

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 15 February 2005

I. Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Thomas Kinney

Present: Paul Thorn, Amanda Brobbel, Jani Radebaugh, Kazungu Maitaria, John Laughlin, Pietro Valsecchi, Elaine Ulrich, James Eddy, Thomas Kinney, Jim Collins, Jennifer DeWinter, Rachel Neal, Kevin Lichtenthal, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, Kale Klumpyan, and Nick Amatuzzi.

Proxies: Kevin Bates, Kathleen Corcoran, Jessica Lohff, Hung Tran, Tom Dexheimer, and Craig Quintana.

II. Calls to the audience: No Response.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – James moved to approve the minutes for our last meeting. Jen seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Officer Reports:

President - Amanda Brobbel – Amanda described the current planning for GPSA week. Along with the main events from last year, this year's GPSA week will include an event which is intended to be specifically for grad/professional student parents and their children. Amanda also reported that there was progress being made in the direction of creating a Parent's Resource Center. Both Sandra Taylor, VP for Campus Life, and Melissa Vito, Dean of Students, are positive regarding suggestions made by Amanda. And Sandra has stated that it is realistic to work to have a parent's resource center up and running by spring 2006. Amanda is working with the Commission on the Status of Women and some representatives of ASUA toward the creation of the resource center. The main obstacles are (1) finding funding, (2) finding an appropriate space, and (3) receiving approval from President Likins. It appears likely that funding will come from the quasi-endowment derived from the sale of Christopher City (though approval from Likins will be required). Amanda is confident that a space will open up somewhere on Campus. Sandra Taylor, who has spoken with Amanda about the issue, plans to speak with President Likins.

External Vice President - James Eddy – James reported that he and Amanda met with three members of the state legislature during their trip to Phoenix for UA Pride Night. James thanked Kale for his work in scheduling the meeting with the legislators. James also commended the Alumni Association who hosts UA Pride Night. James reported that eight constituent unit meetings had taken place so far. While the turn-out has been low, James feels that the meetings have been very productive in gaining constituent feedback. Lastly, James mentioned the message regarding 'nominations to the presidential search committee' that he had sent to the GPSC list serve. James asked council members to send him some names of grad/professional students that they would like to nominate.

Internal Vice President - Thomas Kinney – Thomas asked the reps to start canvassing for new GPSC representative candidates for the upcoming general elections. Thomas would like to see as many contested elections as possible. Nearer to the election, Thomas plans to post flyers to advertise for the positions.

Treasurer - Paul Thorn – Paul reported that we had received 126 travel grant applications at the February 1st deadline. This is a 223% increase in the number of requests from the same deadline last year. The fact that we are receiving so many requests will help us to demonstrate a substantial unmet need. Paul and Amanda plan to write a letter to Dean Hixon asking for one time funding, in order to fulfill a reasonable number of the requests.

Questions on Officer Reports – None.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

VI. New Business:

A. Proposed Constitutional amendment – Paul introduced an amendment to the GPSC Constitution which deleted the statement that At-Large Representatives would be elected by the constituent Representatives. Amanda made a motion to accept the amendment. The motion was seconded by James, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Proposed Elections Code Amendment – Paul introduced a series of amendments to the GPSC Elections Code. Many of the changes are intended to streamline the GPSC elections process. A significant change would be that At-Large Reps would be elected from the graduate/professional student body as a whole. Paul read through and explained each of the

proposed changes. Various reps proposed numerous friendly amendments to the proposed changes, and each was accepted. Having discussed each of the changes, Jani made a motion to accept all of the amendments. The motion was seconded by Jim, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Proposed Bylaw Amendment – Paul proposed that we delete the sections of the GPSC Bylaws that have no corresponding text. James made a motion to accept the amendment. The motion was seconded by Pietro, and the motion passed unanimously. Paul proposed a new bylaw that would require that efforts be made to ensure a representative judging pool for the travel grants program. The proposal would also require that efforts be made to see that applicants are review by judges from similar programs. James made a motion to accept the new bylaw. The motion was seconded by Jen, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Tuition for 2005-06 – Amanda reported that Likins has proposed an annual \$400 increase in undergraduate registration fees, and an annual \$600 increase in grad/professional registration fees. He has also proposed an annual university-wide IT fee of \$60, which will be blended into registration fees. The present proposal differs from the one discussed two weeks ago, which was for a \$600 increase in grad/professional registration fees, and an annual university-wide IT fee of \$230. The ASUA has proposed a \$320 increase in undergraduate registration fees, and an annual \$430 increase in grad/professional registration fees.

In her discussion with Likins regarding the proposal, Likins stated that the change from a \$500 to \$600 increase in grad/professional registration fees was intended to offset the costs of going to 70% remission for TAs. Both Paul and Amanda expressed that it was unfair, and made no sense, to expect non-TA grad/professional students to take a tuition increase to pay for TA remission. Amanda and Paul feel that it is undergrads, and departments that use TAs, that benefit from the service that high quality TAs provide. For this reason, Paul proposed that the Council make a tuition proposal in which there are proportional increases in undergraduate and grad/professional tuition. The percentage increase should be the same for both groups. Paul also mentioned that this was the sort of increase that the ASU President was proposing, and that there is a lot of precedent for having comparable increases at the two universities. Paul thinks that if we propose the same percentage increase for grad/professionals and undergrads, then this might resonate with the Regents.

Given the change in the President's proposed IT fee, Kevin Lichtenthal wished to know whether the President had given any indication of where exactly the \$60/year/student would be spent. Amanda said that the President had not given any specifics. There is also a concern that the President could spend the money however he wished once ABOR has approved the fee.

There will be a tuition forum on March 1st, and Amanda proposed that the officers draft a statement that the Council may endorse at the next meeting, which can then be delivered at the forum. Amanda stated that she believes that the statement (like the one from the GPSA at ASU) should mention the need for grad/professionals in the area of travel grants. She also believes that our proposal should address the proposed tech fee. The Council agreed that this was the best way to proceed.

E. IT Survey Draft– James has been in contact with Michelle Norin, and he will be drafting an IT survey that will assess graduate/professional student needs in the area of campus technology upgrades.

F. UA Commencement - Jani has been attending the committee which is addressing the concerns over the UA commencement. Some of the current proposals are to distribute flutter-fetti to the graduates, so that they have something other than tortillas to throw. Proposals have been made to remove the Alumni Association from the proceedings, and also to reduce the number of honored guests on the stage. There are plans to step-up the practice of inviting honored professors to be situated among the graduating students. Jani expressed the concern that the graduating master's students receive the least recognition of all graduating students. All of the master's students, campus wide, are recognized as a group, and are asked to stand for a few seconds. A number of council members expressed agreement with Jani that the master's students should receive greater recognition.

G. Replacement for Dick Powell – Tabled.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 8:04, Kale made a call to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by James. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn