

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 10 February 2004

- I. **Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Brittney Williams**
- II. **Present:**, Brittney Williams, Amanda Brobbel, Thomas Kinney, Christian Lander, Shannon Vaffis, Tom Dexheimer, Maricela Meza, Ken Cardell, Mark Zubriski, Melissa Maes, Erika Geiger, James Eddy, Benjamin Tong, Karen Sweazea, Jason Johnson, Jim Collins, Felipe Ip
Proxies: Michael Thieme, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Veronica Diaz
- III. AdvoCATS presentation by Charlene Ledet – Ms. Ledet is a lobbyist for UA whose primary job is to build a case at the Capital for continued and improved funding for the university. She attended the meeting in order to get us informed and involved in the process of advocacy for UA. She needs our help because she has just one voice and as a lobbyist she’s seen as “interested” in the outcome. She directed our attention to the Advocacy program on the AdvoCATS website (<http://uagrad.org/advocats/home.php>) since it contains all we need to know about advocacy. Ledet informed us that UA requested more from the legislature this year than they are likely to receive. However, she along with others, encourages Likins and the other Arizona University presidents to support Governor Napolitano’s recent budget – stated “we will not get better than hers.” Ledet acknowledges that there will still be wrangling over the amount between the house (the house will want to give less) and senate.
AdvoCATS are focusing on the following issues this year – a Key Personnel Retention Fund (we need additional means to retain faculty since UA has lost a number of important faculty over the past 4 years, faculty who brought in substantial grant monies). The Enrollment Growth Fund is also a priority especially since the initiatives currently in place have not been fully funded (or funded at all) by the legislature over the last few years. This is similar to the situation with the 22 to 1 fund, which was not funded last year for the first time since the 1950s. Similarly, last year the legislature did not fund the cost of Healthcare increases and UA had to deal with the whole increase. Lobbyist Ledet opened the presentation to questions after reminding us that the House is a bigger problem for us than the Senate, which tends to be more moderate.
Jason Johnson queried Ledet about the personnel retention fund and whether it is intended to prevent losing faculty like the 2 top oncology doctors who recently left his college. Lobbyist Ledet responded in the affirmative, adding that one problem has been the lack of research space which has resulted, for example, in a prominent professor from Optics heading to Georgia Tech. She added that between the 49 faculty who left in the past 3 years, UA lost 68 million in research funds.
Jason Johnson also asked Ledet if anyone was focusing on the underproduction of doctors in the state being responsible for the increases in healthcare costs over the last few years. Lobbyist Ledet replied that she hadn’t heard of any legislators focusing on that issue.
Erika Geiger asked Ledet which legislators she thought Jani Radebaugh and Veronica Diaz ought to focus on next week when they go to the capital. Ledet thought it was more important to focus on the House, since they are generally more opposed to further funding for universities. The Senate is different, definitely more moderate even in the Republican Caucus.
Ledet began to wrap up by encouraging us to take part in the lobbying process, especially if we plan to be here a number of years. She hoped that we would let Governor Napolitano know that we appreciate her attention to Higher Ed. in her budget by dropping her a line – she has been in a single-handed battle with the legislature since she began. She thought that one way we could get involved would be to participate in the “Shadow a Legislator” program. She hoped that her presentation would provide us with the information to converse intelligently about the funding issues facing UA. She handed out invitations to Pride Night, asking that we RSVP.

- IV. Calls to the audience – no response.
- V. Reading and approval of minutes – postponed.
- VI. Officer Reports:
- A. President – Jani Radebaugh –unable to attend- but Brittney reported on Jani’s behalf that there is still time to request your \$1 back and she will meet with J.P. Benedict on Wednesday to discuss a seat on ASA.
 - B. External Vice President – Veronica Diaz – unable to attend.
 - C. Internal Vice President – Brittney Williams – Brittney reminds us that Phoenix Showcase and Pride Night are next Tuesday and that we are welcome to attend – Feb. 17th. There is a bus leaving for Showcase early in the morning. (Amanda added that there Kari asked her to tell everyone that there is also a bus leaving at 3p.m., but there’s not much space so let Kari know ASAP. She also encouraged reps to consider running for the officer position in GPSC in April.
 - D. Treasurer – Amanda Brobbel – Budget report remains the same as last meeting.
 - E. Questions on Officer Reports – Jason Johnson asked if the WildCat report regarding ASA was accurate. Both Brittney and Amanda thought that Jani would be better qualified to answer that questions, but Amanda added that she thought it seemed foolish to say that positions on ASA were open to graduate students when they never received specific notification about them – that is, unless GPSC was notified that such positions were available and the information was passed on to our constituents, it’s unlikely that graduate student would understand that they are welcome.
- VII. Representative and Director Reports:
- A. Ken Cardell said that he has been working on collecting information about scholarships, activities and events, and other things that affect graduate students for a website.

VIII. **Meeting adjourned at 6:40.**

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Brobbel