

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Jennifer Cohen, Gail Bradford, Aaron Gubi, Christina Vasquez, Anne Murdaugh, Kathleen Corcoran, Amanda Brobbel, Randi Tanglen, Kathryn Williams, Joe VanOpdorp, Elaine Ulrich, Laura Gronewold, Nicholas Fernandez, Kedar Dhane, Ariel Fisher, Shaun Halbert, Tom LaGatta, Jim Collins, Sarah Mosher

Proxies: Boris Glebov, Claudia Benavente

II. Presentation to Dr. Likins: Thanks for Dr. Likins written by past GPSC presidents were read to him. The GPSC then presented Dr. Likins with a gift of a glass prickly pear statue. Dr. Likins responded with his thoughts on the GPSC and the university.

III. Calls to the audience: None.

IV. Reading and approval of minutes – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 08/01/06 minutes, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez seconds, the motion carries.

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V. Officer Reports:

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President – Paul Thorn – (1) Paul reports that he has now recruited members for the new ASA health insurance committee from all Arizona universities. (2) Paul has completed a peer survey on health insurance. Sarah will verify the information, and together they will form a report. Initial statistics from 14 of our 15 peers indicate 10 of 14 have separate health insurance plans for GAs, 12 of 14 have prescription drug coverage, and 6 of 14 have dental care. (3) It has been decided that the funds from the raise in tuition last year will be used for scholarships to increase graduate student enrollment (~\$300,000) and to fund more travel grants for graduate students (~\$50,000). (4) Paul will talk to Melissa Vito about the possibility of hiring permanent staff for the GPSC.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Anne reports that voter registration was available at Graduate Orientation for the first time this year. People seemed to like having this service available, and Anne thinks this is something we should continue to do. (2) A calendar is now available on the GPSC website, advertising the date, location, and description of events. Contact Aaron Gubi to put new events on the calendar.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Randi reminded everyone of the retreat that will be held on Saturday morning. Topics to be presented at the retreat include the duties of representatives, the history of the GPSC, and current issues. (2) Randi plans to revisit the TA workload report from 2000 with her internal committee. They will expand the report to include all GAs (including RAs). (3) The September GradCat is scheduled to go to the printers next week.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Josh plans to have a projected budget available by the next meeting.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – Catherine reminded everyone of the speed dating event to be held Wednesday, August 30. Interested parties should contact her.

VI. Representative and Director Reports:

Laura Gronewold: Laura reports that Humanities graduate students met to talk about forming a Humanities grad council. She will type up an invitation letter and distribute it to humanities grads.

Aaron Gubi: (1) Christina and Aaron met yesterday with the new Education grad council. They will set up a listserv to increase the amount of communication between grads. (2) Volunteers are needed to help at the club recognition assembly, to be held August 31 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Joe VanOpdorp: Joe talked with Assistant Dean Dorian Voorhees in the Graduate College. They plan to organize a forum for non-degree seeking students.

Joshua Scott: Josh and Kedar plan to meet with the Dean of Engineering.

Tom LaGatta: The Science graduate council is planning an interscience colloquium this term.

Jennifer Cohen: Jennifer attended the new student forum for Pharmacy, where she introduced herself and explained the role of the GPSC.

Amanda Brobbel: (1) Amanda is starting to plan Student Showcase. To market the event, she will run three advertisements in the Wildcat and distribute flyers to departments across campus. (2) Donna Treloar in the Graduate College is looking for someone in the GPSC to encourage diverse students to attend a networking meeting. They are having a meeting at 10:00am tomorrow to plan this get together.

VII. New Business

a. Club Funding Policies

Paul passed around an excerpt from the bylaws regarding club funding guidelines. He proposed that we suspend these guidelines and update them in response to changes in ASUA policies. Revisions will include: (1) Changing the maximum amount for initial club funding from \$200 to \$500 (the ASUA is increasing funds to clubs). (2) Removing the restriction from the bylaws which states that clubs can't receive money from both GPSC and ASUA (ASUA has now opened up their club funding to graduate students). Paul Thorn makes motions to suspend Article IV, Section 2 of bylaws, Joshua Scott seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

b. Travel Grant Policies

Paul handed out a summary of the travel grants awarded in the past three years. With the addition of \$50,000 from the Graduate College, this year's budget will be \$79,500. This should fund 50% of applicants up to \$500. The goal is to fund more people at a higher rate.

c. Club and POD Funding

The GPSC received one request for Club and POD Funding for the August 15 deadline. Given the proposed bylaw changes, Josh asked the club to resubmit their application. He will wait for the resubmission before the council approves the application. Josh asked representatives to remind their constituents to follow the guidelines when applying for Club and POD funding.

d. National Research Council

The National Research Council does an assessment of research doctorate programs every ten years. Departments are filling out program surveys now. Select students filling out their Advancement to Candidacy will be asked to fill out the corresponding student surveys. If students have met the criteria and are able, it will help their department's standing if they can fill out the Advancement to Candidacy form. However, this form comes with a \$135 fee, and students can only be compelled to fill out the form if they are within six months of their anticipated graduation date. Anne pulled out some questions from the surveys, and distributed them in a hand-out. A full questionnaire can be obtained from Anne.

VIII. Call to adjourn – At 7:55pm, Joe VanOpdorp made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Nick Fernandez, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.