

## **Communication Graduate Student Association**

### **Minutes of the General Membership Meeting held November 12, 2003.**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm in the third floor lounge area of Baldy Hall.

#### **Attendance**

Present: Jennie Hwang, Hao-Ting Lu, Brenda Battleson, Amber Reinhart, Ruiyun Xi, Heather Marshall, Borris Hellmann, Jang Hyun Kim, Tuo-Yu Su, Alex Tan, Hyunjung Kim, Chih-Chieh Chang, Lina Mao, Leanne Chang, Nian Zhang.

#### **Approval of Old Minutes**

Since copies of the minutes could not be distributed in time, approval of old minutes of the officers' meetings were postponed.

#### **Old Business**

Jennie Hwang introduced the officers of the COM GSA to the membership – Jennie Hwang—President; Hao-Ting (Tina) Lu—Vice-president; Amber Reinhart—Treasurer; Brenda Battleson—Secretary; Ruiyun (Rhea) Xi—Senator; Heather Marshall—Alt. Senator.

Jennie discussed the very successful and well-attended welcome party held October 29, 2003 at Bennigan's. Many of the faculty showed up as well and everyone had a great time.

#### **New Business**

Regarding funding and planning for the spring colloquium: The COM GSA is definitely sponsoring a colloquium in the Spring 2004 semester. This will provide an opportunity for COM graduate students to present papers and current research. We may involve some of the MI students as well. The colloquium was postponed until at least April. The membership wanted to obtain more information from the School of Informatics, since their involvement could provide for more funding.

Regarding conference funding: Amber explained the limits in the amount of money available to fund conferences. We have \$500.00 to work with and that is it. Jennie pointed out the questions that must be addressed regarding this funding.

1. Should we fund only presenters, only attendees or both?
2. What amounts? Should such amounts be fixed?
3. How and to whom should funds be distributed? First-come-first serve? A set number in the spring and a set number in the fall?

Borris talked of the importance of funding presenters and that the deadlines for NCA and the Sunbelt Conference has already passed. Discussion among the membership addressed the problems with who (presenters or attendees) should receive how much.

Three options were presented: 1) Fund 5 persons at \$100.00 ea.; 2) Fund 10 persons at \$50.00 ea. And 3) Fund 6 persons at \$75.00 ea.

Jang asked for clarification on the discussion and Amber pointed out that this was an attempt to be fair in the distribution of funding—to spread out so that the entire allocation is not used up in fall only to leave persons attending later conferences without any chance for help from the COM GSA.

Heather reminded the membership that there are other sources of funding besides COM GSA. There is GSA, the COM department, and possibly the School of Informatics. Moneys received through the COM GSA could be used to supplement these other sources. Information on GSA funding is available at [http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/gsa\\_studentfunding.html](http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/gsa_studentfunding.html) .

Amber and Jennie emphasized that it was up to the individual to seek out and apply for these other funding sources since the COM GSA is quite limited in its ability to provide funding.

The membership agreed that only conference presenters would be funded and that the COM GSA would provide 6 persons with \$75.00 ea. The decision as to what to do with the \$50.00 left over from the \$500.00 allocation would be decided at a later date. Perhaps an 8<sup>th</sup> student could take the remaining 50.00. Or, the amount could be applied to the colloquium. The money would need to be spent, however, as it is not transferable from one year to the next.

Other new business included an announcement that the minutes if this meeting would be emailed and that the minutes of previous meetings would be made available on the COM-GSA website, once it is operating. In the meantime, anyone wishing to have a copy of the minutes can contact any board member.

The plan for the 2004 Spring Semester is to have a monthly general meeting. The date and time will be announced via the COMGRAD-LIST.

The floor was then opened to general discussion and suggestions for activities.

### **Motions**

Motion 1. Amber motioned to provide conference funding for only those students attending as presenters.

Motion 2. Amber motioned to provide funding for 6 students at \$75.00 each.

### **Approval/Denial of Motions**

Motion 1 was approved.

Motion 2 was approved.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Battleson,  
Secretary

