

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.
GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 14 July 2004

I. Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Thomas Kinney

Present: Kazungu Maitaria, Amanda Brobbel, Pietro Valsecchi, Kevin Lichtenthal, Dawn Hill, Trevor Cardinal, Jim Collins, Thomas Kinney, Jani Radebaugh, Mark Zubriski, Paul Thorn, Ken Cardell, Pietro Valsecchi, and Marc Barrow.

Proxies: Tom Dexheimer, James Eddy, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, and Kale Klumpyan.

II. Calls to the audience: No response.

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

IV. Officer Reports:

- A. **President** - Amanda Brobbel - Amanda reported that, contrary to widespread belief among the council, University leaders had not intended that revenues received through the sale of Christopher City be allocated to new housing that was strictly for graduate students. Their intention is that the revenues be used for student family housing.
- B. **External Vice President** - James Eddy - James was unable to attend.
- C. **Internal Vice President** - Thomas Kinney - Thomas reminded rep's of their duty to attend graduate orientation on August 17. He also notified the council that on August 12 Danielle will need some assistance in making final preparations for graduate orientation. (Further information will be sent out by e-mail.) Thomas proposed a time table for filling the remaining GPSC positions. Candidates will need to submit their paper work by August 24. Elections will take place on August 27 and 28. The new rep's can then be sworn in on August 31.
- D. **Treasurer** - Paul Thorn - Budget report – There are no new developments since last month's report.
- E. **Questions on Officer reports** - None asked.

V. Representative and Committee Reports: None.

VI. New Business:

- A. **Relationship with ASUA** – Amanda recently met with Sandra Taylor and Melissa Vito and discussed the interests of the GPSC in having graduate students give up their representation by the ASUA. Dean Vito appeared reluctant to support this move, and expressed the view that GPSC become more integrated with ASUA. Amanda also mentioned that she and Thomas had met with Alistair and Ryan Patterson. (Ryan is the law student that Alistair appointed to the ASA as a UA graduate student representative.) Ryan stated that he plans to attend GPSC meetings in the coming year.

Several rep's (including Amanda, Jani, and Thomas) suggested that we go ahead with an attempt to sever the relationship between the ASUA and graduate students. The primary motivation for this 'secession' would be to achieve parity of funding for GPSC and ASUA, and parity of representation among UA committees and other statewide committees such as the ASA. The fact was recognized (by Jani and Thomas, for example) that separation would not bring about an instant redistribution of funds among the ASUA and the GPSC. However, it is appears that secession could only help with increasing the representation of graduate students and potentially increasing the funding of the GPSC (the organization that does have the singular mission of representing graduate students).

Jim expressed the view (which was well received) that we need to be able to articulate a 'secession plan' by the time of Graduate Orientation. Dawn added that it would be good to produce a document that summarized the reasons why it would be to the benefit of grad's to cede their representation by ASUA.

Acting on Dawn suggestion would greatly facilitate the drive to garner support among the general population of grad's.

Jani proposed that we consider hiring a 'campaign director' to help with the secession campaign. (Discussion of this proposal was postponed.)

Jani moved that the council draft a letter that could serve as a graduate student petition that would express our desire to cede graduate representation by ASUA. The motion was seconded by Mark, and passed unanimously. Thomas also proposed that we proceed with formulating the text of an ASUA ballot initiative.

- B. **Healthcare issues** – Amanda reported that Dr, McDermott (the director of UA campus health) expressed that he would like graduates students to be well informed about the benefits that they may receive. Campus Health would also appreciate input from graduate students. (Amanda plans to invite Dr, McDermott to attend a GPSC meeting in the near future.) Amanda also reported that the group health insurance provide by United Health Care is less economical for males, who are less likely to take advantage of the benefits that are covered by the policies. Amanda mentioned that adding a prescription drug benefit to the current plan would raise the cost of the plan by approximately 25%. Dr. McDermott has expressed the view that adding such a drug benefit would not benefit graduate students, because prescriptions drugs currently available through the Student Health Center at low prices.

Thomas suggested that the GPSC should have a webpage that is devoted to providing graduates with information about United Health Care insurance, and about other alternatives.

- C. **Graduate Orientation and Graduate Orientation Social** – Amanda proposed to postpone discussion until our next meeting.
- D. **Fall Elections** – The relevant information was covered by Thomas's officer report.

VII. **Meeting adjourned at 7:45**
Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn