

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 19th 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, Anne Murdaugh, Joe VanOpdorp, Elaine Ulrich, Tom LaGatta, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Jennifer Cohen, Shaun Halbert, Laura Gronewold, Kedar Dhane, Rob Schumaker, Erin Vincent

Proxies: Kathleen Corcoran, Megan McKee

II. Calls to the audience: ASUA Senator Steven Gerner (sgerner@u.arizona.edu) is looking for an instructional TA to sit on a textbook committee. The committee meets every other Wed. 11-12 in the Bookstore conference room.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 10/05/06 minutes, Boris Glebov seconds, the motion carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) Anne and Paul met with President Shelton to discuss the results of the tuition survey. Graduate students are concerned about the technology fee. Paul will talk to Sally Jackson from CCIT about the proposed increase to the fee. (2) A complex state-wide tuition proposal is being put forth by students from all three Arizona universities. Paul thinks it is unlikely to be accepted. (3) A student health insurance forum was held today. Approximately 50 people attended, including a Wildcat reporter and photographer. There were good questions and discussion at the forum. (4) Paul has talked to several department heads about improving graduate student health insurance. Some are fully supportive. Others are cautiously supportive, but concerned about the increasing cost to employ graduate students. (5) The change in graduate student pay periods was confirmed on June 5. It will go into affect next fall. The rules regarding how much graduate students can work will not change. Paul hopes to see these rules written down, so that students cannot be exploited in the future. (6) Amanda has received 130 applicants for Student Showcase (a record number!). If you are interested in volunteering for Student Showcase, please contact Amanda. (7) Paul is working to improve the GPSC offices. There are old computers available for anyone who wants them.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Anne has heard from almost everyone about their constituency meeting. Send her details if you haven't done so yet. (2) The Administrative and Constituency Affairs committee is still working on a draft of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights. (3) Planning for the blood drive is going well. Unfortunately, President Shelton cannot donate blood. Sign-ups for the blood drive are ready to go. Talk to Anne if you would like to sign up.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Randi attended a meeting of the Student Affairs Policy Committee (a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate). The committee is concerned about the ASUA/GPSC relationship. Randi prepared a presentation outlining the issue, and answered their questions. The ASUA representative did not show up to the meeting.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Nothing to report.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) The GPSC is sponsoring several upcoming social events: The first graduate league volleyball game will be held Sunday, Oct. 22, the next book club meeting will be held next Tuesday, Oct. 24, a movie night is scheduled for next Thursday, Oct. 26, and the first yoga classes will occur next Thursday and Friday (Oct. 26 and 27). People are still welcome to join the book club. Volleyball and yoga are filled to capacity.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Jenny Cohen: (1) Jenny met with the heads of the departments and the associate dean of pharmacy. They discussed various issues, including dental coverage for graduate students. The heads and the dean are worried about the costs. (2) Jenny attended a meeting of the Association for Women Faculty. They met with President Shelton, and discussed issues relevant to men and women, including decreasing the amount of bureaucracy.

Joe VanOpdorp: (1) Joe attended a meeting of the Academic Personnel Policy Committee. They are working to tighten up procedures and policies so that faculty are protected from grievances. (2) Joe held a constituency meeting last Thursday. Jim will hold a second constituency meeting next Monday.

Tom LaGatta: The third interscience colloquium was held this Tuesday. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Claudia Benavente: (1) Claudia held two constituency meetings – one at the main campus and one at health science. Forty-five people came. One issue that came up is that IDPs don't belong to any college, and therefore are not eligible for TA-ship or scholarships in those colleges. (2) Claudia is in the process of organizing the contract for the yoga classes. She hopes this will be done by next week. She received e-mails from 140 interested students.

Kedar Dhane: Kedar attended the Campus Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. They are looking to increase the rec center fee because the prices for the expansion have changed. They are also planning to move the soccer field closer to campus, and would like to renovate the tennis courts. Students would have to vote to approve a new fee. They will hold a general meeting on Nov. 1 or 2 in the Student Union to discuss the plans.

Shaun Halbert: Shaun met with the associate dean and head of the MBA program. They were not familiar with the GPSC, so Shaun told them about the issues we are concerned about.

Gail Bradford: Gail attended the Diversity Coalition meeting today. President Shelton was at the meeting, and stated that he wanted to focus on a small number of areas, including health insurance.

VI. New Business

a. Club and POD Funding

Josh Scott proposed initial club funding for "Student Affiliates of School Psychology" \$360, "NSSLHA" \$370, and "Net Impact" \$275, special club funding for "Phi Lambda Sigma" \$1018, and "Net Impact" \$1800, and POD funding for "Public Health Student Alliance" \$600, "Language Reading and Culture" \$1475, "School of Natural Resources" \$1260, "Group on Social Aspects of Biotechnology" \$669, and "College of Public Health" \$316. Joe VanOpdorp motions to pass budget, Kedar Dhane seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Josh also noted that he is working on making a new form for club funding, and going to an electronic system for POD funding.

b. Tuition Survey Report

The response to the tuition survey was very high. At 1451 respondents, it broke the previous record for participation. Of the participants, 60.7% described themselves as GAs. Results of the survey: the top funding priorities for graduate students are need-based financial aid, funding for TA/RA remission, and health insurance benefits for TA/RAs. Students are slightly opposed to the current technology fee, and strongly opposed to an increase in the fee. Students are in favour of the current library fee, and split in opinion regarding an increase in the fee. Paul showed the survey results to President Shelton, and sent a press release to the Wildcat.

c. Health Insurance Benefits for non-GAs

Anne Murdaugh motions to table this item, Laura Gronewold seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

d. CCIT Tech Fee Presentation

Sally Jackson, Bob Lancaster, Michele Norin, and Ken Boynton from CCIT came to discuss the technology fee with the council. This year's fee will be used to install wireless on campus. To date, 15 different buildings are active with UA Wireless, and 11 more will be active in the next few weeks. In the first year, a total of 4.5 million square feet will be covered (45% of buildings). The focus is on equipping large common areas and classrooms with wireless. It will also be used to predict CatTran schedules, and provide information about specific buildings. Computers must have anti-virus to get on the network – the computer will verify this in an invisible way. A complete roll-out of the wireless is expected in four years. In the future, \$800,000 of the fee will be used for maintenance, with the remainder used for other technology improvements. Several representatives expressed concern about the lack of specific information on how this money will be spent. Sally Jackson said she could create a student advisory board so that students could provide input on how the fees will be spent. For an up to date map of active wireless on campus, visit www.uawifi.arizona.edu.

VII. Call to adjourn – At 7:51pm, Anne Murdaugh made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Josh Scott, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.