

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 7th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Randi Tanglen

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

Proxies: Boris Glebov, Christina Vasquez, Jennifer Cohen

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Nick Fernandez motions to pass the 08/24/06 minutes, Paul Thorn seconds, the motion carries.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) The 9/11 committee is organizing events on the mall. Students are asked to wear blue shirts on September 11. (2) The Graduate College wants us to approve their proposal for student fellowships. Paul asked representatives to read over the proposal, and e-mail comments to him. (3) A meeting to discuss the Request for Proposals for the student health insurance plan will be held next Thursday at ASU. (4) Paul spoke with George Davis about the student health insurance plan last week. Provost Davis agreed to set up a meeting with the Director of Campus Health and the Director for Human Resources to talk about improving the plan. (5) A representative is needed to sit on the Instruction and Curriculum Policy Committee. This committee is important for setting academic policy. (6) This year, the ASUA President was asked to speak at the International Graduate Orientation. Paul requested that the GPSC President should be asked to speak in upcoming years.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) The ASUA is planning to put \$12,000 into an online registration process to eliminate the need for the \$20 club recognition fee. (2) The Academic and Constituency Affairs committee is going to draft a Graduate Student Bill of Rights. Anyone interested in working on this project should contact Anne. (3) Representatives should start thinking about planning their constituency meetings. If you would like someone to attend your meeting, let Anne know.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Randi met with John Ulreich, the chair of the Student Affairs Policy Committee on the Faculty Senate. He would like to bring up the ASUA/GPSC representation issue with his committee, and is interested in learning more about it.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Nothing to report.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) The GPSC is hosting a movie night next week, on September 14. Please encourage your constituents to attend.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Tom LaGatta: Tom reports that the university is no longer replacing front door keys for mathematics graduate students. Tom is trying to determine whether this is common amongst other departments.

Gail Bradford: Gail met with Donna Treloar and the graduate student representatives from the minority affairs office. They are scheduling a meet and greet for October 5. Minority students and faculty will be invited.

Sarah Mosher: Paul and Sarah hope to have a draft of the student health insurance peer survey ready by next week.

Aaron Gubi: Aaron reports that the GPSC was able to fund a higher percentage of travel grant recipients in the last round.

VI. New Business

a. Representative Projects Fund

In response to the large carry forward in the budget, the GPSC executive board has decided to allot 5% of the GPSC budget for representative projects. Representatives would have access to \$13,500 to fund projects that promote the GPSC mission. Some example ideas: sponsorship of parent resources, partnerships with public outreach in the community, entertainment events for graduate students. The guidelines for accessing these funds were distributed at the meeting (see below). If all goes well, the GPSC will continue to make this fund available in future years.

Guidelines:

- (1) Make sure there is funding available to cover your proposal.
- (2) Have your proposal placed on the agenda of a GPSC meeting.
- (3) Come to the meeting prepared to explain your project.

b. Budget Approval

Josh distributed copies of the GPSC budget. Joseph VanOpdorp motions to approve the budget, Claudia Benavente seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

c. Constitutional Amendment

Paul proposed an amendment to Article II, Section 2 of the GPSC constitution that would split the College of Pharmacy representation into the College of Pharmacy (MS, PhD) and the College of Pharmacy (PharmD). Paul would like to make this amendment for several reasons: (1) the two groups of students are very distinct in terms of their academic outlook (professional versus academic track), (2) to ensure representation on the GPSC Assembly for both groups (there are three times as many PharmD students as MS and PhD students in the College of Pharmacy), and (3) to increase the number of students from professional programs that serve on the GPSC. Elaine Ulrich motions to approve the change in the constitution, Nadia Silvestry-Rodriguez seconds. One against, motion carries.

d. Graduate Tuition and Fees

Anne and Paul are working with the ASUA leadership to put forward a cooperative tuition proposal. They will push for a tuition proposal that includes (1) the lowest increase possible, (2) the same increase for in-state graduates and undergraduates, (3) the same increase for out-of-state graduates and undergraduates, and (4) an increase in the set aside money for graduate students from 1% to 2%.

A technology fee was put before ABOR last year. The proposal was for \$65 this year, and \$130 for every year after. Regent Graff told the regents that the graduate students felt like they hadn't been consulted on the fee, so the regents accepted the initial \$65 fee and tabled the extra \$65 fee. Now, CCIT wants to include the extra \$65, raising the fee to \$130 next year. The ASUA appears to have been flattered into going along with the plan. The regents will vote on this matter on Nov. 30. The council agreed to survey graduate students to determine what their current wireless needs are, and what they think of the fee.

e. Club Funding Request

The Graduate Planning Society sent in a request for club funding. Kathleen Corcoran motions to fund \$350 of their revised budget, minus \$200 for the trip to Mesa and \$100 for paper. Joe VanOpdorp seconds. One abstention, motion carries.

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

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.