

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 24th 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Anne Murdaugh

Present: Jacob Knutson, Stephen Bieda III, Anne Murdaugh, Gail Bradford, Brian Jackson, Randy Vazquez, Boris Glebov, Joshua Scott, Nasrin Ghanbari, Alison Betts, Erin Vincent, Sarah Mosher, Bridget Barker, Amanda Brobbel, Kathleen Corcoran, Luis Hess, Elaine Ulrich, Catherine Neish, Jim Collins

Proxies: Robert Jacobi, Bradford Melrose, Jennifer Cohen

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Anne Murdaugh motions to pass the 05/02/07 minutes, Jacob Knutson seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Catherine Neish – (1) The GPSC is trying to hire a half-time Program Coordinator. So far, \$10,000 for the position has been confirmed from the GPSC budget, and \$10,000 has been confirmed from the Dean of Students. Dean Comrie will only contribute money for responsibilities related to post-docs (maintaining a post-doc mailing list and website, for example). Current funds are likely not enough to support a half-time staff member. (2) The GPSC is currently hiring directors and has some applicants. We are still accepting applications. (3) The ASA is coordinating a legislative action team, teaching students from each Arizona campus how to lobby, and then bringing them to Phoenix to lobby representatives. If you're interested in this team, please contact Catherine. (4) There is currently an effort in the legislature to reorganize higher education in Arizona. They asked students for their input. We will present this report to the representatives in late June. (5) President Shelton maintains that TA positions will not be effected by budget cuts. He also plans to meet with student leaders in July to discuss tuition.

Vice President – Kathleen Corcoran – Nothing to report.

Assembly Chairperson – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Anne encouraged reps to apply for the GPSC director positions. (2) Anne is working on getting name plates for everyone to display at the meetings.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Club funding issues have been resolved.

Secretary – Jacob Knutson – Jacob needs someone to take minutes over the summer. Josh has volunteered to fill in for the June 28th meeting.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel - (1) Amanda will not be returning as Events Director next year. (2) In order to access the GPSC office, you need to send Amanda your CatCard number, so you can use it as a swipe card. (3) The Family Care Workgroup on the Commission on the Status of Women wants ten new baby changing stations on campus over the next year and every year there-after. This year's plans for an outdoor play area are going forward. The group also went to Shelton with data from peer institutions indicating how child care was funded. Shelton indicated that the working group had a green light to find a building for childcare.

Jim Collins - The University was contacted by the recording industry concerning pirated music. The recording industry wanted the University to buy software to monitor pirating, and send letters demanding that students cease and desist.

Stephen Bieda - Dean Ruiz is moving to replace resigning faculty.

VI. New Business

a. Swearing in of New Representatives

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

b. External Committees

Catherine 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, Catherine 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:

- Appropriations (chair: J. Scott): Will review and evaluate all POD and club funding requests.
- Graduate Student Policy (chair: J. Knutson): Will concentrate on directing graduate students in need to the appropriate university administrators or services.
- Graduate Student Relations (chair: K. Corcoran): Will concentrate on improving communication between the GPSC and the graduate student body.
- Student Life/Outreach (chair: A. Murdaugh): Will plan social events for graduate students.

c. Reconfiguration of Undergraduate Education

A document was produced on undergraduate retention, concerned with the high dropout rate amongst undergraduates. The document includes suggestions for improving undergraduate education to prevent these problems. Thoughts included identifying incoming undergraduates, and classifying them based on their academic achievements into categories. The categories that were discussed were matriculation (those with advantages), and foundation (those not prepared for the university level studies). Those at the foundation level would take an additional year of "foundation work" in order to ensure that they were properly prepared. Representatives discussed the pros and cons of the proposal. Issues that were raised include concerns about financial aid, and a desire to expand multidisciplinary education.

d. Workload Survey Discussion

Kathleen led a discussion on the results of the recent GPSC GA Workload Survey. On the whole, graduate students seem generally fine with their level of compensation. Those having difficulties seem to be those in unique situations and in specific departments. A solution may be to have auditors investigate specific complaints. Other issues that were raised: graduate students think it would be useful to have additional training, especially in regards to teaching methods. There also appears to be many cases of uncompensated work hours, especially among TAs. We will write an executive summary on the survey, and distribute to administrators.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:16pm, Kathleen Corcoran made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Elaine Ulrich, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jacob Knutson.