

GSAC Meeting notes
7/10/23

1. Review of mission statement: "The Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) is focused on improving the graduate experience within the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Engineering. Direct engagement with College officials ensures the student voice and perspective is represented in the CoE. Through continuous interaction, the GSAC seeks to increase the quality of education delivered, the culture and climate in the CoE, student satisfaction, and professional competence of graduating students.

One student member is nominated from each department each academic year"

- a. Are people really appointed from their departmental GSAC?
 - i. It depends on the department. Some departments have active graduates student groups with written governing documents and processes, some don't have an active group at all. In those cases individuals are asked to serve on the CoE GSAC by a faculty member
 - ii. It might make sense to have a PhD group and a Master's group that each meet individually, and then meet jointly once a semester
 - iii. There has also been discussion in the past of having more casual listening sessions for master's students throughout the semester, rather than a formal group
 - iv. There should be more transparency for how to get appointed to the group- either by a GSAC or through a more specific process.

ACTION ITEM- make sample process for departments without active GSACs for selecting and appointing members. Process must be intentional about bringing a range of experiences to the group

- b. The CoE GSAC needs to be engaged in real work
 - i. Connections to goals and administrators should be meaningful, not just sharing information that could have been an email
 - ii. The GSAC should be used more pro-actively by the college as the official representatives of a population within the college and as key stakeholders
 - iii. The GSAC needs to be considered when change processes are happening, both in terms of policies and space.

2. List of people who could come to future GSAC meetings

- a. Associate Dean for Space Management
- b. Michelle Bond
- c. Someone from Grad School, maybe who does professional development
- d. CAE
- e. CoE Career Services
- f. Bursar's Office
- g. Libraries
- h. Safety
- i. Health care and insurance

- j. Course scheduling
 - k. Dean
 - l. GERS- learn more about how to be an ally to their work?
 - m. Other student group representatives
 - n. Grad coordinators
3. New Grad student orientation
- a. have a slide with GSAC names and photos on it, along with a QR code to the website
 - b. ask them to stand and wave, they will stay to mingle
4. Programming for the upcoming year
- a. More in-person programming unless it is information that really just needs to be relayed
 - b. Have food
 - c. Make it clear that the programs are specifically for grad students
 - d. Pop-up events that don't need to be scheduled for every month
 - e. Have them during the day, either first thing in the morning or end of the day because some research happens in specific blocks of time
 - f. Morning coffee socializing
 - g. Co-working spaces set up for connection and utilizing other spaces in CoE
5. Could there be a semester long seminar program for new CoE grad students where they can learn about a new topic each week?