

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21st 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Boris Glebov, Sarah Mosher, Randi Tanglen, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Gail Bradford, Aaron Gubi, Anne Murdaugh, Joe VanOpdorp, Elaine Ulrich, Ariel Fisher, Tom LaGatta, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Christina Vasquez, Kathryn Williams, Shaun Halbert

Proxies: Kathleen Corcoran, Nicholas Fernandez, Laura Gronewold

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Joe VanOpdorp motions to pass the 09/07/06 minutes, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) Paul congratulated everyone on the council for the good work they've been doing this year. (2) ABOR will set tuition at their Nov. 30-Dec. 1 meeting. Paul and Anne are working with ASUA president Erin Hertzog to formulate a joint proposal, which they will convey to the president. President Shelton's tuition proposal will include equal percentage increases for undergraduate and graduate students. The increase will likely be \$300 for residents and \$1200 for non-residents. When he spoke to Paul, President Shelton seemed skeptical about setting aside 1% of the increase in graduate student tuition for graduate student programs. A number of program fees and differential tuition will also be put before ABOR during tuition setting. Two increases important to grad students are the restructuring of the program fee for the School of Information Resources and Library Science and the Masters of Public Administration. (3) If you haven't been contacted about your external committee, please let Paul know. Also, a new committee is being formed - UA Presents Advisory Committee. Please let Paul know if you'd like to sit on this committee. (4) A representative from CCIT will attend the next GPSC meeting to discuss the technology fee. (5) There will be a presentation on the Campus Climate Survey at an upcoming GPSC meeting. (6) The Events Director is sending out information to fundraise for Student Showcase. If you have ideas of where we might request funding, please let Paul know. (7) 1800 GradCats were sent out to Graduate Student Employees. If you know of graduate students who didn't receive a GradCat, feel free to pick some up and distribute them. (8) Paul plans to set up a student survey regarding fees and tuition. He will organize a meeting to discuss a draft copy of the survey.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Please send Anne information about your constituency meetings. (2) On the Administrative and Constituency Affairs Committee, Kathleen Corcoran and Jim Collins are working to draft a Graduate Student Bill of Rights. (3) Anne set up a blood drive for Nov. 13-16 through the American Red Cross. The goal is to get at least a thousand donors. If you're part of a large student organization, please distribute this information to your peers. If you're interested in helping to organize this event, there will be a meeting on September 27 in the Pima Room.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – The Academic and Employment Affairs Committee is working on TA workload issues. They are still deciding on how to evaluate peer institutions and analyze the data. They would like to gather data from studies that have already been completed. If you know of such reports within your professional organizations, please let Randi know.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – The Committee of 11 is looking at the NRC guidelines. The committee is interested in knowing what the guidelines will report about graduate students.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) A social will be held at Belushe's on October 13, and will include a pool tournament and karaoke. (2) Nick Fernandez is organizing a graduate student intramural sports team. (3) The first meeting of the graduate student book club will take place next week.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Tom LaGatta: (1) The College of Science Graduate Council held its first meeting last week. (2) The first interscience colloquium was held on Tuesday. The next colloquium (on physics) will take place on Oct. 3. Everyone is welcome to attend. (3) Tom asked that representatives send him information about problems encountered by graduate students to help in the drafting of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights.

Aaron Gubi: One faculty member is upset that students leave their pets behind in May. He asked that the GPSC help him get the word out about this issue.

Jim Collins: The web advisory committee is implementing an international gateway page for the UA. Jim asked that representatives encourage their departments to send the committee information for this page.

Elaine Ulrich: Elaine attended the first graduate council meeting with Randi and Paul. A request to add a third graduate student seat on the council has not been approved. The council decided that we didn't have an adequate proposal to put forth a diverse group of representatives. The council also discussed ERE concerns. In the past five years, advisors have had to pay 40% above a GA-ship to cover tuition and health insurance. The council is worried that graduate students are becoming too expensive to hire. The Graduate College wants to collect data showing that this has had a negative impact on students.

