

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 18th 2005

I. Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Paul Thorn

Present: John Laughlin, Elaine Ulrich, Nicholas Amatuzzi, Amanda Brobbel, Randi Tanglen, , Paul Thorn, Anne Murdaugh, Eva Shaw, Jennifer deWinter, Leslie Walker, Jim Collins, Catherine Neish, Claudia Benavente, Sarah Grace, Marni Glick, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Aaron Gubi, Josh Wright, Hrishi Shende, Kathleen Corcoran

Proxies: Luna Iris, Pietro Valsecchi, Tom Dexheimer, Beverly Wilson, Beth Specker

Guests: Levi Hobson

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Amanda Brobbel proposes to table the minutes until certain corrections are made. Paul Thorn seconds; the vote passes unanimously.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Elaine Ulrich – The Wildcat did cover the change (or lack thereof) of the Commencement policy: there will not be a change in the speakers for this year's commencement; there will only be one student speaker. Elaine Ulrich had a meeting with President Likins regarding tuition, but the conversation tended to center on undergraduates; President Likins believed there should be an increase overall for Financial Aid. An increase in graduate tuition and remission are questions that have yet to be fully answered.

External Vice President – Paul Thorn – The Grad Cat is shooting for an early November publication date. The deadline for new material is 10/20/05. Thanks to everyone as the social was a success. Student Life & Outreach has added a social for the end of the term, date and time TBA. History grad students asked Paul Thorn to speak and answer questions about the GPSC for them and the group voiced that they would be in favor of a Rec Center fee, but not a Student Union fee.

Internal Vice President – Jennifer deWinter – Make sure that the forum reminders are getting sent to constituents. Send a summary of your constituency meeting to Jennifer deWinter ASAP. Jennifer deWinter also urges council members to fill out the learning styles questionnaire she sent via the listserv. The election on representation for the Co-chair of the English Grad Union could benefit the GPSC as a source of support.

Treasurer – Nicholas Amatuzzi – Had a meeting with Sherry Jacobs and the budget looks good. We have many funding requests for the next deadline. Summer stipends should be sent out shortly.

Secretary – John Laughlin – Reminds council members not to take their name plaques home with them.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Claudia Benavente: Reports that her constituency has voiced concern with ASUA representation as of late. Elaine Ulrich explains the relationship between ASUA and the GPSC.

Eva Shaw: The Diversity Coalition – Currently, tuition reimbursement for “domestic partners” covers only same sex couples. Other domestic partner relationships are not covered. There is an attempt to add funds to make this possible starting next Fall.

Amanda Brobbel: Urges members to sign up for the 2-day span of Showcase (11/4/05-11/5/05). We were awarded a Gateway Grant that added an additional \$12K and a special thanks to Paul Thorn who helped draft the application. The latest social cost around \$260.00.

VI. New Business:

a. Elections Code Addendum

Any person seeking to be an “alternate” member of the GPSC would be held to submit the same required material as any elected GPSC representative.

Paul Thorn moves to pass the addendum, Amanda Brobbel seconds. The vote carries unanimously.

Paul Thorn makes a motion to add the ratification of Josh Wright as an alternate rep for the GPSC to this meeting’s New Business.

Amanda Brobbel seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

b. Endorsement of the Global Fund

There was a lot of discussion as to whether the council could endorse such a cause as it did not directly relate to Graduate students. Currently, there are no systems in place barring the GPSC from advocating for such causes. Maria Teresa Velez gave strong caution to Elaine Ulrich and Amanda Brobbel not start down the path of supporting such causes. Eva Shaw made a motion for the GPSC to give its official support of the Global Fund providing the GPSC sets a policy in place within the next 6 weeks regarding its future practice in such matters. Jim Collins seconds. The vote was 11-4 and carried.

c. Non-Degree Student Enrollment Policy

The current policy was apparently created due to a single “problem” student; note this applies to all departments. The policy is used for “disruptive students” or those not performing and could adversely affect the performance of others. The problem is that the policy does not contain a necessary portion as to why a professor could apply the policy to students. It was agreed that Jim Collins would draft a letter for the council to look at in the next meeting.

VII. Old Business:

a. Club Funding

Nick Amatuzzi motions to approve funding for Anthropology Graduate Students at the University of Arizona (AGUA). Elaine Ulrich seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

b. Student Health Insurance (Discussion Item)

Randi Tanglen (presenting). Overall, her research found that U of A gets a fair value in relation to other institutions of comparable size. Important patterns to watch for included:

8 out of 15 institutions surveyed had a prescription drug program

Separate premiums for graduate and/or international students. Graduate students may have higher premiums b/c there are many women of childbearing (women ages 25-30).

Full coverage of premium becoming partial coverage, with the student paying a certain percentage of the premium (UVA and U of Iowa)

Premium coverage counted as a taxable benefit or income (UVA)

Premium coverage based on hiring department

Officers reported that the United Health Allies program does not currently work

c. At-Large Elections of GPSC President and External Vice President

Paul Thorn pointed out the pros and cons of making such a change to current GPSC practice:

1. Perhaps bias for smaller departments: the size of the department v. the size of the college
2. Elections more than likely will be contested
3. Currently, reps are probably better judges for candidates, however reps could campaign for people
4. At-Large Elections would make the voting structure more transparent
5. There would more than likely be a greater voter turnout and publicity for the GPSC
6. There would be an increase in grad student involvement in GPSC
7. There would be a larger candidate pool
8. Candidates would be forced to campaign for themselves
9. The representative would be regarded with greater legitimacy, representing the grad student body
10. There would be structure in the mandate for president
11. There would be an increased overall profile

12. There would be an increase in involvement & profile

Amada Brobbel makes a motion to change the GPSC elections for the President and External affairs Vice President to At-Large. John Laughlin seconds.

Discussion: For the most part, there was a general discomfort expressed by the council in voting at this time. In addition, currently, Law and Med students could still run in the proposed At-Large elections.

Amanda Brobbel withdraws her motion. John Laughlin agrees.

The item will be added to next meeting's agenda.

d. Graduate Student Financial Aid

Jennifer deWinter motions to move item "d" to next meeting. Kathleen Corcoran seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

e. Ratification of Josh Wright

Josh Wright fulfilled the new requirements as set forth in the elections code for an alternate rep to the GPSC. Amanda Brobbel motions to ratify Josh Wright as an alternate rep to the GPSC, Nick Amatuzzi seconds. Motion carries unanimously and Josh Wright is sworn in.

VIII. Call to adjourn – At 7:56pm, Randi Tanglen made a call to adjourn, the motion was seconded by John Laughlin, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by John Laughlin