

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2007

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

**Present:** Catherine Neish, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Kedar Dhane, Gail Bradford, Cory Christenson, Ariel Fisher, Kathleen Corcoran, Nicholas Fernandez, Aaron Gubi, Rob Schumaker, Sandy Marshall, Elaine Ulrich, Sarah Mosher, Amanda Brobbel

**Proxies:** Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Laura Gronewold, Boris Glebov

## II. Calls to the audience: None.

**III. Reading and approval of minutes** – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 02/14/07 minutes, Josh Scott seconds, the motion carries with two abstentions.

## IV. Officer Reports:

**President** – Paul Thorn – (1) Paul held an information session last night for people interested in running in the GPSC elections. Paul asked reps to encourage people to run for positions. (2) A lobby day was held in Phoenix on Feb. 15. About 150 students went to Phoenix to meet with legislators. The students lobbied for bills related to work study, AFAT, and classroom conduct (3) The recently formed IT fee committee has proposed a \$21 increase in the technology fee. President Shelton has proposed a \$35 increase in the fee as a compromise between the committee's proposal, and the original proposal of \$50. Paul is trying to get the student regent to advocate for the \$21 increase. (4) Health administrators and students interviewed two potential health care providers on Monday (Aetna Chickering, and UnitedHealthcare/Student Resources). Most people present seemed to prefer Chickering. Directors of the campus health centers have had problems with United in the past few years, and Chickering is less expensive than United. The health care providers will now be asked to provide their best and final proposal. Administrators will then select one company, and draw up a contract. We are not likely to get prescription drug coverage with the new plan. NAU is not interested in benefits, and ASU would rather have dental coverage. Details will be decided within the next three weeks. A separate dental RFP could have a longer timeline. (5) President Shelton gave Paul a letter stating that the GPSC should be represented on all university committees.

**Vice President** – Anne Murdaugh – (1) A town hall meeting will be held next Tuesday, March 6 from 12:00-1:00pm in the Kiva Room. Representatives from the rec center, the library, financial aid, campus health, the Grad College, GPSC, and OSCR will be present. Representatives who attend the meeting can count it as their spring constituency meeting.

**Assembly Chairperson** – Randi Tanglen – A UA alumnus is working with Randi to produce the workload survey. The survey will be ready to look at on Friday. Representatives are asked to encourage people to take this survey when it comes out. The focus of the survey is on teaching and research assistantships.

**Treasurer** – Joshua Scott – The Committee of 11 is currently reviewing undergraduate education at the UA, and is submitting a proposal to revise that education. The committee wishes to test students as they enter university to determine their academic level. Advanced students will be placed in a three-year program, while regular students will be placed in a four-year program. The change has been suggested as a way to increase retention, and allow for more opportunities for interdisciplinary education. Josh will report on this as an agenda item later in the year.

**Secretary** – Catherine Neish – (1) We held a great social at Bumstead's last Friday. Thanks to Paul for organizing it! (2) Catherine met with the College of Science Grad Council earlier today. They are planning an event this fall to recognize grad students in the College of Science. She also asked the Dean for funding for Jorge Cham's speaking engagement, and he agreed to support \$500.

## V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: (1) Aaron and Amanda have been preparing for GPSA week. They have events planned for six days - Family Fun Day (Sunday), N. Campus Breakfast (Monday), BBQ on the Mall, Poker at Gentle Ben's (Tuesday), Appreciation Awards Luncheon (Wednesday), Movie Night or Speed Dating (Thursday), and a Social (Friday). They will need volunteers to help with these events, especially the Family Fun Day and the BBQ on the Mall.

Sarah Mosher: Sarah is looking for more information to put on the Student Health Care Resources section on the GPSC website. She has recently added a category on prescription medication, and a category on alternate insurance companies.

Sandy Marshall: The University-Wide General Education Committee approves Tier 1 and 2 syllabi. Many departments have been requesting that Tier 1 and 2 classes be pre-requisites for classes in their departments. The committee is concerned that this goes against the “spirit” of Tier 1 and 2 classes. To compromise, they have suggested that departments highly recommend students take the Tier 1 course, or be prepared to do a lot of background work.

Nick Fernandez: Nick sent out a message today advertising the intramural softball league. Twenty-two people have already signed up for the league; we need fifty-six more people to sign up by Friday to secure the teams.

Gail Bradford: The Diversity Coalition is trying to educate faculty/staff/students about diversity, and will be planning more events to promote awareness. Gail will update us on these events throughout the year.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Club and POD Funding**

Josh Scott proposes Initial Club Funding for “Indigenous Thinkers” \$450, “Engineering Mechanics Graduate Student Council” \$300, and “Students for Informed Migration Policy and Legal Issues” \$0, Special Club Funding for “LLSA” \$500 and “American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists” \$730, and POD funding for “SLATS” \$635, “Students of Arizona Health Law” \$1500, and “Students for Informed Migration Policy and Legal Issues” \$1400. Nick Fernandez moves to approve the funding request, Elaine Ulrich seconds, the motion passes unanimously, pending LLSA finding a speaker for their event.

### **b. Amendment to the Elections Code**

The Elections Code does not clearly state when the representative terms start and end. To remedy this problem, Paul rewrote Chapter 7 in Elections Code. The Chapter now states that terms will begin at 12:01am on the first Saturday in May, and will end at 12:01am one year later. The beginning of the term will no longer begin with inauguration. The required orientation will now occur before the officer elections, not “at least one week prior to a new Representative voting in officer elections”. This will provide more flexibility. Elaine Ulrich motions to approve the change in the Elections Code, Aaron Gubi seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

### **c. Report on Washington, D.C. trip**

Elaine and Anne went to Washington D.C. on February 15 to lobby legislators on several bills, including the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act (HEAEA), amendments to HR5 and S 359 to include graduate students, supporting the creation of an F-4 Visa (PACE act and other bills), and eliminating the HEA drug provisions. They met with Jon Kyl (R-AZ), John McCain (R-AZ), Jeff Flake (R-Mesa), Gabrielle Giffords (D-Tucson), and Raul Grijalva (D-Tucson). A summary of the meetings, and the representatives’ views on the bills was handed out at the meeting. Elaine and Anne recommend we participate in this event next year. If you’re interested in lobbying on your own, contact Anne for more details.

## **VII. Call to adjourn** – At 7:20pm, Kathleen Corcoran made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ariel Fisher, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.