

University of Tennessee Knoxville  
Graduate Student Senate  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 13, 2008**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Julie Lynch at 7:00 PM

**Attendees:** (A. Beck, M. Carlini, A. Dautartua, A. Devito, T. Flick, C. Glennon, J. Hanson, T. Hendershot, S., M. Johnson, L. Ledgerwood, J. Lynch, May, A. Mello, L. Neely, C. Spellings, S. Sutton, A. Svonanvec, B. Robinson)

**Next Meeting: Thursday January 15 at 7 p.m. in Room 227**

**Minutes of October 23, 2008 approved at 7:02pm**

**President's report: (Julie Lynch)**

**Travel Awards**

- The Travel Awards committee will meet on Monday December 1 at 6 p.m. in the University Center Room 315D
- We have a good draft of the changes we want to be made for the spring application
- We have contacted every college to gather data about the types of conferences graduate students are attending as well as their involvement at the conferences
- The application will be available at the end of November or the beginning of December
- The application will be due January 15, 2009.
- The travel dates for the application are January 15-April 4, 2009.
- We will also be looking at the funding patterns from previous semesters to be able to understand which students are actually applying for the money upon returning from the conference as well as the amounts those students are receiving

**Fun Run Committee**

- The date has been set for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Love Your Libraries Fun Run, it will be on Saturday February 21, 2009
- The race begins at 8:30
- There is a 5k run as well as a 1 mile fun walk
- The Fun Run committee will meet on Monday December 1 at 5 p.m. in the University Center Room 315D
- We are looking to increase the number of runners and volunteers for the race. Please think about volunteering or participating that day and please pass this information out to your programs and departments.

**Library Hours**

- The library will be open 24 hours during the week of finals.

**Budget Cuts**

- At the last meeting there was concern about whether or not student travel funded by GSS would be affected by the budget cuts; it will not be affected at least for the remainder of this year (through the summer) since the money has already been allocated.
- They can not say what will happen for next year.

**Health Insurance**

- I contacted Jim Boyle to follow up about the email he said that would be sent regarding the changes to health insurance plans
- They are hoping to get it sent out in the next few days
- Student Health Services decided to send the email to all insured students not just grad students
- We have had to manually retrieve the email addresses from the University phone book which caused some of the delay

Letter to be sent to students:

Dear Insured Student:

The benefits provided by the University sponsored UnitedHealthcare insurance policy have had some significant changes from last year. Letters detailing these changes and containing the new insurance brochure were sent out in June to all students. However, apparently many students did not receive this information and therefore were not aware of how these changes would affect their benefits.

The purpose of this email is to make you aware of these changes and their effect on your insurance benefits. The most significant change is that a referral is necessary from the Student Health Service before receiving health care from a private medical provider or no benefits will be paid. Other changes are listed below but it is important that you review the insurance brochure before you receive health care to ensure you understand benefits and coverage. You can pick up a brochure at the Student Health Service, John Hildreth Agency office at 10259 Kingston Pike, or view an electronic version at <http://www.studenthealthprograms.com/>.

**THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE PLAN FOR 2008-2009:**

- \* *A student health clinic referral is necessary before insurance benefits will be payable; see brochure for details.*
- \* *A pre-existing condition clause has been added (anyone on the plan from 8/1/07 – 7/31/08 will be exempt from the pre-existing condition clause; students new to the plan may be exempt if prior comparable coverage for a 12-month period exists).*
- \* *Co-pays have been revised as follows: prescriptions \$20/35/65, non –Student Health Service physician visits \$60.*
- \* *The following coverages are now subject to deductible and coinsurance: emergency room visits, outpatient diagnostic services, and urgent care visits.*
- \* *The following benefits have been removed: air ambulance, eye exams, and intercollegiate sports.*
- \* *The following benefits have been limited to a maximum of 15 visits; rehabilitation outpatient therapy and outpatient substance abuse.*
- \* *Ground ambulance coverage is limited to \$200 maximum*

Please review the brochure and your benefits very carefully. If you have any questions about the plan, please call the local agent, The Hildreth Agency (865) 691-4652 or 1-800-874-0832 or the Insurance Clerk at the Student Health Service (865) 974-2337.

**Vice President's report: (Drew Justice)**

Not present for meeting.

**Old business:**

None

**New Business:**

Bill 01-09 Amendment to the SGA Constitution, Taryn Hendershot, College Student Personnel Representative read the bill for the second meeting at GSS. Bill passed.

Research Council-How do people feel about the research experience that they are receiving at the University of Tennessee? Forum and survey will be coming soon.

Dean of the Library's Advisory Committee Meeting last week (Megan Johnson)

Reevaluating the Spring Semester hours in the commons

Upgrade of wireless on campus will begin in January

Some microfilms have been moved to storage; most are duplicates from online versions; if a student/faculty/staff needs a microfilm that is currently in storage, they can request the item and receive it in 1-2 days.

Next Social for GSS (Laura Ledgerwood)

First Friday in Knoxville, TN.

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting in Market Square at Staging area at 5pm.

6pm Dinner at the Downtown Grill and Brewery on Gay Street

**Motion to adjourn** at 7:28pm