

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 21st 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Elaine Ulrich

Present: Catherine Neish, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jim Collins, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Gail Bradford, Cory Christenson, Kathleen Corcoran, Sandy Marshall, Elaine Ulrich, Sarah Mosher, Amanda Brobbel, Anne Murdaugh, Elaine Ulrich, Boris Glebov, Michael Fichinger

Proxies: Rob Schumaker, Claudia Benavente, Randi Tanglen, Kedar Dhane

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 02/28/07 minutes, Kathleen Corcoran seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) Paul reports that it is likely that the instructor conduct bill (SB 1612) will not be introduced to a vote on the floor of either chamber of the state legislature. The sponsor of the bill has agreed to back off, so long as the universities keep students informed as to their recourse in any case where an instructor engages in inappropriate behavior. (2) A new student reagent has been named: David Martinez. He is affiliated with the ASUA. (3) A new assistant dean will be appointed to advise ASUA. Erin Hertzog has invited Paul to sit on the search committee. (4) President Shelton's recommendation for the tech fee passed at the recent ABOR meeting. There will be a \$35 increase in the technology fee, and a \$15 increase in the library fee. (5) Many GPSC constituencies were without candidates as of the March 9 deadline. To get more candidates, Paul has extended the deadline to March 22. (6) An update on the student health insurance plan: ASU has made a commitment to provide a dental benefit for its graduate assistants. This will make it easier to include such a benefit at the UA. A separate RFP will come out in the next month or two, and we will present these numbers to the President. The final proposals from the two finalist companies for the health insurance are now in. The pricing for a catastrophic prescription plan was lower than expected. (~\$7/month) Paul met with President Shelton yesterday, and he was very supportive of adding this prescription coverage. (7) President Shelton wants to increase post-doc salaries. Such an increase will defeat the concern that post-docs are "cheaper" than grad students.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) The recent graduate student forum went well. Thanks to Cory and Kathleen for helping out. Issues that came up included the rec center fee, dental availability, and the minor requirement. (2) There will be a blood drive from April 9-12. Gail is working to have a blood drive set up at N. Campus. Anne is looking for volunteers to help with registration and the canteen.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Not present.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Delayed to new business.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) Graduate Leverage will come to talk about student loans on April 10 or 11.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: Amanda made flyers to hang up to advertise GPSA week. Please encourage people to sign up for the poker night and LGBT speed dating. Aaron has gathered prizes for the week, including gift certificates from good restaurants. Please encourage people to attend the social on Friday.

Gail Bradford: Gail attended a "Disability and Academe" workshop sponsored by the Diversity Coalition. She also reports that the Diversity Coalition would be happy to include the Graduate Students of Color on their website.

Jim Collins: Jim reports that the Web Advisory Committee is trying to decide where to put the International Gateway on the main UA webpage. It was originally going to replace the Diversity button, but that administrators vetoed that idea.

VI. New Business

a. Club Funding

Shaun Halbert proposes Special Club Funding for “Red Ink Magazine” \$1424, and POD Funding for “La Vita House” \$500, “Indigenous Thinkers” \$1200, and “African American Student Affairs” \$1172. Paul Thorn moves to approve the funding request, Catherine Neish seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

b. Elections Code and the College of Law

Paul Thorn proposes to strike Chapter 11, “Exception for Students in the College of Law”, from the GPSC Elections Code. This would allow law students to be qualified electors in the election of GPSC At Large Representatives and Officers. Paul thinks this is a reasonable change because law students have indicated their desire to participate in the GPSC by running for the position of representative, applying for club funding, attending socials, etc. Concerns were raised that these people only represents a small percentage of law students, and a more formal survey should first be held. Anne Murdaugh motions to approve the change, Catherine Neish seconds, the motions passes with one abstention.

c. Stipend and Workload Review

GPSC Bylaws require that the officers do a yearly stipend and workload review. The Executive Board discussed the duties and stipend levels of officers and representatives, and decided that no significant changes were needed in the officer duties. Stipends for President (\$500 increase), Assembly Chair (\$1000 decrease), and Secretary (\$500 increase) were all changed. The President stipend increased because the President will now be sitting on the board of the Arizona Student’s Association. The Assembly Chair stipend decreased because a new staff coordinator will complete many of his/her duties. The Secretary stipend increased because his/her workload is comparable to that of the Treasurer, who receives \$2000. Paul Thorn motions to approve the change, Kathleen Corcoran seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

d. Graduate Student Bill of Rights

Anne Murdaugh presented the Graduate Student Bill of Rights put together by the Administrative and Constituency Affairs committee. The council discussed the document. Anne indicates that she wants President Shelton to approve it. Please read it over and send comments to Anne. She will bring it up as a voting item at an upcoming meeting.

e. Discussion on General Education Requirements

Tabled until next meeting.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:43pm, Kathleen Corcoran made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Boris Glebov, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.