

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.
GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 2 June 2004

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Thomas Kinney

Present: Jani Radebaugh, Amanda Brobbel, Thomas Kinney, Jim Collins, Kazungu Maitaria, Marc Barrow, Kevin Lichtenthal, Paul Thorn, Trevor Cardinal, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, and Rachel Neal.

Proxies: Tom Dexheimer, James Eddy, Dawn Hill, Ken Cardell.

II. Calls to the audience:

Trevor Cardinal introduced himself as someone who is interested in being a representative for independent studies for the 2004/5 academic year.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Jani Radebaugh made a motion to accept the amended minutes, which was seconded by Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez and the motion carried.

IV. Officer Reports:

- A. **President** - Amanda Brobbel - Amanda mentioned that she has been attending SPBAC (Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee) meetings with Jani Radebaugh. Of special interest is the discussion of the UofA budget and strategic plan for the 2004/5 academic year. It appears that the strategic plan has been improved to reflect the concerns of graduate and professional students (thanks to Jani Radebaugh). Amada will give a more complete briefing after SPBAC has completed their full calendar of meetings (June 23). Amanda mentioned that there is still no decision from the University on whether and what office space will be made available for the GPSC in the Student Union Building. (Thomas plans to organize the GPSC office(s), once a decision is made.) Thomas and Amanda made the distinction between *representative reports* (which consists in bringing information to the attention of the council) and *new business* (which denotes issues that will be debated by the council).
- B. **External Vice President** - James Eddy - James was unable to attend.
- C. **Internal Vice President** - Thomas Kinney - Thomas expressed his desire to help rep's with fulfilling their responsibilities. Thomas also mentioned that new business could be added to the agenda of a GPSC meeting contacting him by e-mail. Thomas reminded rep's of their duty to attend graduate orientation on August 17. Lastly, Thomas reminded the rep's of the fact that GPSC meetings will be conducted according to the parliamentary procedures described by Robert's Rules of Order.
- D. **Treasurer** - Paul Thorn - Budget report – There are no new developments since last month's report (aside from the fact that the Grad College is undergoing restructuring).
- E. **Questions on Officer reports** - None asked.

V. Representative and Committee Reports:

Jani described the advantages of having offices in the Student Union Building (as opposed to in Old Main). Jani believes that it is likely that we will be granted additional office space in the Student Union Building.

Jani, who has been attending the University Finance Committee, mentioned that the University is facing a budget shortfall that appears to be the result of escalating health care costs. For this reason, Jani believes that requests for an increased GPSC budget are unlikely to be granted.

Jim Collins requested that he be allowed to continue his participation on the Committee of Eleven. At this point, Thomas reminded rep's of their duty to participate on internal and external committees, and mentioned that he and Amanda would assign rep's to committees in August (in accordance with the preferences of the rep's insofar as this is possible).

Marc Barrow asked whether the University or any departments of the University currently have any programs for orienting incoming international students. No one at the meeting was aware of any programs of this sort. Jani recommended contacting the Office of International Student Programs and Services, to see whether they had any relevant information.

Marc asked whether there anyone knew of any contacts or networks that could be used to cut costs for bringing invited speakers by discovering whether prospective speakers are visiting locations nearby the University. It was suggested that Marc ask Alistair Chapman (ASUA President) about this.

VI. New Business:

- A. **Summer schedule and plan of action for Summer and Fall semester** – The summer meeting schedule will be as follows: June 2 & 30, July 14, & August 11. All meetings will begin at 6 pm in the Pima Room of the Student Union. In the Fall, bi-weekly meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Pima Room of the Student Union.
- B. **Relationship with the ASUA** – The consensus among GPSC rep's is that GPSC should be the representative organization for grad students, and that the ASUA should no longer claim to represent graduate students (and the ASUA constitution and elections code should be amended to reflect this fact). Strategies for bringing about the required changes to the ASUA constitution were discussed. Two broad strategies (that may be pursued concurrently) were described. One strategy (suggested by Jani) was to try to make the case to University administrators (Melissa Vito, Sauni Taylor, and Jim Drnek) that there is a sufficient divergence in the interests of grads and undergrads that calls for the ASUA to give up their mandate to represent graduate students. Skeptical of the likelihood that University administrators will help grads sever their tie to the ASUA, others advocated the strategy of forcing the ASUA to change their constitution by a special election. Initiating a special election requires that 10% of ASUA student members sign a petition. Means to accumulating the required signatures were discussed. It was suggested that we set up a website where grads could submit signatures electronically. Jim Collins advised that we investigate ASUA policies on such matters before setting up such a website. Jim also suggested that we be secretive of our plans, in case the ASUA senate and officers were anxious to thwart them (such as by legislating a ban on electronic signatures). The possibility of recalling the current ASUA president was also suggested. A three part strategy for approaching the issues was proposed. First, meet with University administrators. Second, petition the ASUA senate. Third, collect signatures in order to force a special election. Amanda expressed her intention to meet with Jim Drnek before the next GPSC meeting.
- C. **Proposal to restructure the AZ university system** – Various GPSC rep's expressed their views concerning the new proposal to the Arizona university system. The thrust of the new proposal is to expand the current system of state schools, while increasingly concentrating research oriented resources at the central campuses of ASU and the UofA. Thomas Kinney expressed the concern that implementation of the proposal might result in higher fees at the UofA. Moreover, Thomas expressed the concern that the aim of stratifying the Arizona University system could result in restricting the educational opportunities of those Arizonans that already have the least opportunities. Amanda reported that the present concern was also expressed by Tony Estrada (the chair of SPBAC) who believes that the implementation of the new proposal would result in the funneling of minority students toward lower tier universities.
- D. **The La Aldea Letter** – Marc produced a letter as was requested at the May 4 GPSC meeting. Several suggestions were made regarding the letter. Thomas recommended shortening the letter. Kevin Lichtenthal suggested that the letter contain references to particular lease provisions and promises that Ambling had failed to comply with. Kazungu recommended that the letter that Marc produced be accompanied by a shorter cover letter. After a short discussion, Thomas made a motion to authorize Amanda to revise and then send the letter that Marc has submitted to the council. The motion was seconded by Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez and the motion carried (unanimously, with one abstention).

**VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:40
Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn**