

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23rd 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Josh Wright, Claudia Benavente, Elaine Ulrich, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Gail Bradford, Jennifer Cohen, Joshua Scott, Shaun Halbert, Joe VanOpdorp, Kedar Dhane, Kathleen Corcoran, Jim Collins

Proxies: Tom LaGatta, Melissa Sisco, Anne Murdaugh, Boris Glebov, Laura Gronewold

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Elaine Ulrich motions to pass the 5/02/06 minutes, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez seconds, the motion carries.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) A package was sent by the GPSC to the incoming president, Dr. Shelton, several weeks ago. The package included a cover letter, general literature on the GPSC, a t-shirt, etc. Dr. Shelton thanked the GPSC for the package, and his secretary contacted Paul to set up meetings. (2) A group of university administrators is preparing a memorandum of understanding on student representation at the UA. Issues on the table include the role of GPSC in student regent selection and ASA representation, grad student representation on committees (including search committees), recognition by ABOR, a say in student body referendums on fees, commencement, and improving services for grad students. (3) Marie Rozenblit from Career Services will be coming to the July 11 GPSC meeting to talk about the career and employment needs of graduate students. (4) Lori Foley, the opinions editor for the WildCat, is interested in getting a grad student columnist. (5) Paul has been working to get the GPSC offices in order. The GPSC will receive a fourth office in early fall. Thanks to Elaine for donating a couch, Jim for working on the computer, and Nick and Pietro for donating computers.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – Not present.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Interviews will take place for the GPSC directors Wednesday through Friday. Twelve applications have been received for the three director positions. The officers will pick the new directors by next week, and the entire council will ratify the decision. (2) Randi reminded council members to assign a proxy if they are unable to attend the summer meetings.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Reports that he has been trying to set up a meeting to update the finance sheets.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – Put forth a suggestion to have a social during the summer months.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Elaine Ulrich: (1) Attended meeting on Gateway Grants. This year they estimate they will have over \$250,000 to give to students. These grants are given to interesting student projects with no other obvious source of funds. More information is available on the UA Advancement Website. (2) Attended Childcare workgroup. The university recently hired a company to do a survey to determine student parent needs. They found that 19% of grad students and 6% of undergrads have children under 12. If there was a child care facility on campus, they estimate 2000 student parents would use it. A full report is available upon request.

Jennifer Cohen: There is some confusion in the College of Pharmacy about the number of people needed to sit on a qualifying exam committee.

Claudia Benavente: Attended GIDP advisory council. The council is trying to estimate the value (in dollars) that interdisciplinary programs bring to the UA. They hope to demonstrate to the university the need for direct funding to GIDPs. In the future, the GIDP council will likely ask the GPSC for backing in this issue.

Jim Collins: Plans to meet with Paul to discuss the non-degree seeking student policy problem.

VI. New Business

a. Dean of the Libraries, Carla Stoffle

Dean Stoffle came to talk to us about how the library planned to spend the new student fee. Plans already underway include:

- More laptops for check-out (available for 4 hours at a time)
- Expanded library hours during inter-sessions and pre-sessions (close at 9:00pm instead of 6:00pm)
- Library subscription to opticalresume.com (online service for formatting resumes)
- Construction of two group presentation practice rooms, with projector and digital camera to view presentation afterwards

The Dean also asked our opinion about how to make library space available to graduate students, including those who have not yet passed their qualifying exams (currently, only post-exam students can reserve carrels). Her idea was to set up two rooms in the library with 10 tables and 20 lockers for quiet study for pre-exam students. The consensus was that the lockers were a good idea, though some of the money might be better spent on buying new online books and journals. The Dean also told the council that the library is considering starting a program to digitize articles on request that aren't available electronically. If there are additional digital resources that would be of use to graduate students, please forward these ideas to the Dean.

b. Committee Work for 2006-2007

Paul explained that each GPSC representative has the responsibility to serve on at least one external committee and one internal committee. After briefly explaining the role of each committee, Paul handed out a form for representatives to rank their preferences. These will be collected at next GPSC meeting.

A brief overview of the internal committees:

- Academic and Employment Affairs (chair: R. Tanglen): Will concentrate on TA workload issues.
- Administrative and Constituency Affairs (chair: A. Murdaugh): Will concentrate on the formation of college level student governments.
- Appropriations (chair: J. Scott): Will review and evaluate all POD and club funding requests.
- Student Life/Outreach (chair: C. Neish): Will plan social events for graduate students.

c. Graduate Orientation 2006

Tabled until next time.

d. Mini-Orientation, Part 3

Paul gave a brief orientation, describing the people GPSC represents. Presented demographic data on graduate students in different colleges. There are 4909 full time graduate students and 2294 part time graduate students. Students in different colleges get one GPSC representative per 400 students. GPSC represents both GAs and non-GAs in hundreds of different programs.

Other groups claiming to represent graduate students:

ASUA – Claims to represent all students at the University of Arizona.

Arizona Students Association – Represents all students enrolled in universities in Arizona. Generally made up of student body president and appointees.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:43pm, Joseph VanOpdorp made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Elaine Ulrich, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish