I. Call to Order 6:30pm.

II. Rachel Burk, Graduate Career Advisor - new position - interview practice, help students at any stage of career, considering changing course of study, don't want to finish PhD - go into industry, help students who might be nervous for whatever reason for going to faculty about career plans. She has a PhD in Hispanic Studies from UPenn.

Question: Might you be able to organize mock job talks? A: Honestly, probably this is best to do with your departments as you need feedback from your peers. But she will review CVs, give suggestions. Lots of info on career website. If you are unsure who to talk to she can also help with referrals. Her email is - rburk@tulane.edu

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President – Cooper Battle (cbattle@tulane.edu)
      i. Service Challenge
         1. Kate Eifer, BME- SSE Outreach Opportunities
         2. CPS Service Learning Classes potential- e-mail cbattle@tulane.edu if anyone in your department is interested
         3. GAPSA Homecoming- Weather
         4. GAPSA Mixer- Responsible Hosts needed! Nov 9th, 8pm-1am
      ii. Travel Funding Discussion
         1. Where should GSSA’s Travel Money Go?
            Cooper: Currently $200 for people not presenting, $250 for oral or poster presentation. Only fund travel and fees, not food or lodging. We used to give way more money but we were only funding half of the applicants. So we lowered the amount, but now we can’t give out nearly as much money.
            We can combine our money with Provost’s - issue is that Provost used to give money for food and lodging and currently isn’t in order to match our policies. also Provost used to give out grants multiple times to different graduate students and had different funding periods.

            DO we want to do it as we have been just with Provost money or do we want to match what they do? Also do we want to continue to fund people not presenting or just fund people presenting? This meeting we just plan to discuss, not vote.

            Q: Is it common for people to go to conferences and not present?
            A: Some departments do do this a lot, but isn't a large part of the money we are spending. This is particularly common for conferences in NOLA where people will request conference fee to attend.
            Q: Are people attending a lot of international conferences?
            A: Currently we aren’t differentiating between the two, but for some departments international conferences are more prestigious. Someone at Tulane presenting at conference is good for Tulane’s prestige.
            Q: I'm not concerned so much about Tulane’s prestige as I am about students in my departments having opportunities for feedback and networking.
            Cooper: Also worth pointing out that each student individually puts in $240 in student activity fees to GSSA. So $250 is more than you are putting in.
            Q: How many departments are needing funding in order to attend bc their departments don’t fund?
            A: Linguistics, Anthro, EEB
            Q: What I am hearing is that the purpose is to get prestige, if so, maybe we shouldn’t fund people to just attend and should give more money for oral presentations over posters.
            Cooper: btw, travel funding dates back to Katrina when it as felt that
money was particularly needed in order to recoup Tulane's rep by attending conferences.
Q: So if we got OGPS and GSSA money combined would we have enough $$?
Joe: Maybe if we got rid of grants for just attending.
Q: What if we got rid of or lowered $$ for posters?
Cooper: theoretically if we funded posters at $250, domestic at $500 and international at $600 we would be close to making our budget.
Q: If we go over where would the money come from?
Cooper: probably 2/3 out of GSSA's reserve, Provost would attempt to cover the rest.
Q: Rather than simply combining the GSSA and Provost limits what if we just gave money proportionate to the pot as a whole?
Q: If we decide not to fund people who aren't presenting, will this negatively effect depts?
A: Is not an option that is heavily used.
Q: How important is it to be able to get funding for multiple conferences a year?
A: People do do this.
Q: Is this a significant enough # of people?
Q: I think what is most important is Travel and Speakers - maybe we should take $$ out of Events?
Cooper: Student affairs thinks Student Activity fees should be for Activities. As such we cannot prioritize the other two over Activities.
Q: Could we limit for a little while to one conference per student per year and then if there is $$ left over we can choose to spend it?
Cooper: We can easily experiment with new options and then change our minds if we want. These rules are made by the body by voting on them. I think it is unfair for one student to go to multiple conferences if it prevents another student from going to even one. We don't rank how selective the conferences are or how far the person is going when we give out $$.
Q: If we cap at one conference per student then students have to be selective themselves.
Q: Yes, and if you want to go yourself to more you can pay for them. And maybe if it is sufficiently prestigious your dept will help pay for them.
Q: Personally I really like the system as it has been. I was in Germany last year.
Cooper: Combining systems would be easier and mean we just have to apply once. If we combine with OGPS provost office would cover $$ for semester, at end of semester we would pay for our portion to OGPS.
Q: Could we have some of the money be available at higher amounts by review for more prestigious conferences?
Joe: I think that is a bad idea.
Cooper: General points are:
- Once per year per person
- paying for travel and registration
- not paying for just attending
- giving less for posters
Suggested amounts:
- $250 for poster
- $500 for oral
- $600 for international oral
If everyone currently getting OGPS and GSSA funding keeps getting it this would fund that.
Q: Since only 3% of currently funding is just for attending, can't we keep this as an option? Ex. just registration fee.
Art Studio: For our dept it is rare to present, common to go.
Cooper: What do you think of just funding registration and not
travel?
A: Registration can be very little. Travel can be the main expense.
Cooper: But attending and presenting a poster is largely for the
individual rather than for the group (Tulane's prestige).
Q: Ultimately what you put on your resume if presenting.
Q: For how many departments is it highly unusual for you to present
and more common to attend?
A: Art Studio, Math, Neuroscience
Art Studio: Does presenting your work count as a conference?
Cooper: There is no definition. I would consider presenting your work
to be a conference.
Q: Can we do a poll essentially on what people's opinions are? If we
aren't voting now. We should do this just for the reps.
Cooper: Do we want to have three application cycles?
Q: Can we type this up?
Cooper: I will write the discussion up with pros and cons for
discussion with departments.

