

GPSC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Jennifer deWinter.

Present: Stephanie Vie, Elaine Ulrich, Jennifer deWinter, Catherine Neish, Rebecca Kunsberg, Jordana Choucair, Sarah Grace, Randi Tanglen, Amanda Brobbel, Chris Brown, Paul Thorn, Kathleen Corcoran, Pietro Valsecchi, Anne Murdaugh, and Beth Specker.

Proxies: Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Tom Dexheimer and John Laughlin, Leslie Walker, Eva Shaw, Jim Collins, Luna Iris, Kim Shea, and Hrishi Shende.

- II. Calls to the audience: None.

- III. Reading and approval of minutes: Jennifer deWinter moved to table the reading of minutes until next meeting, and Paul Thorn seconded.

- IV. Officer Reports:

- a. External Vice President/Paul:

I met two months ago with the Assistant and Associate Dean of the Grad College about GPSC funding. In the past we have been given \$5,000 each for Student Showcase and Orientation. We asked for an increase. We were supposed to get an extra \$4,000. Dean Hixon actually said "\$5,000 for both." Elaine noted that instead of going from \$10,000 to an increase of \$14,000, we actually are now reduced to \$5,000 total. Paul noted that Dean Hixon is moving on in August so there is the possibility for renegotiation. Amanda noted that Jack Roberts asked for a formal request for Graduate Orientation funding. Danielle emailed Dorian to be sure about the money being offered and the email back was that we get \$5,000 total.

Paul noted that health care continues to be a concern for students. He will email Harry McDermott, the director of health care at UA, and will try to set up a meeting so that he can get McDermott to do a presentation on health care at which graduate students can ask questions. The premium will be decreasing.

Another issue of concern is financial aid. GPSC has started researching this issue and talked to Dorian first. Apparently 14% of in-state registration fees are set aside for financial aid. It is uncertain whether some of that financial aid set aside is going towards remission, and Paul will look into that. The graduate college seems ill-informed about financial aid. Dorian has sent an email to Maria Teresa Velez to confirm the percentage of financial aid going to graduate students, but has not received a response as of yet. We want a clearer picture of the situation by the August GPSC meeting.

Regarding university appropriations for the coming year, Paul gave a handout which was an executive summary from the ABOR meeting. It had to do with Arizona statutes that stipulate that ABOR has to approve a university budget. The \$108 million referenced on the handout is money that the university is projected to raise; the numbers are not net tuition numbers, but rather amounts after *some* remission is taken out. Additional remission will be taken from these amounts. The university will pay 22 million to debts. The handout did not include other monies, such as bookstore revenues, grants, etc. Elaine noted that she wants to have meetings with Dorian to talk about financial aid, particularly how it is designated for use, and to make sure it is all being used; we should have a better idea of who the money is going to. Randi wondered whether money was being used for recruitments, “one-time-shot” money. Paul noted that with increased tuition, financial aid was supposed to increase as well, but we are unsure how that will be distributed. Elaine noted that undergraduate minority students with increased tuition stay at the university and therefore there are numbers on them. In contrast, for graduate students, the statistics are unclear. Many start as non-degree-seeking students and switch or leave. Since they aren’t in programs, they are not being tracked. Paul reminded us that Jim had mentioned non-degree-seeking students can’t get financial aid and that non-U.S. citizen students have the same problem.

b. Internal Affairs/Jen:

We have been going over the governing documents for GPSC, the history of GPSC, etc. It’s a big catch-up project and we had hoped to run a second election before fall but that will not happen.

Orientation will be August 27th, 9 am-1 pm (4 hours). This is a Saturday. It is mandatory. We will cover some GPSC business there. There will be a BBQ following.

