

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2007

## I. Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by Anne Murdaugh

**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 Scot, Anne Murdaugh, Jacob Knutson, Randy Vazquez, Bradford Melrose, Amanda Brobbel, Alison Betts, Erin Ford, Robin Quarrier, Jennifer Cohen, Stephen Bieda III

**Proxies:** Jennifer Cohen

## II. Calls to the audience: None.

**III. Reading and approval of minutes** – Catherine Neish moves to pass the 06/28/07 minutes, Josh Scott seconds, the motion carries

## IV. Officer Reports:

**President** – Catherine Neish – (1) The Dean of the Graduate College presented his plan to distribute the money designated by the state to be used as raises for graduate assistants. This plan included a flat increase of ~\$175 per 0.5 FTE GA per year, which amounted to a 0.76% raise for the highest GA stipend and a 1.84% raise for the lowest GA stipend. He also would like to add most TAs to the state's budget line. (2) Several ideas are being proposed by the ASA for a tuition plan this year. The ideas include a tuition freeze, a four year fixed tuition, as well as tuition being tied to a student's ability to pay and market factors. (3) No additional news was available concerning the GPSC staff position. (4) The Director of La Aldea would like to co-sponsor a Social Justice Forum with the GPSC and would like a Graduate Housing Resident Assistant to be in some way involved with the GPSC.

**Vice President** – Kathleen Corcoran – (1) The National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) sent out a newsletter which was passed around. The NAGPS healthcare plan was highlighted. (2) Constituent meetings were discussed including their purpose and advice on how to set up and run them.

**Assembly Chairperson** – Anne Murdaugh – Anne reminded the council that there would be a GPSC retreat on Saturday August 25th

**Treasurer** – Joshua Scott – Josh was planning to present the budget but it was put off due to an upcoming conversation with the Associate Dean of the Graduate College to secure more money. Without this money, we will have a tighter budget, which will result in reduced travel grant allocation, POD and Club Funding

**Secretary** – Jacob Knutson – No report.

## V. Representative and Director Reports:

None.

## VI. New Business

### a. Outdoor Play Area

Amanda Brobbel reported on The Commission on the Status of Women's (CSW) push for the creation of an outdoor play area. \$10,000 has already been committed to the project but \$7,000 more is required. This outdoor play area would be located between the College of Education, the Psychology Building, and Modern Languages. Discussion centered on how much the GPSC should contribute to the project and numbers between \$500 and \$1000 were discussed. Catherine Neish moved to provide not less than \$500 dollars to the project. This motion was seconded by Anne Murdaugh and carried with two abstentions.

**b. Childcare Strategies**

Catherine Neish led a discussion about strategies to assist student parents at the U of A. Jim Collins stated that some of the old methods by which funds were raised were to hold a raffle and allow vendors to sell items with fees collected going to support subsidized care. He also reported that these methods were not particularly effective. It was reported that this issue is not likely to enjoy much support from U of A President Shelton. It was reported that securing a child care facility on campus is likely a multi-year project. Some ideas on how to improve in the issue of child care that may enjoy more immediate results included pushing for childcare subsidies and coordinating with BabyCats, a student club which coordinates a sitters list in order to watch children for student parents. Catherine Neish indicated she would examine the possibility of GPSC cooperation with BabyCats and perhaps ASUA involvement as well.

**c. GPSC Statement of Support: Reconfiguring Undergraduate Education**

Josh Scott reported on a draft he was working on titled “GPSC Statement of Support for Reconfiguring Undergraduate Education.” The text of the draft will be made available online or by contacting Josh. The reconfiguration is to serve two main purposes: to allow advanced students to accelerate their studies and give lower performing students an extra year of “foundation work” in order to ensure they are prepared for the rigors of university level education. This topic produced a great deal of debate where a variety of concerns were raised concerning the proposal and whether the GPSC should support it. It was proposed re-titling the draft “GPSC Statement Concerning Reconfiguring Undergraduate Education” and including the discussed criticism,.

**VII. Motion to Adjourn** – At 8:06pm, Kathleen Corcoran moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Randy Vazquez, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Jacob Knutson