

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

## I. Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by Randi Tanglen

**Present:** Catherine Neish, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jim Collins, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Sarah Mosher, Amanda Brobbel, Anne Murdaugh, Boris Glebov, Ariel Fisher, Claudia Benavente, Randi Tanglen, Kedar Dhane, Erin Vincent, Laura Gronewold, Stephen Bieda, Alison Betts, Robert Jacobi, Robin Quarrier, Ilaira Alvarez, Brian Jackson, Bridget Barker, Randy Vazquez

**Proxies:** Kathleen Corcoran, Elaine Ulrich, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Gail Bradford

## II. Calls to the audience: None.

**III. Reading and approval of minutes** – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 03/21/07 minutes, Boris Glebov seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

## IV. Officer Reports:

**President** – Paul Thorn – (1) Josh needs to get people's Student ID numbers so he can process their stipends. Please send those to him. (2) Thanks to Amanda for organizing for GPSA week, and for all the volunteers who helped out. It was a great success – this year, we had more events than ever before, had seventy more sign-ups for the BBQ of the mall, and had a well attended social at the end of the week. (3) Congratulations to all the recently elected representatives and officers! We had the second highest voter turn-out this year, with 719 voters (about 10% of student body). (4) ASU has decided to back off on including any dental benefits in their student health insurance. This decision will make it more difficult for students at the UA to get dental insurance. (5) The Dean of Students has confirmed her commitment to contribute \$10,000 for a GPSC staff person. The annualized salary for this position will be \$37,000 (a ½ time position with benefits). The Assistant Dean of the Graduate College is interested in adding more responsibilities to the position to include post-doc issues. (6) There will be a homeowners workshop on April 26 from 7:00-9:00pm held by graduate student Maggie Hoddinott. She plans to bring in a title company, escort company, appraiser, etc. to speak to graduate students interested in buying a home. (7) After this meeting, we will have orientation for new representatives. We will discuss the duties of representatives and officers. (8) The UA is contemplating creating a new financial aid program that will allow students from families who make less than \$40,000 to attend the UA at no cost.

**Vice President** – Anne Murdaugh – (1) The blood drive will be held next week. Anne passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for those interested in helping out. (2) Anne was elected as the AZ/NM state coordinator, and the legislative regional coordinator at the recent Western Regional Conference of the NAGPS. Anne suggested that the UA should consider hosting the Western Regional Conference at some point (2009?). Next year's conference will be in Reno, Nevada.

**Assembly Chairperson** – Randi Tanglen – (1) Randi created a new sign system to help her run the meeting. The signs will let representatives know when it's time to stop talking in a fun and brightly coloured manner. (2) As of Tuesday, there were almost 500 responses to the workload survey. The top respondents were the Colleges of SBS, Science, and Humanities. Colleges that could use more respondents include Law, Nursing, and Pharmacy. The results will be posted on the GPSC website when the survey is complete.

**Treasurer** – Joshua Scott – Not present.

**Secretary** – Catherine Neish – (1) Aaron is organizing a graduate student social on April 19 to watch a Sidewinders game on "Thirsty Thursday". Thirty free tickets will be made available to graduate students. (2) Anne and I went to Provo this past weekend for the Western Regional Conference of the NAGPS. We got many good ideas from talking with representatives from other schools. (3) I have yet to hear back from Graduate Leverage about holding a loan consolidation seminar at the UA. Another company talked to us in Provo about holding a similar seminar, so we may have them come next year.

## V. Representative and Director Reports:

Claudia Benavente: (1) There will be a GPSC-funded workshop on May 14 entitled "Survival Skills for Young Biomedical Investigators". Workshop attendees will learn how to read a paper, how to reproduce results, how to write a paper, how to give an effective seminar, etc. More information on the workshop can be obtained from Claudia. (2) Claudia reports that

discounts will no longer be given to universities for some prescriptions. These costs used to be covered by Medicare, but after the Medicare law was amended by the last Congress, now they are not.

Jim Collins: The web advisory council discussed student privacy concerns related to placing photos from the WildCat into online archives. Jim wanted to gauge what concern there was amongst constituents about this matter.

Amanda Brobbel: Thanks to everyone who helped out during GPSA week! Thanks especially to Nick, for organizing the social, Aaron, for co-planning the week, and Gail, for picking up the food for the family BBQ.

Sarah Mosher: Sarah is all set for the clothing drive to be held next week to benefit the Brewster Center. She will use the GPSC office as drop-off point Monday-Thursday, 12:00-4:00pm. Please encourage people to donate! Woman's professional attire and cellphones are both needed.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Long Term Plan for Arizona Student's Association**

Paul discussed possible future plans for the Arizona Student's Association (ASA) with the council. The ASA is looking for new directions in organization. Particularly, they would like to hire new directors, and reorganize the board membership. Currently, members are either elected to the board through elections in their local student governments, or are appointed by their student government. However, UA South (with 600 students) has two members, while ASU undergraduates (with 45,000 students) have only three. The UA also has only one graduate student member, while ASU has two. The ASA executive would like to restructure this membership, and increase the ASA fee, so it can hire new directors. In Paul's opinion, the ASA should create a federal government relations director while maintaining the current state government relations director, increase the ASA fee from \$1 to \$1.50 to hire the new director, and increase staff salary to retain expertise. Paul would also like to see an additional seat for graduate students from the UA, and remove the procedure that the ASUA is required to approve GPSC appointees. Any change in the ASA fee needs to be approved by students, and the GPSC could help the ASA get the support they need for this. Graduate students need more representation to help graduate students on state and federal levels. Currently, we cannot send a proxy to any meeting the board member cannot attend. Jim mentions there was a Graduate ASA formed several years ago, and suggested we try to get something like that going again.

**VII. Call to adjourn** – At 6:57pm, Paul Thorn made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Laura Gronewold, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.