Minutes
April 20, 2005

Colleagues,

First of all: we need to get together an official email list for our group. Please respond to this email if you would like to be on the email list.

On April 20, 2005, the Political Science Graduate Student Association held its first meeting—12 people attended. We decided upon an interim executive board composed of:

Sara Miller – President
Brian Sernulka – Vice President
Victor Kutikov – Treasurer/Secretary [Would someone like to help out here?]
Andrea Owens-Jones – American Government representative
Inés “Nayo” Rojas and Vanja Petričević – Comparative Politics/International Relations representatives
Inés “Nayo” Rojas, Vanja Petričević, Andy Jessen, and Landon Phillips – Website Committee
Landon Phillips – Social Committee

If I have forgotten anyone or if you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please let me know.

The interim executive board is responsible for creating a constitution, pushing through the campus charter (so we can get funds), keeping up with students and faculty members to see who is publishing, who is going to which conferences, etc., creating the website, and planning social events for the beginning of the fall semester (i.e. the welcoming party for new students). At the beginning of the fall semester, we will first approve the constitution, and then elect permanent executive members, following the procedures set forth. If you would like to help with the constitution this summer, please contact Brian Sernulka (bsernulka1@student.gsu.edu).

During the meeting, we went over the agenda emailed by Vanja in advance. Topics included:
Holding a welcoming party for new students at the beginning of fall and spring semesters

Having a mentoring program for new students, pairing them with a returning student to help them out in the beginning of their studies. [Would someone like to volunteer to work on this? We could get a profile of volunteer mentors and either match them up as best we can or let the mentorees choose their own somehow]

Planning outings and/or social events during the semester

Establishing and sharing knowledge about recruitment programs (especially for those who are only planning to complete the M.A.)

Creating a website with information about the GSA mission, a membership list, a place to share conference papers, awards, and anything worth mentioning

We also discussed fees, which we plan to avoid for as long as possible

We are excited about the Graduate Student Association, and think it will definitely enrich our graduate program and general experience here. We look forward to creating an environment where all Graduate Students are welcome to share achievements and news, and to creating a group that can help you better handle graduate school.