

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA[®]

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:08pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Boris Glebov, Sarah Mosher, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Aaron Gubi, Anne Murdaugh, Elaine Ulrich, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Kathleen Corcoran, Sandy Marshall, Nicholas Fernandez, Amanda Brobbel, Laura Gronewold, Erin Vincent, Kedar Dhane

Proxies: Rob Schumaker, Gail Bradford, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 11/30/06 minutes, Anne Murdaugh seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) The student regent position is now open for applications. Paul will send out an e-mail to advertise this position to graduate students. Applications are due on Jan. 23. (2) The ASA has yet to hire a government affairs director, even though they were nearly finished with the interview process. More details to come. (3) The ASA unanimously passed a legislative agenda, focusing on student aid, university funding, and the free exchange of ideas. This agenda establishes the issues the ASA will lobby for this year. Feb. 15 is lobby day in Phoenix. (4) Three companies have made bids for the student health insurance plan. Details of these bids will be available on Friday. (5) President Shelton told Paul he is absolutely committed to 90% tuition remission next year, and 100% remission the next year. (6) Administrators have yet to sign the “document of understanding” concerning GPSC/ASUA relations. President Shelton is going to send a memo to his cabinet stating that there will be GPSC representation on committees where there is ASUA representation. (7) Joe VanOpdorp has resigned from the GPSC. Jim will contact the “runner-up” from the 2006 election. Someone will need to sit on his committee – the Academic Personnel Policy Committee. Contact Paul if you’re interested. (8) Thanks to Sarah for putting together a great information packet about low-cost health care for students. This information will be posted on the website, and will appear in the February GradCat. (9) The university is planning to make a \$10 million dollar budget cut next year.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) The spring blood drive is set for April 9-13. If you’d like to get involved, contact Anne. Anne is planning to coordinate this event with a clothing drive for the Brewster Center with Sarah. (2) Feb. 15-17 is legislative action day for the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. On these days, graduate students will meet representatives on Capital Hill to discuss bills of interest to graduate students. Anne wants to get a letter writing campaign going for this event. (3) SPBAC is going to do a teaching load study, to determine how much teaching tenure track faculty, non-tenure track faculty, post-docs, and graduate students do. (4) The ASUA changed their elections code. Now any registered student at the University of Arizona can vote for the ASUA Senate. Anne will look into when this was changed and why. (5) ASUA Senator Gerner is sending out a tech fee survey this week. Please encourage people to take this survey. ASUA Senator Adams is sending out a dining service survey. President Hertzog recently asked senators to serve on committees to replace cabinet members who resigned.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Randi is working on putting the survey questions together for the workload survey. She is in contact with a UA alum with marketing consultant experience. The survey should be ready to be sent out in February. Provost Davis is currently charting how many credit hours graduate students teach. This should help contextualize the survey.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – All votes have now been received for the last round of club funding.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) A meeting of the graduate student book club will take place Thursday, January 25 at 7:00pm in the Canyon Café at the SUMC. (2) A graduate student speed dating event will take place Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00pm in the meeting rooms at the PSU.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: (1) Amanda is planning Student Showcase in Phoenix. A bus will leave at 3:00pm in front of Old Main Fountain on February 6th. If you’d like to go, please contact Amanda. This is a good opportunity to speak to legislators. (2)

Card readers are scheduled to be installed in GPSC office, and the key pad will no longer work. Send your CatCard number to Amanda if you wish to have access to the GPSC office. (3) GPSA week is scheduled for the last week of March. Amanda will need lots of volunteers for this event.

Sarah Mosher: Health care information is now available on the website under “Health Care Resources.” This page covers common questions about prescriptions, contraceptives, optical, and dental in Q&A form. If you have comments or suggestions, please let Sarah know.

Aaron Gubi: (1) The next GradCat will come out in early February. (2) Decisions for the October round of travel grants were just sent out.

Kathleen Corcoran: (1) Kathleen is in contact with a woman who teaches a class entitled “Survival Skills and Ethics.” She’d like someone to come to her class to tell her more about the GPSC. (2) Several groups from Showcase donated their winnings to charity.

VI. New Business

a. Jorge Cham Speaking Engagement

Catherine has contacted Jorge Cham – writer of the comic “Piled Higher and Deeper” – about coming to the UA to speak to graduate students. This will be an expensive event. Jorge charges \$2000, plus travel costs. Generally, GPSC activities have a low cost per student. However, there is a specific reason for this presentation. Catherine will look into other funding sources (Career services? Union corporate sponsorship grant?). Please survey your constituents to determine whether they would attend. Details such as date and place will be determined later.

b. Tech Fee Discussion

The university would like to increase the current tech fee of \$65/year to \$130/year. Due to student opposition, the regents tabled this decision until their March meeting. The regents want the administration to engage in more dialogue with students. To facilitate this discussion, the university created a tech fee committee. Erin and Paul will sit on this committee. Provost Davis said they were looking at soft deadline of Feb. 11 to submit a proposal to the regents. The council brainstormed a list of information they would like to see from CCIT before the vote on this fee takes place:

- A detailed cost analysis and budget. (How much money do you need to fund specific projects? How long will you need a fee to accomplish this?)
- How does a tech fee improve the educational experience of the university?
- Why is this size of fee absolutely essential?
- Students aren’t the only ones using technology. Why are we the only ones paying for it?
- Are other departments chipping in for wireless and other technology?

c. Amendments to the GPSC Elections Code

Paul proposed a change to the GPSC Elections Code to remove some inflexibility built into the timeline for the election of President and Vice President. Currently, candidates for these positions must be confirmed by a 1/3 vote of the council. This rule was originally implemented to avoid someone incompetent running for the position (ex. “The Fire Hydrant”). The rule does not appear to be very democratic, however, since if someone is unknown to the GPSC, they might be voted out. Also, this rule adds extra time to the election process, as the candidates must be confirmed at a GPSC meeting. Instead, Paul proposed a mandatory extension of candidacy if only one person runs for a position. This changes Section 3.3, 5.2, 6.5 of the Elections Code. Anne Murdaugh motions to approve changes as stated, Kathleen Corcoran seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

d. Commencement Discussion

President Shelton has executive control over commencement, and is looking to make changes. He will propose changes at the end of the year. From discussions Paul has had with him, it appears he wants to shorten the main commencement by half an hour (by cutting honorary degree speeches, and potentially cutting the walk of Ph.D. students). He is also interested in the possibility of having a separate commencement for undergraduate and graduate students. The President would like comments from students and faculty. Please talk to constituents about this.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 8:01pm, Anne Murdaugh made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Boris Glebov, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.