**GSFF Meeting #1 Fall Quarter 2015**

10/1/2015 9am

We met outside due to difficulty with getting into the room that was reserved.

We went around the room and had introductions:

President: Lauren Benke

Vice President: Amanda Meise

Director of Finance: Carrie Moon

Each departmental representative stated their name, year, department, and research interests.

Announcements:

Graduate Student Government (GSG) is having an event tomorrow. The **Back to School Bash** will be outside AAC in the afternoon/evening. GSFF will have a table, and there is a prize for the table that is decorated the best. If you have any ideas talk to Lauren.

GSG is also planning on doing the **Graduate Research and Performance Summit** again this year. It will be 2 days: January 28th-29th. Each GSA has been asked to donate $500 this year. We had a discussion as to whether or not our budget will be okay with this. We carried over a little less than $1,000 from last year ($986.37). It was mentioned that our constitution has a minimum amount that we are supposed to carry over. Last quarter, funding was at 25% for presenters with a cap at $200 and 15% for attendees with a cap at $125. There has been some talk about raising student fees with GSG, which would also help us fund at a better percentage.

The Research and Performance Summit is a good interdisciplinary event, and we are all encouraged to participate. The interdisciplinary nature of the event fits well with GSG actually only has a budget of $6,000/year, whereas our funding is approximately $6,000/quarter depending on enrollment.

The idea of sponsoring an event was put forward. This would be a good way to get our name out and maybe not spend $500. We could sponsor a coffee break and provide baked goods, etc. Lauren is going to talk to GSG and find out if there is a deadline for us letting them know an amount and also approach them with the idea of sponsoring an event. We did not give any money towards it last year.

We need a **Director of Communications**. The responsibilities of this position are to take minutes, post the minutes on our Portfolio site, assist the VP on Portfolio site updates, and build a relationship with the GSG communications director.

Zoe Doubleday volunteered for the position. The vote was 18 in favor, 0 against, 0 withheld.

Congratulations Zoe!

It was brought up that GSFF is widely unknown, especially in the NSM departments. It would be good if we could do some stuff to **get our name out and what we do**. Several years ago there was a switch in GSFF to focus funding on conference reimbursement /travel due to interdisciplinary events being costly and having low attendance. We can change our focus if we want. However, we talked about still wanting to keep our focus on conference and travel reimbursement. However, with the current focus on interdisciplinary research, it would be good to try to plan some free events to allow for meeting and discussion among departments. Also, GSG is pushing for interdisciplinary work to be done.

Amanda is the Civic Engagement Director and trying to **track volunteering hours** of graduate students at DU. If you know of ways that people in your departments are volunteering, please contact her and let her know.

**Departmental Updates:**

English – There are interesting meetings coming up, and information is on the English department website.

Comm. Studies - Faculty Dr. Erin Willer is doing a Pedagogy workshop on art based teaching practices; it is open to all.

Our next meeting will be week 6 of the quarter in Margery Reed 203.