

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 18th 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jim Collins, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Sarah Mosher, Amanda Brobbel, Anne Murdaugh, Boris Glebov, Claudia Benavente, Randi Tanglen, Kedar Dhane, Erin Vincent, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Sandy Marshall, Nick Fernandez, Kathleen Corcoran, Aaron Gubi, Gail Bradford, Elaine Ulrich, Stephen Bieda, Robert Jacobi, Robin Quarrier, Ilaira Alvarez, Brian Jackson, Bridget Barker, Randy Vazquez, Nasrin Ghanbari, Juleina Gonzalez, Bradford Melrose, Joe Silins

Proxies: Laura Gronewold

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 04/04/07 minutes, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez seconds, the motion carries with three abstentions.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) CSIL wants to form a new council to discuss club recognition, and the spending of a new club fee (\$25/semester per club). They would like the ASUA and the GPSC to help them set up this council. (2) The university presidents met last week to confirm the new student health insurance plan. The plan includes a catastrophic prescription plan for the UA - students pay the first \$1000 in prescriptions, and the plan pays 80% of the next \$2500, and 100% of anything above \$2500. The new plan also waives the waiting period, makes the HPV vaccine available, and reduces the fee for urgent care from \$50 to \$25. The universities will likely not go forward with an RFP for dental insurance. (3) The ASA has formulated a new strategic plan. They want to increase their fee from \$1.00 to \$2.50 in order to hire six new directors (a public relations director, a research director, three regional coordinators and a regional coordinator director). The plan includes no mention of including more graduate students on the ASA. The ASA will vote on the proposal at a later date. It will then go to a vote of the student bodies, where it must pass in all three districts. (4) Paul is still working on getting a GPSC coordinator position. He is working with the Dean of Students to formulate a position description. The position may include duties related to post-docs. Any comments on the position description can be sent to Paul. (5) Power over the tech fee has been delegated to Michelle Norin. She is following the plan for the fee put together by the ASUA, the GPSC, and the IT Board. The extra money (\$14/student/year) will go towards wireless and infrastructure. There are ongoing problems with the IT Board and its perception of its mandate to represent students.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) The blood drive took place last week. The drive collected 349 units of blood, which is 46 more than last semester. (2) Anne is working on a graduate student bill of rights. She would like the Faculty Senate and the GPSC to sign off on the bill. Any feedback is highly appreciated. The ASUA is also working on a student bill of rights – it relates mostly to undergraduate issues, such as class availability. They plan to ratify it at their next meeting. The ASUA wants the President and all incoming students to sign it. (3) SPBAC coming up with new strategic plan for the university. They want to improve the graduate program. Send Anne any ideas for making improvements – more interdisciplinary programs, encouraging mentoring, etc. (4) There will be an ASUA textbook gala next Friday. Anne has room for a guest if you'd like to attend.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Over 650 graduate assistants/associates participated in the GPSC workload survey. This is great turn-out! Randi hopes to get the information from the survey back at end of the week. She will formulate a report, and share it with the council at the last meeting. (2) Randi attended a meeting of the Student Affairs and Policy Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate. The ASUA member gave report about class availability. This could increase the number of students in a class, making more work for TAs.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Not present.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) Aaron is planning a social to watch a Sidewinders baseball game on April 26 at 6:00pm. We are making thirty free tickets available to graduate students. Carpooling will be available. (2) Jorge Cham is coming to the UA next Wednesday at 7:00pm! Please encourage everyone you know to come. (3) The provost search committee has been convened. The list of members was released today – there are 24, including myself.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: GPSA week cost \$14,200, coming in just under budget.

Sarah Mosher: (1) The Brewster Center cell phone and business wear drive was a success! People have been sending checks as well as making donations. (2) The health care resources website is now available on the GPSC website.

Jenny Cohen: Jenny met with the Graduate Council of the College of Pharmacy. She told them about the new university fees (the tech fee, and the library fee) and about the addition of the catastrophic prescription plan. They seemed pleased there's no dental plan.

Stephen Bieda: The Graduate Council of the College of Science met yesterday. They are happy with the improvements to the health insurance plan (but would still like dental insurance). Other issues that came up: the Dean is supporting an awards ceremony to recognize science graduate students, and he is fully funding an interscience colloquium in COS. There was also concern about the budget cuts (especially with regards to reduction in TA positions, and a decrease in graduate admissions). The physics department head resigned in protest.

Elaine Ulrich: The ICPC voted on the Graduate Student Incomplete Policy. Diane Horgan proposed a new policy that was accepted within the Graduate Council. However, the chair of the ICPC was not in favour of the new policy. It was put to a vote, and defeated 4 to 3. A subcommittee will be formed to form a new policy. They would like to reform the policy for all students.

Gail Bradford: (1) Gail attended the wrap-up meeting for the Diversity Coalition. They discussed the five-year overview of a study of classified staff and personnel. Provost Davis also gave a reflection on his term. He was fairly critical about things that happened on campus (ex. black-themed party). There appears to be a lack of data collection and dissemination of data on minority students. (2) A Social Justice in Health workshop is being held this Friday.

Jim Collins: The web advisory council, which makes decisions about the university webpage, was recently dissolved.

Boris Glebov: The Research Policy Committee discussed a new policy on research misconduct. It includes protection for anonymous complaints. The conflict of interest policy will also be changed to consider not just families, but domestic partnerships too.

Robert Jacobi: There has been extensive bike checking at the AME department. No bikes are allowed in university buildings. He will ask representatives if they've had similar experiences on the listserve.

VI. New Business

a. Policy Regarding GPSC Funding and Publicity

Tabled until the next meeting.

b. Changes to General Education Requirements

Tabled until the next meeting.

c. Officer Elections

Paul and Shaun presided over the elections for Assembly Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Candidates were each given five minutes to give speeches. The representatives also voted for Volunteer of the Year, Advocate of the Year, Representative of the Year, and Director of the Year.

Nominees and *Winners*:

Assembly Chair: Jacob Knutsen, Sarah Mosher, *Anne Murdaugh*.

Treasurer: *Josh Scott*

Secretary: *Jacob Knutsen*

Volunteer of the Year: *Gail Bradford*, Cory Christenson, Nick Fernandez, Kathleen Corcoran, Sarah Mosher, Anne Murdaugh

Advocate of the Year: Anne Murdaugh, Catherine Neish, *Paul Thorn*

Representative of the Year: Nick Fernandez, Anne Murdaugh, *Catherine Neish*

Director of the Year: *Amanda Brobbel*, Aaron Gubi, Sarah Mosher

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:59pm, Anne Murdaugh made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Kathleen Corcoran, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.