

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 26th 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07pm by Kathleen Corcoran

Present: Catherine Neish, Elaine Ulrich, Erin Vincent, Jim Collins, Brian Jackson, Robert Jacobi, Nasrin Ghanbari, Bridget Barker, Kathleen Corcoran, Sarah Mosher, Gail Bradford, Boris Glebov, Joshua Scott

Proxies: Stephen Bieda, Jennifer Cohen

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Bridget Barker motions to pass the 06/28/07 minutes, Gail Bradford seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Catherine Neish – (1) Catherine and Kathleen met with the President and Administrators to discuss tuition, specifically to discuss the uses of tuition. President Shelton proposed a four year fixed tuition plan, to keep tuition constant throughout one's undergrad degree. Reception was positive, but not enough time to work out details before tuition is set (4 months). Action item was to determine what the effects of an X% tuition increase would be. GPSC and ASUA will conduct survey to determine student reaction to and understanding of tuition increase. (2) Efforts are being made to revamp GATO. The workshop will now cover teaching techniques, and rules and regulations will be covered through online modules. Two weeks after the workshop, TAs will be tested on modules and must pass to work as TA. (3)

Vice President – Kathleen Corcoran – Kathleen is meeting with new reps to explain how to set-up constituency meetings. For returning reps, she will send out a form with questions about the representative's college. She also plans to send out a copy of Robert's Rules of Order.

Assembly Chairperson – Anne Murdaugh – Not present.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Josh was planning to present the budget tonight, but did not receive last year's information with sufficient time to prepare this year's budget. The budget will be present at our next meeting.

Secretary – Jacob Knuston – Not present.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Bridget Barker: Bridget sat on the Student Organization Council this summer. They are trying to revamp how student organizations are recognized. There is a proposal to have a tiered system to accommodate different ways to recognize different types of clubs. Charter proposal should be presented at the next meeting. There is a proposal that if you are involved in any student organization then you can't serve on the Student Organization Council. GPSC and ASUA will be allowed to have non-voting reps on the committee. Committee to be run by CISL.

Gail Bradford: (1) Gail thanked the GPSC for their support in the Student Health Alliance events last year. (2) Gail discussed how internships are treated grade-wise by the College of Public Health. Some internships are given grades of "I", which are being misinterpreted as an incomplete, so the "I's" are turned into "E's". Gail will speak to Diane Horgan about this.

Elaine Ulrich: Elaine discussed starting an initiative to collect furniture, clothing, etc. from students at the end of the semester, and sell them to benefit the United Way ("Trash to Treasure"). The University of PA has such a program run by the facilities management, and made \$50k. Last year, ASU started the same program. Elaine is collecting the necessary information and awaiting a pamphlet from the program manager at the U of PA. Sarah suggested that we link up such a program with a pet rescue effort.

Jodi Burshia: Jodi asked for volunteers for Graduate Orientation (August 15). She will need volunteers for set up, to direct new grads, help at the vendor fair, etc. Jodi passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Sarah Mosher: Sarah is organizing the vendor fair for this year's GO. As of now, we have 34 vendors out of a hoped-for 42. Sarah handed around a list of vendors who have already signed up.

VI. New Business

a. Committee Placement

Catherine passed out a list of internal and external committee assignments. She asked that only those who were very opposed to their current assignments asked to be moved.

b. Raise for State Employees

The state budget included some money for raises for state employees. GAs will receive ~\$300,000 for raises. Catherine asked for feedback on how best to spend the funding increase. The Dean of the Graduate College suggested an across-the-board raise. Catherine suggested a proportionately larger raise for the lowest salaries. We only have about a month to make this decision. There are problems with all suggestions and much complication involved. Catherine opened the floor for questions. Lots of discussion about what specifically the salary numbers mean and which plan would be best. Most support for an across-the-board raise, some support for a tier system.

c. Workload Survey Executive Report

Sarah presented the executive summary of the of work load survey administered by the GPSC last spring. The council discussed the summary, and what effects the last survey on GA workload, done in 2000, had on GA working conditions. Results of the current survey indicate a large disparity between GA salaries across campus, and disparities between job responsibilities and salary. Sarah and Catherine plan to do an in depth study of GA salaries. The council may also formulate more surveys to determine, for example, what GAs are asked to do outside of their contracts.

d. Student Affairs Fee Survey

Certain departments within Student Affairs need money for new equipment, increase employee benefits, etc. A committee, with student representatives and representatives from Campus Rec, CISL, Student Affairs, UA Presents, etc. is devising a survey to determine how much support there is for a "student affairs fee". Representatives discussed the survey. Suggestions were to include a question that asked the student if he/she wanted to pay a fee at all, and to provide accountability for the fee. It was also suggested that these costs would be better covered by tuition rather than fees.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:59pm, Elaine Ulrich made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Boris Glebov, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Jackson.