b. Vice President – Maggie MacPherson (mmacphe@tulane.edu) -
   i. BBQ
      1. Pumpkin Pie Contest, Prizes!
   ii. Trivia Night

c. Treasurer – Joseph Cremaldi (jcremald@tulane.edu)
   i. Large Events- Passed, Unanimous
   ii. BME BBQ – Passed, Unanimous
   iii. Gulf South - Tabled, Unanimous
      1. Discussion on # of Tulaen Grad students at event vs. others, since its a per
         head event.
      2. Increase over last yr

Speakers -
CCC - have raised $1400 from other sources, need further $$ - open to anyone who
wants to attend, will be a call for papers that she will send out
Studio art - Claire Twomey for lecture and student studio visits. British artist. Want a
$300 honorarium instead of usual $200. Department is helping with funding. Ruta
Sipalyte and Dianius Strazdas - Lithuanian artists who will be in the US anyway, want
to bring them down as have this unique opportunity. Would come for a week. Will stay
with grad student and have to sleep on floor if they can't get funding. Studio Art
Department is giving $200 each per artist.
History - Keynote speaker for Global Gulf conference and another lecture. History
Department will cover honorarium, lodging.
Q: How much of our speaker budget have we spent so far?
A: If these get approved we will have spent 2/3 of speaker fund for the Academic Year.
If we want to pull money from something else we can vote on it. We have money in
the reserve which we can spend on whatever we want but we will burn through
quickly on speakers.
Q: Do we have to vote on these as they are, or can we modify them?
A: People putting forth the requests can modify them, body can also put through
motions.
Q: What about putting caps on how much each department can request?
Q: A lot of the honorariums for speakers in the humanities seem high? Is this typical?
A: History - Yes. We have speakers in our department who will only go give talks if
they are given honoraiums Anthro - No. We only give them if they request them. Art
History/LAST - Yes. $500 is normal/required for junior scholars, $1000 for senior scholars. Q: If you take $1500 and 60% of it is going to a handful of departments this isn’t fair.
A: (Cooper) something I have notice in the past few years is dramatic increases in requests for money. Last two years we haven’t run into issues of being able to fund everything requested. This year is the first time we look like we will definitely need to deny some requests. Also, different departments pay in student fees differently. We need to make sure things are as equal as possible as regards where fees are going. 70% of fees come from Science and Engineering and 30% comes from Liberal Arts.
Q: How is this sustainable?
Q: Studio Art, can we vote to approve only part of your request?
A: No. This funding is required for the Twombly, for the Lithuanian artists we are essentially asking to treat them like human beings.
A: (Cooper) important to keep in mind that if you over budget, that money is gone for the fiscal year from GSSA and cannot be spent on another event.
Q: Instead of capping each school, perhaps we could instead ask for just one speaker per department at each meeting? Also, I understand honorariums are necessary in liberal arts, but on the other hand I think you should consider saying "sorry, we can only give you airfare." So my preference would be to fund airfare over honorariums.
Cooper: One option would be to split the money into fall and spring allotments. Still doesn’t prevent all fall and spring funding being gone in first meetings of each semester.
Q: Is that something we could do now at this meeting?&
A: Yes.
Q: But that isn't fair... we already spent $5000 at first meeting.
Q: Our department has never requested a speaker, is this a long process?
A: Yes, we need to register speaker as an employee of Tulane etc...
Q: Studio Art - we will volunteer to lower the cost we are requesting for flights. But would like to emphasize that getting feedback from people outside Tulane is essential as we don’t take exams etc. This is really for the grad students, broadly. Art History etc would probably be interested.
Q: How many students does Studio have?
A: 11
Q: Might another department help sponsor?
Q: The point studio is making that this is integral to their education is a good reason to not cap departments. But I think this is a good reason to limit one speaker per meeting so that departments have to prioritize.
Q: How much do we have in reserve account? Point is that we don’t have infinity money and the money we spend is essentially a wealth transfer from some departments to others as the fees come out of graduate students departments. Why don’t we inject extra money from reserves to speaker funding for this year? Although I don’t think we should spend all our money on speaker funding.
A: We have approx $30,000 in reserve
Q: Can we do graphs, provide data showing who has been funded and who hasn’t so we can make decisions based on this info?
A: Joe - I can provide per capita amounts spent by each department, but that might be unfair.
Cooper: I suggest we vote normally on this budget.
Studio Art: I wonder if maybe we shouldn’t include all these right now as I think I
should go back to the group and consult on who we want the most so that we don't lose funding for speakers we care more about.