The link to the news article on international students resulted in money being given from the Parents’ Association to Beth Harrison. She is to hire an international TA for a paid position; they would prefer someone from math, science, or engineering. If you know anyone that might be a good mentor for TAs that fits this description, email Beth at bharriso@email.arizona.edu. Beth Specker talked to CESL (Al Stover) and UTC (Martha Wang) about the SPEAK test. Apparently departments circumvent this requirement by having RAs run discussion groups. If you’re a permanent resident, you have a green card, or you are a faculty member, you don’t have to take the SPEAK test. These are some of the reasons why complaints about international TAs happen. Jen noted that the mentoring program is meant to bring a TA in to train new international TAs on how to improve their presentation style, how to deal with an American classroom, etc. The pay will be a 0.5 FTE position.

Jennifer reminded everyone to rank themselves for an internal committee and to remember that the committee titles were in the process of changing. Once an internal committee is assigned you will be given an external committee based on that.

For next year's elections, GPSC is thinking of opening up some of the officer positions, such as president/external vice-president, to the general public to ensure that we can tell ASUA and others that we are truly voted in by our peers.

c. President/Elaine:

Leslie Tolbert will appoint a new Dean of the Graduate College, since Tom Hixon is leaving in August. If you have suggestions for an appointment, we'd like to put in input. Elaine will contact Tolbert for a list of who is currently being considered officially.

Elaine remarked that she and Paul had attended the ABOR meeting, which was a good way to show GPSC presence. The next meeting will be here on the UA campus; can we please attend? It will be August 16th and 17th. We will try to have t-shirts to show our affiliation with GPSC.

There is a Habitat for Humanity project that GPSC should get involved in. UA is partnering with H. for H. to build a house on campus; they want participation and publicity for it, both national and local.

d. Treasurer/Paul (proxy)

None.

Questions on Officer's Reports: None.

V. Representative and Administrative Reports:

A constituent noted to a representative that PhD students who walk in the university graduation ceremony are not hooded by their mentors, whereas MA students are. Some never see their mentor that day. Elaine noted that some of the smaller college specific ceremonies are places where that happens. Paul argued that the faculty probably can't (or will refuse) to show up for the larger ceremony and that's why it happens.

Amanda noted that, in response to GPSC feedback, the Graduate Orientation sessions would be 30 minute sessions, which will give people a choice of which sessions to attend. She is looking for a group of GPSC members for a panel on "Q & A about Graduate School." Talk to Amanda if interested.

Elaine noted that in the comprehensive packet given to attendees, sexual harassment would be good to cover. Amanda asked for any other suggestions for the packet to be sent to her. We expect approximately 500 attendees. We will advertise on the GPSC website, graduate college website, UA news links, and email. The Orientation will be August 15th this year.

VI. Old Business: None.

VII. New Business:

- a. Research and Policy Director: Elaine noted that the Officers had decided on a hire for the Research and Policy Director position, Randi Tanglen. Amanda moved to accept Randi's nomination and it was unanimously accepted.
- b. Travel Grants: Paul noted that there was concern over the current deadlines (September/November/February/April). Paul moved to create six deadlines instead of four to better meet applicants' needs. Chris seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Government Documents: Jennifer handed out changes to the documents; the bylaws were inconsistent with the constitution and were changed to reflect that. The treasurer's duties were reassigned to the secretary. Subcommittee titles needed to be changed. After concern over some changes, Amanda moved to have the executive board look over the changes as a group on their own; Kathryn seconded. Elaine moved to accept the changes in Article I, Sections I and II; Amanda seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
- d. Constituent Meetings: Jennifer reminded everyone that constituent meetings should be held early in the term beginning in September (5th). Usually they are Monday and Thursday between 3:30-5:00 pm. Sign up for a time and think of when your constituents would best be able to attend. Email Jennifer later if you were unable to sign up. Reps will meet with Jennifer beforehand but we need to get these meetings set up soon so that you can meet with your college's Dean prior to the meeting.
- e. Danielle: Amanda handed out a card to be signed thanking Danielle for her work as Administrative Director. GPSC plans to give her a small gift as well.

VIII. Call to Adjourn: Jennifer called to adjourn at 7:28 pm; Kathleen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Vie