

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA[®]

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 5th 2007

I. Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Anne Murdaugh

Present: Catherine Neish, Elaine Ulrich, Erin Vincent, Brian Jackson, Robert Jacobi, Bridget Barker, Kathleen Corcoran, Sarah Mosher, Boris Glebov, Joshua Scot, Anne Murdaugh, Jacob Knutson, Randy Vazquez, Alison Betts, Erin Ford, Robin Quarrier, Stephen Bieda III

Proxies: Jim Collins, Amanda Brobbel, Joe Silins, Jenny Cohen, Nasrin Ghanbari

II. Calls to the audience:

- a. Gabriela Moreno-Alvarez, a graduate student from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, addressed the council. She informed the council that TAs from the College of the Humanities had started a petition for a teaching load reduction and were looking for support from the GPSC. They currently have support from the Dean of the Humanities and the head of the Spanish program. They would like to ensure that they teach no more than three classes a year which is in alignment with peer institutions.
- b. Dana Lefkowitz from “Baby Cats Too” addressed the body concerning childcare issues. He noted that the U of A was the only PAC 10 school that did not provide on campus childcare. He informed the body that his organization would be making a proposal later this year presenting options to provide childcare including subcontracting out. The major obstacle is funding. They are putting together a survey to be distributed later. There are three clubs encompassed within the larger “Baby Cats” umbrella: Baby Cats, Baby Cats Too, and Baby Cats sitters.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Kathleen Corcoran moves to pass the 06/28/07 minutes, Stephen Bieda seconds, the motion carries with one abstention

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Catherine Neish – (1) There was a death on campus; details are available on the University’s website. (2) In preparation for the upcoming Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting the Arizona Students’ Association (ASA) will be meeting in order to discuss a statewide tuition plan. President Shelton is pushing for a 8.3% raise in tuition for residents and a 9.6% tuition raise for non-residents. These tuition increases would be the same for graduate and undergraduate students. (3) Baby Cats seems interested in collaborating on the issue of campus childcare. (4) There will be fall special elections to fill seats in the Colleges of Architecture, Nursing, Medicine, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Fine Arts. (5) There are currently resources available for a ¾ time GPSC staff position. More may be made available in the future to make the position full time.

Vice President – Kathleen Corcoran – Constituency meeting information will be made available next meeting. The GradCat will go out on Monday, September 10.

Assembly Chairperson – Anne Murdaugh – There will be a Graduate Speed Dating event on September 12th.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Budget will be presented this meeting for approval.

Secretary – Jacob Knuston – Internal committee met in order to discuss priorities. Will put together action plans on the issues of the workload survey, dental care, getting the Graduate Student Bill of Rights ready to present, and trying to address the issue of summer FICA taxes.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Elaine Ulrich: Presented the workload survey to the Graduate Council. Council is trying to address shortcomings in mentoring; there are currently no resources assigned for this task nor instruction given on how to be a successful mentor.

Gail Bradford: Needs someone to sit on the U of A Campus Emergency Response Team on September the 26th and the Diversity Coalition meeting on September 19th. The Diversity Reception is looking for musicians and dancers for September 27th.

Stephen Bieda: (1) College of Science Council Meeting saw 7 of 13 departments represented. (2) The Faculty Senate ICPC met and discussed making ICPC review mandatory for any new policy initiated on the university level, making the ICPC more proactive, stopping students from enrolling in courses that are convened concurrently, and clarifying the pass/fail option.

Bridget Barker: The general education committee task force met to address issues concerning general education. The task force agreed that there was a problem, but failed to come to a consensus on what the problem is.

VI. New Business

a. Guest Speaker – Andrew Comrie, Dean of the Graduate College

Dean Comrie addressed the council giving basic information as to what his role is and then took questions. He coordinates to ensure standardization in admissions, and assists in processing paperwork among other tasks. At the policy level his department is looking for new ways to expand academic opportunities and promoting graduate enterprises including new degree types and programs.

- i. He addressed a question concerning which department's regulations have priority, the Graduate College or the home department. He answered that the Graduate College provides minimum requirements but other departments may require their students to do more than the Graduate College's minimum requirements.
- ii. He addressed the issue raised by the student from the Spanish Department and said his position was "20 hours of pay for 20 hours of work."
- iii. He addressed the summer FICA taxes issue and said he would look into it.

He answered a question concerning challenges and priorities. He stated that goals include growing the graduate student population at the U of A while that population is shrinking overall, strengthen departments, growing the number of Masters students, increasing graduate funding, assisting in insuring an adequate level of mentoring, increasing financial aid available to graduate students, achieving gains in health care, and better utilizing classroom space.

b. Approval of the 2007/08 Budget

Josh Scott presented the GPSC budget for FY08. The proposed budget is sustainable given current levels of funding. Motion to approve budget was made by Elaine Ulrich, seconded by Stephen Bieda and passed unanimously.

c. Club and POD Funding Approval

The second annual Cultural and Diversity awareness fair requested \$1,465 in POD funding. The appropriations committee recommends approving \$850 with an option of increasing funding if certain concerns are addressed. Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$850 was made by Elaine Ulrich, seconded by Robin Quarrier and passed unanimously.

d. Changes to Student Health Insurance at the University of Arizona

Sarah Mosher reported on the health care options and changes to these options at the U of A and distributed literature associated with said options and changes.

e. Tuition Survey Discussion

Catherine Neish distributed a draft of a tuition survey which is to be distributed online. It is intended to provide information on what tuition raises would provide in terms of services and whether students would support such raises. It is to include a section on funding priorities and a table showing the relationship between additional money raised to services received. The form would be evaluated by adding up agree responses and ranking these responses. It may or may not include the possibility of a prize, and would not simply be a listing of priorities and ranking them as that in the past has provided less useful data.

f. Incomplete Policy Discussion

Catherine Neish reported on Bill Conway's (chair of the ICPC) proposal for adding a mandatory form when applying for an "I" grade. A number of questions and concerns were raised including whether the option to administratively drop a course still exists, whether a course could be retroactively dropped, the impact of the form to the relationship between students and professors, and the differences between the incomplete policy for graduate and undergraduate students.

VII. Motion to Adjourn – At 8:06pm, Stephen Bieda moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Gail Bradford, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Jacob Knutson