Cooper: Perhaps we could have a motion to approve funding pending discussion among Studio Art so that you all can spread out your funding as you would like.

Art Studio: We are only here for two years, perhaps don't have the same sense that other departments do of how many speakers is ok to have per year. We have previously had 5, thought this would be okay this year too.

Motion: Vote as are.

Cooper: Let's not vote as a slate this time.

Q: Can we vote on new ideas about funding this meeting?

Cooper: Yes, we can decide to do this. We fund in different areas and different departments use money differently. Some depts do mostly events, some do mostly speakers, some do mostly travel. Different depts have different norms and as such you can't just look at one area in which money is being spent in order to understand which dept is spending the most.

Mathematics: It seems to me like maybe Art History only does speakers, don't do travel funding, so this is how they use their money, should be allowed to.

Cooper: It is very challenging to track all this money when we have $100,000 to allocate and one unpaid volunteer taking care of this.

ArtStudio: Would help if there was more info on website

Anthro: Would it help if individual departments kept track of their expenditures?

Cooper: Wondering if most departments centralize their requests.

Motion: Vote to approve Art Studio requests on a slate pending discussion with department on what speakers are most important for them.

Second. 

APPROVED

Cooper: Could we vote on speakers that are coming in February at next meeting instead of this one?

CCC: this is our only speaker

History: likewise, we need to be able to plan this now.

Motion: to approve CCC speaker

Second.

APPROVED.

Motion: vote history as a block

Second

APPROVED

Motion to vote

Second

APPROVED

Cooper: We need to discuss this bigger issue, but we should do this as a group rather than in the Budget committee

Joe: Please make sure to send things in in time.
d. Secretary – Emily Floyd (efloyd@tulane.edu)

i. Committees - still haven't heard from everyone! **If you haven't sign up for something I will do it for you.**

Events Committee
Legislative Committee
Budget Committee

V. New Business
VI. Old Business
VII. Adjournment *Adjourned at 8:49*
Global Gulf Conference Keynote Reception:

Reception: $1,879
  Catering: $20 x 75 audience members = $1500
  Freeman Auditorium: $170
  TUPD: $35/hr x 3 = $105
  Cleanup: $104

BME Annual Grad-Faculty BBQ:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Serving Size</th>
<th>Price*</th>
<th>Quantity/Person</th>
<th>Attendees ~40**</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pulled Pork</td>
<td>1 sandwich</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoked Chicken</td>
<td>.25 chicken</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baked Beans</td>
<td>0.5 pint</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baked Mac’n’Cheese</td>
<td>0.5 pint</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potato Salad</td>
<td>0.5 pint</td>
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<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn Bread</td>
<td>2 pieces</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dessert</td>
<td>1 square</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Serving Size</th>
<th>0.25</th>
<th>$0.75</th>
<th>$30.00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Liter Soft Drinks/Water</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cups</td>
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<td>$7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>50 pack</td>
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<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utensils</td>
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<td>Napkins</td>
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<td>Large Trashbags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice</td>
<td>8 packs</td>
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*Prices based on Catering from Ms. Hyster’s BBQ from last year’s event. Invoice of last year’s tally available if needed.
**Assume each person chooses one main and 2 sides