

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA[®]

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 14 September 2004

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Amanda Brobbel

Present: Paul Thorn, James Eddy, Amanda Brobbel, Megan Nielsen, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, Jessica Lohff, Tom Dexheimer, Jani Radebaugh, Dawn Hill, Stephanie Golisch, Mark Zubriski, Kevin Lichtenthal, Kevin Bates, Pietro Valsecchi, Thomas Kinney, Marc Barrow, Kazungu Maitaria, Kale Klumphyan, and Karen Sweazea.

Proxies: Rachael Neal and Ken Cardell.

II. Calls to the audience: No Response.

III. Swearing in of New Representatives: Karen Sweazea petitioned to become an alternate rep for Interdisciplinary Programs. Amanda approved the petition. Jani made a motion to approve the petition, and James seconded the motion. The reps voted unanimously to accept Karen's petition.

IV. Reading and approval of minutes – Jani proposed that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that Alistair Chapman had attended the past meeting and had been allowed to make several comments on the subject of the university commencement policy. Nadia made a motion to accept Jani's amendments, and this was seconded by Kale. 18 voted in favor and 1 voted against the amendment.

V. Officer Reports:

- A. **President** - Amanda Brobbel – Amanda reported that she had recently attended the Club Funding Assembly. Kale and Amanda recounted the huge disparity in the funds that GPSC and ASUA had available for club support. Amanda recounted her struggle with the Dean of Student Life to receive a promise of financial support for the GPSC administered travel grant program. Amanda's discussion with Dean Vito was the result of a report of Associate Dean Velez that the VP of Campus Life had expressed sympathy for the idea of Campus Life reallocating \$30,000 to the travel grant fund. The Dean of Student Life demanded that GPSC demonstrate an unmet need. Amanda summarized several of the procedures for applying for travel grants and club funding through the GPSC. (And most of this information is available on the GPSC website.) Amanda reported that the University was moving fast toward the purchase of La Aldea. Megan Nielsen reported that the law school is pursuing the construction of a dorm specifically for law students.
- B. **External Vice President** - James Eddy – James stated that our recent ASA dollar back campaign had been a relative success. We collected and mailed over 270 dollar-back request forms. James expressed his resolve that we be more organized for another drive in the Spring. James also warned that GPSC reps to be careful in stating our concern for the ASA issue. We want a representative of graduate students and not just a representative that is a graduate student. James reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Alumni Association. James is hoping to convince the alumni association to provide some financial support for GPSC events.
- C. **Internal Vice President** - Thomas Kinney – Thomas announced that a GPSC orientation meeting has been planned for October 2, from 10am 'til 2pm. Food will probably be catered (or we may go out for lunch together). Thomas reminded the reps of their duty to hold constituency meetings, and of the \$50 per meeting set aside for this purpose. We will need volunteers for Showcase, for October 29 and 30.
- D. **Treasurer** - Paul Thorn – Paul reported that we have about \$700 left in our budget for socials, and asked Tom whether the process of organizing the tailgate party was well in hand. It is. Tom is coordinating with representatives from some of the professional schools in order to have a large tailgate party. It looks like this will happen on October 23.
- E. **Questions on Officer reports** - None asked.

VI. Representative and Administrative Director Reports:

Because of a schedule conflict, Kevin Bates cannot attend the Corporate Relations Committee which meets monthly on a Wednesday at 1pm. He is looking for someone to switch committees with him. Jani reported that serving on this committee was a low commitment way of gaining some useful experience.

Kale reported on the University Fees Committee. They approved a fee for classes in Oceanography, because it was for field trips, but they did not approve a fee for Chemistry because it was to be used for lab equipment.

Thomas updated the council on the issue concerning the use of some monies that have been earmarked for faculty salary increases. The issue is to be raised in the Faculty Senate in three weeks.

Thomas inquired whether reps had heard any reports of students not receiving their stipends on time. Many students have had problems with their stipends coming on time, but there were no reports of tuition waivers not coming on time.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Commencement Policy** – After some discussion the following statement of support was proposed by Thomas and seconded by James: “The GPSC supports a university wide commencement for both undergraduate and graduate students, whether or not there are separate ceremonies for undergraduates and graduates.” The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Graduate and Professional Student Network** – Paul proposed setting up a network of some kind that could be used to inform and mobilize graduate and professional students. Thomas agreed to start setting up such a network.
- B. Graduate and Professional Student Referendum on ASUA** – Paul proposed that the GPSC hold its own referendum to show that graduate and professional students do not wish to be members of the ASUA. The council was in favor of the proposal as activity that would supplement our attempt to force a change the ASUA constitution during the ASUA general election.
- C. Parking Fees** – A constituent has contacted Kevin Lichtenthal, asking whether GPSC could help with the problem of escalating parking fees. There was a consensus that we could do little about this problem. However, James made the suggestion of informing constituents about alternatives to parking on campus.
- D. Advising Surveys** – This topic was tabled.
- E. External and Internal Committees** – Thomas outlined the membership and duties of our four internal subcommittees. The Academic Issues Subcommittee is headed by Nadia, and will work on the implementing the results of the mentoring survey. They will also be in charge of evaluating applications for POD grants and club funding. The Administrative Issues Subcommittee is headed by Kevin Bates, and will work on revising the GPSC constitution, bylaws, and election code. The Strategic Planning Subcommittee is headed by Kale, and will work on issues relating to the GPSC, the ASUA, and the ASA. The Student Affairs/Outreach Subcommittee is headed by Tom Dexheimer, and will work on planning GPSC socials and on GPSC advertising through the publication of the GRADCAT.

- IX. Call to adjourn** –At 8:02, Jani made a call to adjourn. Karen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn