

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA[®]

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 2nd 2007

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

Present: Catherine Neish, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jim Collins, Shaun Halbert, Sarah Mosher, Anne Murdaugh, Boris Glebov, Randi Tanglen, Kedar Dhane, Erin Vincent, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Sandy Marshall, Gail Bradford, Stephen Bieda, Alison Betts, Robert Jacobi, Robin Quarrier, Randy Vazquez, Luis Hess, Nasrin Ghanbari, Bradford Melrose

Proxies: Ariel Fisher, Laura Gronewold, Jennifer Cohen, Tom LaGatta

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 04/18/07 minutes, Kedar Dhane seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) The ASA debated for four hours last Thursday about their new strategic plan. At that time, the group was still not ready to vote. They plan to hold a special meeting by phone. (2) Paul spoke with the Provost about the recent budget cuts. Provost Davis is not in favour of any cuts that would hurt graduate student enrollment. The TA lines are controlled centrally by the deans. He has not heard of any cuts to these positions, but he will follow up with the deans to ensure that they are following the budgets they proposed to the Provost. (3) The Student IT Board is reluctant to include language in their bylaws that stipulates that will not involve themselves in fee setting. This is a role that should be filled by the elected student governments. (4) Paul praised the GPSC for their many accomplishments in the past three years. We've had a \$50,000 budget increase in the past year, a large increase in the number of events hosted by the GPSC, more coverage in the WildCat, the highest election turn-out ever, a 12X times increase in POD applications, and a 100% increase in travel grant applications

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – SPBAC is putting together a five-year strategic plan. One goal of the plan is to “improve the graduate program.” Please send any ideas on this subject to Anne by Monday.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Report will wait until new business.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Nothing to report.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) The Jorge Cham event held last Wednesday went extremely well. At least 250 people attended the talk. He sold books and signed autographs for an hour afterwards. Many people have thanked us for putting on this event. (2) Aaron did a great job organizing the Thirsty Thursday social last week.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Stephen Bieda: Stephen met with the atmospheric science department head, and called the Tree Ring Director. He confirmed that six department heads resigned in the College of Science (though only one was in protest to the budget cuts). There is a \$1 million budget cut in the College of Science. Potential cuts in Atmospheric Science do include TA positions, and graduate admissions will be reduced from eight to four.

VI. Old Business

a. Publicity Policy for GPSC Funded Events

Paul proposed two new policy changes for GPSC funded events. (1) Awardees of club or POD funding must acknowledge GPSC in their event announcements and promotional materials. (2) A follow-up report is required for special club funding as well as POD funding. The changes were suggested because there is currently little uniformity in the way clubs publicize their events, and it is important to show our contribution to these events to the campus community. It is also good marketing for our special club and

POD funding programs. It is fairly typical for grant funding agencies to require acknowledgement for their contributions. This language will be added to the website to the guidelines for funding applications. Paul moves to adopt these two new policies, Josh seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

b. Changes to General Education Requirements

Tabled until the next meeting. Please read the e-mail Josh sent about this topic.

VII. New Business

a. Club Funding

Only one application was received for club funding, but the club was not recognized by CSIL. Without recognition, clubs cannot receive funding from the GPSC.

b. Workload Survey Report

Randi received the raw numbers on the GA workload survey. A UA graduate student alumnus – Chris Baker – helped Randi design the questions for survey, and he will be working on interpreting the numbers. The report should be ready within the week. Some highlights from the survey: Over a third of GAs say that their work negatively impact their progress towards their degree. GAs are also very unhappy about the student health plan. 50% disagree that their salary and benefits pay for their health care, and 74.3% completely disagree that they are able to cover their dependents health care needs with their salary. Many TAs are working overtime. A survey like this has not been done on this campus since 1999. At that time, it led to positive changes, including course releases for TAs in the Department of English. The results will be posted on the GPSC website.

c. Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Anne handed out a new copy of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. This bill was drafted after anecdotal reports were received of graduate students being treated unfairly by faculty. Several other institutions have drafted a similar bill (ex. UC Boulder). Anne wants to get it signed in Faculty Senate to increase awareness of graduate student rights. It will also be posted on the GPSC website, where students can find out if their rights have been violated, and if so, what they can do about it. A discussion about the wording and the content of the document ensued. More comments are welcome.

d. Swearing in of New Officers and Representatives

New officers and representatives signed the oath of office form (in their role as state employees), and were sworn in to the 2007/08 GPSC.

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

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.