

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.
GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2006

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Jennifer de Winter.

Present—Nicholas Amatuzzi, Amanda Brobbel, Jim Collins, Kathleen Corcoran, Jennifer deWinter, Aaron Gubi, M. Luna J. Iris, Anne Murdaugh, Catherine Neish, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Eva Shaw, Kim Shea, Beth Specker, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Elaine Ulrich, Leslie Walker.

Proxies—Claudia Benavente, Marni Glick, Sarah Grace, John Laughlin, Beverly Wilson.

II. Calls to the Audience: None.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes: Nadia made a motion to approve the January 10, 2006 minutes barring three corrections; Amanda seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President, Elaine Ulrich—Elaine encouraged council members to come to the next Presidential search forum on Wednesday, as numbers are dwindling. The officers have compiled a list of questions that council members can ask candidates if they attend the forum.

External Affairs Vice President, Paul Thorn—Paul offered thanks to Randi for her work in preparing background and institutional information on the presidential candidates. The ASA dollar back campaign has been a success; so far 530 graduate students have requested their dollar back. Paul thanked Jim for preparing the request site. The GPSC will host a social this Friday at Belushe's from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Internal Affairs Vice President, Jennifer deWinter—The Dean of the Libraries will be at the next meeting. Please be prepared to ask questions on library budget issues and services. Representatives need to start organizing spring constituency meetings, which will be paired with graduate student forums. If there is someone you would like to speak at a forum, please let Jen know. Paul is now working on constitution revisions.

Treasurer, Nick Amatuzzi—No report.

Secretary, John Laughlin—No report, absent.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Representative reports—Jim reported on the UA web advisory council. The international studies council has requested an international gateway on the UA website's main page. The advisory council is resistant to this idea because they believe that would open the door to all groups making a similar request. Several GPSC representatives commented that most universities have this type of access for international students, and that an international gateway would make the University attractive to international students and faculty.

Director reports—No director reports.

VI. New Business:

- a. **Budget reallocation**—Nick reported that we keep receiving more requests for funding than we have budgeted for, so we need to reallocate funds into club and POD funding. Nick made a motion that \$3,160 from the Student Showcase budget, \$1,000 from the buffer fund, and \$1,500 from travel expenses be reallocated into POD and club funding. Anne seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- b. **Club and POD funding.** Nick presented the Council with the most recent club and POD funding proposal: Microbiology and Immunology, \$622.30; Anthropology Graduate Students of the U of A, \$677.34; Middle East and North African Graduate Students Association (MENA), \$400; Critical Metaphor/Metonymy Group, \$0; Second Language Acquisition and Teaching Student Association, \$600; Academy of Student Pharmacists, \$830; Academy of Student Pharmacists, \$105.60; English Department-New Directions in Critical Theory Conference, \$809; Southern Arizona Geographers Association (SAGA), \$500.

Anne made a motion to approve the club and POD funding, and Elaine seconded. The motion carried.

- c. **Tuition setting**—Paul reported that he and Elaine have been working with ASUA and ASA to create a joint tuition proposal. They met with Ben Graff and reached an agreement for a proposal on the four tuition categories and increases: a four percent tuition increase for in-state graduate and undergraduate students, and a nine percent increase for out-of-state graduate and undergraduate students. The advantage of this proposal is that the increase is equal for both graduate and undergraduate students. President Likins will probably suggest a 4.5 percent increase for in-state undergraduates and a nine percent increase for the other three student categories. The joint tuition proposal letter will also address the issues of class availability for undergraduates, professional development for graduate students, and the need for a Career Services position in the Graduate College for graduate students.

Elaine commented that Dr. Likins is interested in adding one percent of graduate student tuition dollars into graduate student financial aid. At this point it is unclear if those funds would be allocated to the Graduate College or to the Office of Financial Aid. Jen asked if that financial aid would be available to international students.

Paul moved to approve the joint tuition increase letter, thereby authorizing Elaine and Paul to present the increase to the Regents; Nadia seconded the motion. Jim explained he would vote against the motion because his constituents would not benefit from the increase, as they are not eligible for financial aid. With twelve votes for, one against, and three abstentions, the motion passed.

- d. **GPSC elections process**—Paul reported that he is working to change our governing documents to reflect the vote taken last semester that supported an at large election of the GPSC president. Right now we need to determine if one, both, or neither of the vice president positions should also be elected at large. Elaine said that we should elect the external vice president at large because it is usually a contested election, and would therefore bring out more voters. Nick pointed out that the question on the vote last fall only asked about electing the president at large, not the vice presidents. Amanda reminded the Council that the more people elected at large, the better it is for the Council. An informal vote showed that a few council members thought that just the president should be elected at large, that eight council members thought the president and external vice president should be elected at large, and that one council member thought that the president and vice president should be elected at large if the vice president is contested.

The Council discussed if the vice presidential positions should be renamed. “External vice president” could change to “vice president,” and “internal vice president” to “chairperson” or “assembly president”. An informal vote suggested that the Council does not want to change the position names in the constitution at this point.

To continue the election discussion, Paul suggested that each presidential candidate should get a nomination form with twenty signatures (with at least half out of their college), and that each candidate needs to be supported by a one-third vote of the GPSC. The constitution could prohibit a candidate from running for more than one office, but a candidate could run as a representative and an officer and then give up the representative position if elected to the officer position.

The Council might want to consider expanding the Appropriations and Grants Director position into a larger, .25 position. We would need \$5,500 more in order to do that. The position could possibly be called Director of Programs or Program Administrator.

The Council discussed how to acknowledge the medical and law students that disassociated themselves from GPSC last semester. The Council decided that we should not write these groups out of the constitution, but that we should write them out of the election code until they acknowledge us or request representation by us. This option still gives students who did not vote to secede from GPSC (or who were not aware of the vote) the opportunity to use our services.

- e. **Student Union fee**—Elaine received a call from some ASUA senators asking for our assistance to block a referendum on the proposed student union fee. Elaine would like for the Council to vote in support of not sending the student union fee to referendum. Paul read a resolution that outlined the reasons the GPSC is opposed to a Student Union fee and referendum. Paul made a motion that we support the resolution, and Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - f. **Presidential search**—Some of the officers and representatives reported on the presidential candidates that had been on campus. Campbell seems interested mostly in undergraduate issues and not the research aspects of the University. Shelton could be good president, but he would be a lot like Likins in terms of policies. Freund has a strong policy of shared governance and a positive relationship with graduate students on her campus.
 - g. **Letter to graduate college**—Elaine suggested that the Council wait to contact the Graduate College regarding its stance on the ten-month versus nine-month pay period issue. Elaine is working with the head of the payroll office to find solutions for this situation. Randi circulated a letter she had drafted to the Graduate College that reported on the vote from the last meeting and that explained the reasons the GPSC supports a ten-month pay period. An informal vote suggested that a majority of the council were still in favor of sending of the letter.
 - h. **GPSA week**—Amanda reported that she needs suggestions for a family fun activity that is less expensive than last year's. We need to plan activities that will reach all types and groups of graduate students. We are considering hosting a Poker Night at the Park Student Union. Someone suggested that we give away GPSC frisbees or plastic cups at the barbecue. Other suggestions included a bookstore discount, speed dating, and an eating contest. We will use GPSA week to promote GPSC elections.
- VI. **Call to adjourn:** Nadia moved to adjourn the meeting; Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Randi Tanglen