

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 31st 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Boris Glebov, Sarah Mosher, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Anne Murdaugh, Elaine Ulrich, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Sandy Marshall, Laura Gronewold, Kedar Dhane, Gail Bradford, Rob Schumaker, Kathryn Williams

Proxies: Kathleen Corcoran, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Josh Scott motions to pass the 01/17/07 minutes, Laura Gronewold seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) An ASA lobby day will be held on Feb. 15. The day will include training on the UA campus, and opportunities to lobby with state legislators in Phoenix. (2) Three names for Student Regent have been forwarded to the governor. Details were sent to the GPSC listserv. (3) Catherine and Paul had separate meetings with Kris Kreutz (Director of Administrative Services at Campus Health) this week to discuss the new Student Health Insurance Plan. Three companies have made bids, one of which (Blue Cross) has already been knocked out due to a lack of detail in its bid. Chickering and United Healthcare are still in the running. The bids for dental insurance seemed high – Kris will ask for clarification from the companies. There was some discussion of putting out a separate RFP for dental care. We might get lower bids this way, and Melissa Vito (Dean of Students) thinks it would be more feasible, since this RFP would come after state budgeting decisions have been made. The health insurance RFP also included an option for catastrophic prescription plan, which seemed to be fiscally feasible. It would protect vulnerable students (no student would have to pay more than \$1500 a year in prescriptions). (4) An IT board has been formed to decide how to spend the new IT fee, and to recommend to the President the level of funding for future fees. It will meet extensively over the next few weeks. (5) President Shelton recommended getting money from the Dean of Students to pay for a GPSC staff person. They have committed \$10,000, and the GPSC has also committed \$10,000. We are asking for another \$10,000 from the Grad College.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) A graduate student town hall will take place March 6 from 12:00-1:00pm in the Kiva Room. You may substitute this town hall for a spring constituency meeting if you show up. Pizza will be provided. (2) The Western Regional Conference for the NAGPS will take place on March 30-31 in Provo, UT. (3) Kathleen Corcoran needs a replacement for Faculty Senate. (4) Tuition remission will most likely be exempt from any cuts in budget.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Officers are trying to make the meetings shorter and more efficient. We will start all meetings right at 6:00pm to make more time for new business. (2) Randi is still putting questions together for the workload survey, and will have a draft together soon. A UA alumni is helping to finalize the survey.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Report will wait for new business.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) We had a successful speed dating event last night. See article in the WildCat today. (2) We will have a movie night next week Feb. 8, at 7:00pm in Chavez 111.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Claudia Benavente: Claudia attended a GIDPAC meeting. Since GIDPs do not belong to any college, it is up to individual colleges to support their students. Recently, the College of Medicine reprioritized its funding to support either doctors or teachers. As a consequence, the Chair of Physiological Sciences will no longer be compensated for their services. These changes will impact GIDPs in the College of Medicine.

Elaine Ulrich: Elaine will be out of town on Feb. 14, and needs someone to cover the ICPC meeting for her.

Catherine Neish: The Science Graduate Council met today. The council is running well, and are planning activities and getting money from the Dean.

Gail Bradford: The Dean of Public Health has recently stepped down.

VI. New Business

a. Club Funding and POD Grant Appropriations

Josh Scott proposes initial club funding for “Plant Sciences Graduate Student Club” \$0, “Engineering Mechanics Graduate Student Council” \$0, “Pharmacy” \$200, and “Graduate Advisory Council for the College of Education” \$28, and POD funding for “Global Health Alliance” \$508, and “Cancer Biology” \$750. Elaine Ulrich moves to approve the funding requests, Shaun Halbert seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

b. Discussion with Central IT

Two weeks ago the GPSC discussed IT issues at the UA, and forwarded a list of questions to CCIT. Michele Norin from CCIT came to answer our questions. She brought a portion of document that was submitted to ABOR with a cost analysis. The university operates with a \$35 million budget for central IT units (support for the university’s software systems, e-mail, help desks, network, office of student computing, student registration, etc.) This budget allows CCIT to maintain what they have, but not make major improvements. The priority thus far for the new IT fee has been wireless. The rationale is that wireless will allow students to work outside of computer labs, giving them mobility. Some representatives voiced concern that the wireless is being for entertainment rather than work. In response to concerns about the size of the fee, Michele said that they will need \$100/year for four years to complete the wireless. After that is done, they will use the money for other technologies. In response to the question of what would happen if they got rid of the fee after four years, Michele responded they would have to find a new source of funding to maintain the wireless, and they wouldn’t be able to install wireless throughout campus. Michele also noted that students are not the only ones paying for technology. Currently, units pay for technology from business revenue or state subsidy, charged per person. State subsidy pays for StudentLink, e-mail, Internet connections, and computing labs. Michele was most interested in where the fee gets applied next, and wanted comments on what technology we needed in teaching or learning.

c. Bringing Jorge Cham to UA

Paul Thorn motions that we offer to pay \$2000, and cover Jorge Cham’s expenses to bring him to the UA, Elaine Ulrich seconds. This event will not put too large of a strain on the GPSC budget, but some representatives expressed reservations that it will be a high cost per student (\$15/student). However, large increases in travel grants were made over the summer, and we had a large carry forward from last year. It was generally agreed that the venue and the amount of effort we put into publicizing it will determine how many students will attend. Motion carries unanimously.

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution on Academic Bill of Rights

The Academic Bill of Rights was proposed as legislation in the state legislature last year. There is concern that it will be proposed again this year. David Horowitz – who is associated with the Academic Bill of Rights – has been engaging on attacks on universities across the United States. He targeted some faculty and graduate students at the UA in an article for his online magazine, accusing them of indoctrinating students. One graduate student contacted the GPSC officers, and asked us to take some action. The GPSC drafted a resolution supporting the free exchange of ideas. It is hoped it will be a catalyst to get undergraduates involved, to get publicity, and to show support to our constituents. Josh Scott motions to pass the resolution with corrections, Boris Glebov seconds, motion carries with one nay, and one abstention.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:51pm, Laura Gronewold made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Gail Bradford, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.