



**Gamma Sigma Delta  
Winter Business Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2009**

Twenty-seven Gamma Sigma Delta members of the Tennessee Chapter helped themselves to sandwiches, sides and drinks for lunch during the Winter Business Meeting on February 19, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Fred Allen. President Allen thanked Mike Buschermohle for planning and organizing such a wonderful lunch for the Chapter as well as thanked members, especially student members for attending.

The minutes of the 2008 Fall Business meeting (September 25, 2008) were reviewed and approved.

The Treasurer's report was delayed until Willie Hart, treasurer, could join the meeting.

**Old Business:**

Proposed Constitution Change, Initiating Juniors Students: Kelly Robbins distributed the current and proposed change to Article III, Membership, Section 1, A. Undergraduate Students that was presented during the fall business meeting for further discussion.

Current Constitution Language:

A. Undergraduate students

- (1.) Have been in residence at least one academic year before selection;
- (2.) Are in the upper 15% of the senior class of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR);
- (3.) Have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or better for all university work (out of a possible 4.0);
- (4.) Have completed at least 90 semester hours (i.e., senior status) at the time the student is nominated for election into the society; and
- (5.) Have been nominated on the prescribed form...

Proposed Constitution Language:

A. Undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

No more than 15% of the senior class can be members;

- (1.) Juniors (at least 60 semester hours completed) or seniors (at least 90 semester hours completed) who have been in residence at least one academic year before election and have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or better for all university work (out of a possible 4.0);
- (2.) Rank in the upper 5% of the junior class if juniors or in the upper 15% of the senior class if seniors;
- (3.) Have been nominated on the prescribed form...

The proposed changes were reviewed by the membership with no discussion. A motion was made to accept the proposed constitution change as stated, a second was received and the motion carried.

**New Activities:**

GSD sponsored career workshop for undergraduates (tentative 9/22/09): Emily Gray shared the progress of developing an undergraduate career workshop focusing on 'preparing for a job fair,' 'resume development' and 'interview skills' while providing pizza during a career prep

presentation. Emily mentioned she will visit with Mary Mahoney, UT Career Services. The proposed date works well within the fall schedule of events. UT's Fall Job Fair: September 30 and UT CASNR Job Fair: October 7. Facilities, Hollingsworth Auditorium, have been reserved. The Chapter will provide lunch/refreshments as well as advertisement. Dr. Albrecht suggested forwarding an e-flyer to all CASNR undergraduates as well as posting on the CASNR Facebook site. Margot Emery volunteered to design the flyer. A motion was made to accept the proposed as stated, a second was received and the motion carried.

GSD sponsored spring poster event for graduate students (tentative March 31, 2009): Fred Allen opened the floor for discussion asking for graduate student input. Dr. Brace suggested joining the existing Research Symposium event set for June 15-16, 2009 on the Ag Campus. Dr. Allen will contact Buddy Moore for more details. It was suggested the Chapter could sponsor the activity, provide judges or awards. Dr. DiPietro discussed the benefits of increased visibility/exposure as well as brings the East and West campuses together by joining this event. Dr. Allen will follow-up on the event and correspond via e-mail.

GSD sponsoring plant signage on Indian Mound site: Fred Allen discussed the Indian Mound project and will procure native plant signage from the approved funds. More details will be available in late spring.

#### **New Business:**

New Members: College of Veterinary Medicine, Graduate and undergraduate student nominee listings that completed the initial nomination procedures were distributed and reviewed. The floor was opened to for additional nominations. Five faculty members were suggested for membership (if they were not already members). It was suggested that all departmental representatives review the listing for accuracy. A motion was made that the list be accepted, a second was received and the motion carried.

Ag Campus Indian Mound as the organization's Campus "Adopt-A-Spot:" Fred Allen discussed the opportunity to 'spice up' the Indian Mound Project by developing and implementing a new landscape design which the Chapter could then manage as an adopt-a-spot. This project would not only benefit the area but bring further recognition to the Chapter. Sam Rogers is developing a master plan to include information about the mound, plant identification and a council ring. The site would eventually be associated with the Trial Garden. Dr. Allen expressed that Dr. Hamilton is supportive and agrees that there is a need for native plants area. Since this area is already associated with the Ag Economics Club, we will contact their advisor. A motion was made the project be accepted, a second was received and the motion carried.

Election of New Officers: David Golden, Nominating Committee Chair, forwarded the proposed slate of officers and was presented by Dr. Allen: President Elect – Mark Fly, Treasurer – Willie Hart, Secretary – Emily L. Tipton, Historian – Emily Gray. The floor was opened to additional nominations and then it was moved and accepted to close. A motion was made to accept the nominated slate of officers as stated, a second was received and the motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee: No report

Audit Committee: No report

Constitution Review Committee: Covered under Old Business

Awards Committee: Hank Kattesh, Committee Chair, mentioned the Graduate Student Award and ask department representative serve on the committee.

Publicity Committee: No report

Project Committee: Covered under New Business

Nominating Committee: Covered under New Business

Banquet and Luncheon Committee: No report but the membership was reminded to contribute to the 'lunch donation' container and announced the Spring Initiation and Awards Reception date (April 21, 2009).

Greetings Committee: No report

Finance Committee: The Treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed by Willie Hart. The decreasing trend continues but the Chapter still maintains a positive balance, however, more members need to pay dues. Dr. Hart indicated only half of the eligible membership have paid. A reminder will be sent prior to the spring reception. Dr. Hart also inquired if the current fall banquet (\$35) and spring reception (\$30) initiation fees need to be adjusted. The membership discussed. The financial report was reviewed and approved.

Membership Committee – Covered under New Business

**Other Business:**

Spring Initiation and Awards Reception: The Spring Initiation and Awards Reception set for Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 12:00 pm in 156 PBT. The general membership fee will be \$5, payable at the door.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Emily L. Tipton, Secretary.