# HGSA Meeting Minutes December 9, 2015

**Brian Stack-Chair’s Report**

Brian’s comments focused on a program being launched by the College of Arts and Science to evaluate each department, and for each department to present plans for how they would operate with more and less funding. Overall the university has been pushing graduate and undergraduate interaction heavily, and this seems to be a good avenue to pursue.

# Jason Hogstad-GPSA Rep. Report

Jason reported that we did in fact received $450 in affiliate funding from GPSA

There has been concern in GPSA over the empty seats (61 of 116 seat are filled). Discussions have been held about ways in which to address this which include allowing other departments in the same college to fill empty seats.

There have also been changes to travel grants, which include a $2000 cap, and removal of the presentation requirement. Also, Jason reminded students to get advisors signatures, otherwise applications will be thrown out.

# Daniel Fogt-PhD Rep. Report

Daniel reported on changes to language requirement, which now allow for classes opposed to just a test-out exam.

# Calen Rau-RCI Rep. Report

Calen has no new updates to report as there has not been a steering committee meeting.

# Renee Torres-Colloquium Rep. Report

Renee spoke about a plan of action next semester, which would include a Doodle poll asking graduate student which colloquiums they would be most interested in attending, due to poor attendance at the previous ones held this semester.

# Conference Discussion

After talking with Dr. Stratton and Dr. Spohnholz, Calen reported that there was heavy emphasis that we speak to the Development Committee, the chair of which is Dr. McCoy. Dr. Stratton emphasized that would should also react out to 305 (Drs. Wempe, Weller, Faunce, Phoenix, Fry, Cook, and Dodson). Even if we only get the top student from each class, that broadens the pool substantially. Dr. Spohnholz suggested that the faculty are interested in this conference and that the dean, Paul Whitney, may have interest as well and even perhaps money to give. Both

suggested the mentoring process may have application the SURCA as well, as a student to theoretically present at both SURCA and the RCI Conference.

The majority of the rest of the discussion focused on the call for paper for RCI students and the way in which are going to tackle graduate student mentoring. Ideally, students should be paired with a graduate student whose interests match that of their paper, but this may be hard to do considering the relatively few world graduate students we have. However, mentoring seems like a way to keep students connected to the conference and ensure their participation.

There was also some discussion about funding. Dr. Spohnholz emphasized in Calen’s meeting with him that prize money is essential that prizes should be no smaller than $100, but ideally over $200. Getting buy in now is paramount for the future because the more buy in we get this year, the more people will be interesting in supporting this endeavor in the future. As such, Dr. Spohnholz suggested we build a budget for the optimal scenario and then adjust it once we are sure of how much money we will have to work with.