



Meeting Minutes
3 AUGUST, 2016
5:30 – LA 1001

Members present: Tara Riggs Foncannon, Travis Dickison, Ashley Hughes, JoAnna Newcomb Beck, and Traci Welp

Guests present: N/A

Travis called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

No previous minutes

Events

Tabling/New Student Reception/Orientation

Travis will work with the Political Science Student Organization to determine if they will allow us to put some literature surrounding the MPA Society on their tables. If not, the society has discussed using an "unmanned table" approach with literature available.

Anyone is welcome to attend the MPA Society Reception. Travis will be in attendance at the Orientation to discuss the MPA society and encourage membership.

Teen Advisory Council

Traci will work with Dr. Hanka and the TAC contact in order to schedule a time and date for individuals of the program and society to come discuss their professions, how they utilize their degrees, as well as volunteer and other extracurriculars they are involved in, This will most likely occur in September or October on a Friday at 6 am. Sometime in November, it was also discussed that the MPA Society would assist in providing TAC members a campus tour.

Give Back Night at Bdubs Follow up and New Opportunities

Travis and JoAnna will work together to determine where the funding went from the give back night at Bdubs. Funds raised were intended to go to a charitable cause (an MPA alumni's mother's business that was burned down in Haiti). Funds were addressed to the Society and had Dr. Hanka's contact information on it. Tara has not had any luck locating the funds and Bdubs has been unhelpful. Ashley brought up that Bdubs had undergone management changes during the end of the Spring and that could be the cause.

JoAnna will be contacting Azzip Pizza, Cold Stone and other locations near the West Side to arrange another give back night. Funds will either go to an identified charitable cause or back into the society for future efforts.

Aurora Donation Drive

Ashley reported the guidelines for the drive. It was determined that teams would contain a maximum of 10 people with the leaders being a member of the MPA program. Ashley will create the forms needed to manage the competition as well



as manage the drive itself. Point values will be assigned to essential items to be collected and donated. Travis turned in the request letter for the Spudz-and-Stuff catering to be used as the prize for the winning team. The drive will run from September 12-30th. Traci will allow us to utilize her vehicle for dropping off items at the site at the end of the drive. Someone will contact the school newspaper, use social media, the MPA newsletter and other media outlets to share about the Society's efforts to the campus community.

Empty Bowls

On October 21st from 6-8 pm in the Ceramics Studio on USI's campus, MPA society members, students, and alumni are invited to attend a session to create bowls to be used for the annual Empty Bowls event that benefits two local non-profits in the area. Significant others are invited to attend as well however all attendees must be 18 years of age or older. No children are allowed. The event itself is November 5th from 11-2 pm at the restaurant Sauced. All are invited to attend.

Santa Run

The Santa Run will be held on December 3rd. Volunteers will have to attend a short training prior to the race. The race itself begins at 9 am.

End of Semester Party

Like last year, the Society would like to have an end of year party for current MPA students, society members, and alumni and their families. At this time, Traci Welp has graciously offered her home for the party. It will be holiday themed. Ashley will be planning and organizing the party. The society has decided to offer some funding for to cover a main course for the event. Most likely it will also be a potluck in nature where individuals in attendance are welcome to bring a side item, beverage or dessert. This event is currently expected to occur on the evening on December 16 or 17.

Speaker Series

At this time, the role of the Society is unclear in the Speaker Series. It is suggested that members attend all speakers from the department, as well as assist in the promotion of such events. Dr. Hanka will provide further instruction as it is made available.

ASPA Conference

The ASPA Conference will be held March 17-21, 2017 in Atlanta Georgia. Halfway through the term individuals interested in attending the ASPA Conference will have to make a commitment to do so, so that travel accommodations can be made. Currently the cost to attend the conference would be approximately \$700. Funding may be located by the University to assist in the cost, however students may have to pay some. Travis will work to gather grant funding from the University.

New Programs and Policies

Alumni Affinity Group

Dr. Hanka and Janet Johnson from Alumni Services will work together, along with Travis as appropriate, to establish an Alumni Affinity Group. Be checking your student emails as Lauren, fellow MPA student and GA for Alumni Services, will be sending out a survey to gauge interest.



Budget

A new budget is currently being created by JoAnna, with the assistance of Travis. It will hopefully be proposed during the first general meeting of the semester.

Bylaws

Currently the bylaws and constitution are being updated by Ashley, Travis and other appropriate individuals to ensure the language is accurate.