Claudia Benavente: Claudia reports that she was taxed 14% on the travel grants she received from the university. She suggested that the GPSC look into this issue.

Josh Scott: Kedar and Josh met with one of the Deans of Engineering, and talked to him about GPSC issues. The Dean seemed interested in helping out with TA workload study, and the Graduate Student Bill of Rights.

Jennifer Cohen: (1) Jenny has started up a College of Pharmacy Graduate Student Council. (2) Jenny held a constituency meeting to talk about concerns within the college. Thirty-eight people showed up from two of the four departments.

Sarah Mosher: Paul and Sarah have collected peer data on health insurance. The UA is tied for last places amongst its peers. They have written up a draft of the report.

Randi Tanglen: Amanda asks that representatives save the date for Nov. 10-11 to help with Student Showcase.

VI. New Business

a. Proposed Policy on Incompletes

Diane Horgan, Associate Dean of the Graduate College, came to explain a proposed policy on incompletes. Currently, if a course is not completed within a year, an I becomes an E on a student's transcript. This affects a student's GPA, which can affect graduate assistantships, visas, etc. The Graduate College receives many petitions to extend these incompletes, retroactively withdraw, etc. To solve this problem, the Graduate College proposes that students be given a year to finish a course. After a year, incompletes will remain an I on the student's transcript. It will not count towards their GPA, but if the student needs credit for the course, they would have to retake it. Any comments about this proposed policy can be e-mailed to Diane.

b. Proposed Amendment to Elections Code

Paul proposes inserting Chapter 10 "The PharmD Student Government" into the GPSC Elections Code. The PharmD Student Government will determine the PharmD Representative to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. Similar elections take place for MBA. Elaine Ulrich motions to approve the change to the Elections Code, Joe VanOpdorp seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

c. Club and POD Funding Approval

Josh Scott proposed initial club funding for "Arizona Anthropologists" \$500, "Latino Medical Student Association" \$425, "Anthropology Graduate Students" \$270, special club funding for "Academy of Student Pharmacists" \$434, and POD funding for "Library Student Organization" \$1500, and "Public Health Student Alliance" \$600. Anne Murdaugh motions to pass budget, Elaine Ulrich seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

d. Representative Project Approval

Claudia handed out a representative proposal to organize a weekly Graduate Student Yoga Class. She proposed 10 sessions be given for \$1000 and 30 mats be purchased for \$487. The sessions will be free to graduate students, and held at a studio on 6th and Euclid. It promotes the GPSC mission by improving the wellness of students, and creates social opportunities for graduate students. Joe VanOpdrop moves to improve \$1000 for 10 sessions out of the representative projects fund, Nadia Silvestry Rodriquez seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

e. Student Health Insurance Situation

Paul, Catherine, and Sarah attended a meeting to discuss the renegotiation of the student health insurance plan with other students, administrators, and health center representatives last week at ASU. Participants were briefed on health insurance, and the topic was opened to discussion. Some discussion points:

- Paul suggested separating graduate and undergraduates in the plan, and suggested including prescriptions and dental coverage. He cited data from the UA survey and the peer survey. There wasn't too much support for prescription drugs amongst the participants.
- There appears to have been some discussions between graduate student representatives at ASU and administrators on the possibility of getting an add-on to the regular plan that would include dental coverage. This is currently a tentative proposal – the upper level ASU administration has not yet approved it. Paul has talked to the UA Provost about including a similar plan for UA graduate assistants.
- Some prescription drugs are available free for low-income people. The GPSC could coordinate with the health center to make this information public to students.

f. SPBAC Grad Enrollment Initiative

Next week, SPBAC will be discussing ways to increase graduate student enrollment. Anne will inform them of the NRC survey, health insurance and stipend concerns. Other comments that you wish to share with the committee can be sent to Anne.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:49pm, Anne Murdaugh made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Josh Scott, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.