

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 5th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Boris Glebov, Sarah Mosher, Randi Tanglen, Paul Thorn, Joshua Scott, Gail Bradford, Aaron Gubi, Anne Murdaugh, Ariel Fisher, Tom LaGatta, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Christina Vasquez, Kathryn Williams, Rob Schumaker, Megan McKee, Nicholas Fernandez, Amanda Brobbel, Laura Gronewold, Shaun Halbert, Kathleen Corcoran, Kedar Dhane

Proxies: Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Elaine Ulrich

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Arizona Collegiate Leadership Conference – Catherine O'Connor told the council about the Arizona Collegiate Leadership Conference. This is a national student run leadership conference that will be held at the UA from Feb. 16-18. Catherine sent around sign-up sheets for people interested in planning, presenting at, or attending the conference. Applications are available online: www.union.arizona.edu/aclc

IV. Reading and approval of minutes – Nick Fernandez motions to pass the 09/21/06 minutes, Christina Vasquez seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

V. Swearing in of New Representatives – Paul introduced the new representatives – Robert Schumaker for the College of Business and Public Administration (non-MBA), and Megan McKee for the College of Pharmacy (PharmD). Aaron Gubi swore in the new representatives.

VI. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) The online tuition survey will be live until 10:00pm Friday. Thus far, 1200 students have filled it out. Preliminary results: Of the funding areas listed in the survey, students indicated that they would like to see tuition money going to need-based financial aid and to tuition remission and health insurance for graduate assistants. Students are narrowly against the current CCIT fee, and strongly against an increase in the fee. Students are in favour of the current library fee, and split in opinion regarding an increase in the fee. 43% of students reported that they already have wireless access. (2) Items under discussion at the last ABOR meeting: Faculty salaries and student enrollment. Currently, the UA is in the 21st percentile for faculty salaries. It would take \$110 million to bring the faculty at the three states universities to the 50th percentile. Enrollment at ASU and NAU has increased by more than 5%, whereas UA enrollment has dropped by a fraction of a percent. (3) President Shelton will be inaugurated on Oct. 26. A breakfast will be held from 7:30-9:00am. Paul would like graduate students to attend. (4) Assistant Dean Velez is heading up a TA taskforce, and is looking for TA's to volunteer to sit on it. (5) Paul bought President Shelton a birthday card. He will hand deliver it tomorrow, after council members have signed it. (6) On the ASA, it appears that action will soon be taken with regards to the Maceo Brown case. The ASA is also looking for a new government relations director, and a new student regent from the UA. The governor will select the regent from three nominees.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Anne requests that you send her details about your constituency meeting. (2) Anne hopes to bring a draft of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights to the next meeting. (3) The blood drive is set to go on Nov. 14-16. The RHA, UAB, and GPSC are coordinating the event together. Locations are set for the N. Ballroom, Cherry pull-out, and PSU. Event coordinators are looking to get 500 donors (Dr. Shelton has already promised to donate blood). Anne is looking for volunteers to help, especially on Nov. 16.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Several GPSC representatives attended the Graduate College diversity reception this afternoon.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – (1) Provost Davis talked frankly about budget cuts at the last Committee of 11 meeting. In order to prevent the UA from going into debt, every department will have to cut 1% for three years. (2) It appears that the Bookstore did not budget for the GPSC. We may need to revise our original budget projections.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) A GPSC social will take place next Friday at Belushe's. (2) First book club meeting took place last week – people are still welcome to attend. This month's book will be "Running with Scissors".

VII. Representative and Director Reports:

Claudia Benavente: (1) Claudia is organizing yoga classes. She is making flyers, organizing expenses, and will contact Risk Management. (2) Claudia is holding her constituency meeting tomorrow and Monday at noon.

Boris Glebov: The Research Policy Committee is advising policy on professional misconduct, conflict of interest, and conflict of commitment. Drafts will go to the Faculty Senate.

Nick Fernandez: SBS will have constituency meeting Oct. 23 at 5:00pm. Dean will attend.

Jim Collins: Joe VanOpdorp has set up a constituency meeting for Oct. 12 at 4:45pm at La Aldea. Jim is organizing a second meeting on Oct. 23 at 3:00pm in Modern Languages 451.

Gail Bradford: (1) The Student Affairs Committee supportive of collaborating with the GPSC. (2) The Global Health Alliance is hosting a cultural diversity fashion show as a fundraiser on October 20.

Catherine Neish: Catherine reported two issues that were brought up at her constituency meeting: (1) One student reported that they had to pay \$135 to turn their thesis into microfilm. Will talk to Diane Horgan about this. (2) Another student expressed concern that the international fee had been raised from \$10 to \$70 for CVIS fee. This fee had been previously subsidized by UA, and is still less than most universities.

Aaron Gubi: (1) Aaron has received a lot of travel grant applications. They will go to judges on Monday. (2) The next GradCat is set to come out in early November. If you're interested in writing an article, please contact Aaron. (3) Aaron held his constituency meeting today.

Amanda Brobbel: Amanda is working on Student Showcase. Applications are supposed to be due tomorrow, but Amanda may extend the deadline for categories with low turn out. Amanda still need judges and volunteers to work at Student Showcase, especially on Nov. 10 (11:00-4:00pm).

VIII. New Business

a. Student Health Insurance Strategy

Paul led a discussion about the student health insurance strategy. The RFP will contain optional dental benefit, contingent on some fraction of grad students obtaining coverage, but it is unlikely that prescription coverage will be included. Paul wants to focus on two strategies to increase the chance that GAs get this benefit. 1. *Demonstrate faculty support.* Paul will meet with department heads who have lots of graduate students. He has already met with the heads of Anthropology and Near Asian Studies. They are very supportive. He has meetings set with the head of chemistry and english, and is waiting to hear from a head in engineering. It remains to be seen whether or not GAs would have to pay some money – ideally no. It costs \$20-30 per student per month. 2. *Draw attention to the issue.* Paul is sending articles and letters to the WildCat. We are also holding a student forum with the Provost and head of Campus Health on Oct. 19 in the Kiva Room, 12:00-1:00pm. Students are encouraged to wear red.

b. GA Contracts and Appointments

Paul informed representatives about the new GA appointments. The current pay period does not match the work period. The administration wants to change this. The GPSC wrote a letter to the Dean of the Grad College last year requesting that they maintain the current system. In early June, the director of Human Resources told Paul that the central administration was planning to recalibrate the pay periods. Paul is concerned because the issue had not gone through normal Shared Governance Committee. The new proposal would start the contract one week before school starts, and end one week after final exams.

c. Representative Project Approval

Kathryn Williams distributed a proposal to sponsor an intramural volleyball league for graduate students. The program would benefit 24-36 participants. Nick Fernandez motions to approve \$260 for the volleyball league, Josh Scott seconds. One against, motion carries.

IX. Call to adjourn – At 7:53pm, Laura Gronewold made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Sarah Mosher, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.