit to ORNL is tentative.

-Dr. Cortez stated that the Tri-Cities Cohorts are planning to have an event in the fall. He also said that cohort groups are extremely supported by the faculty and that groups will be helped in any way we can. He would also like to see a unified meeting of all cohorts at least once a year.

### **SIS Representative to the Graduate Student Senate**

Sarah reported that SIS needs a student to be nominated by the students as a Graduate Students Senator and that student will be responsible for attending Graduate Student Senate Meetings on campus and communicating between SIS students and the GSS. She opened the floor for discussion for ideas on how to choose an SIS student. She also said that it might be a good idea if the student is a second year student.

-Dr. Mehra said that he and Dr. Robinson were working on this and it is an important chance to participate in decision-making processes of the university and to report back to SIS. Of importance is the topic of graduate student conference and travel funds so this would be go visibility for SIS.

-Josh and Allison wondered how many students should be nominated.

-Sarah asked how would the faculty choose if we decide the process is too complicated.

-Dr. Mehra said that he and Dr. Robinson want student preferences and that we need to move on this quickly so the representative could be ready for fall semester meetings.

-Sarah suggested that we ask for a list of nominees on the ListServ and go from there.

### **Open Discussion on What Types of Meetings to Hold in the Future**

Cheryl opened the floor for discussions on this topic. Sarah said that although we love to get together, we must remember to make our meetings open to all students. Jamie also agreed that meetings should be via Centra and perhaps Officers could meet after at someone’s home or somewhere else. Sarah asked how often should we meet and do we

need to meet for special organization meetings for specific needs? She suggested keeping the meetings on Friday and those present agreed that Fridays were best and that day is good for DE students too.

-Dr. Cortez asked if the meeting tonight was being recorded and he asked that the minutes be shared with all the students of SIS. Cheryl agreed with him and those present agreed that this is important too.

-Sarah thanked new students who were present for coming and asked for any other business.

-Cheryl adjourned the meeting and said we were all looking forward to the rest of the year.

Minutes of this meeting taken by Jackie V. Porter