

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006

## I. Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by Randi Tanglen

**Present:** Catherine Neish, Boris Glebov, Sarah Mosher, Randi Tanglen, Nadia Silvestry Rodriguez, Paul Thorn, Gail Bradford, Aaron Gubi, Anne Murdaugh, Elaine Ulrich, Ariel Fisher, Jim Collins, Claudia Benavente, Kathryn Williams, Shaun Halbert, Amanda Brobbel, Laura Gronewold, Nicholas Fernandez, Erin Vincent

**Proxies:** Kathleen Corcoran, Christina Vasquez, Tom LaGatta, Jennifer Cohen, Megan McKee

## II. Calls to the audience: None.

**III. Reading and approval of minutes** – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 10/19/06 minutes, Elaine Ulrich seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

## IV. Officer Reports:

**President** – Paul Thorn – (1) Paul purchased a card and a gift for President Shelton on the occasion of his inauguration. He asked representatives to make a \$2-3 contribution towards the gift. (2) There will be a town hall meeting about the campus recreation expansion in the Tucson Room of the SUMC tonight from 7:00-9:00pm. Paul encourages representatives to attend this meeting after our meeting. (3) Paul updated representatives on the tuition changes expected next year. In the past, tuition was uniform across all state universities for residents and non-residents. In the years since 2003, it has increased by 49%, then 13%, then 18%. If President Shelton's tuition proposal is accepted, the increase for 2007-2008 will not be too large. (4) ABOR policy dictates that students be notified about changes in program fees. Paul reports that ABOR policy has been followed in the School of Information, Resources, and Library Sciences, but not in the Master of Public Administration program. (5) Based on the feedback from the tuition survey, Paul will write a statement about the funding priorities of graduate and professional students. The tuition setting consultation process has been pushed back to Nov. 20. Students, parents, and community members will have the opportunity to address the reagents about the upcoming changes in tuition then. (6) Paul is speaking to the Dean of Students about the possibility for the GPSC to employ a non-student support person. The dean is supportive of this idea. The GPSC could cover \$15,000 of the cost of this employee. This employee could start as soon as Fall 2007. (7) Paul congratulates Anne for organizing a great blood drive.

**Vice President** – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Anne reports that Dr. Shelton stressed the need for better university-community relations in his inaugural speech. (2) Anne passed out flyers to advertise the blood drive. She also has a sign up sheet for anyone interested in donating. The Red Cross has taken care of all publication and t-shirts costs. Anne would like to try this again in the spring. (3) Steven Gerner (sgerner@u.arizona.edu) of the ASUA is still looking for a TA to sign up for the textbook committee.

**Assembly Chairperson** – Randi Tanglen – Randi's internal committee is working to set up a GA workload survey. She will present the initial results to the council soon.

**Treasurer** – Joshua Scott – Not present. Paul reports for Josh that the GPSC is getting a p-card so that we can make purchases without needing to request a check.

**Secretary** – Catherine Neish – (1) The last movie night went well. There was good attendance, and people seemed to enjoy the event. (2) Catherine asked for a volunteer to take minutes at the next meeting, as she will be out of town. Aaron volunteered.

## V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: (1) Amanda needs help stuffing packets for Student Showcase on Thursday, November 9 at 4:00pm. She also needs more volunteers for Saturday. Amanda passed out flyers to advertise Student Showcase. She requests that representatives put these in places where both students and faculty can see. (2) If you're interested in joining the Association for Women Faculty, you can get a membership form from Amanda.

Aaron Gubi: (1) The GradCat is going to the printers soon. (2) The latest round of travel grants is almost ready for distribution.

Sarah Mosher: Sarah passed out a hand-out concerning prescription assistance programs. She would like to post this information on the website for the use of all graduate students. Sarah will talk about this issue in more depth in a future meeting. Please direct any questions to her.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **a. Insurance Benefits for Non-GAs**

Tabled until next meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Presentation from President Shelton**

President Shelton visited our meeting to discuss issues of concern to graduate students. Paul welcomed him and congratulated him on his inauguration with a gift of margarita glasses. GPSC representatives introduced themselves to the president, and then President Shelton made a short statement. He said that he appreciates our commitment to the university, and wants to work together with us to support graduate students in a way befitting their roll in the university. He wants to continue to work towards tuition remission, and is in early discussions about health benefits. He wants the UA to be a welcoming, hospitable university for graduate students. However, he noted that with limited resources, bureaucracy, etc., this could be complicated to put into practice. President Shelton then asked representatives to voice their ideas and concerns. Amanda told him about the GA workload survey. President Shelton suggested using resources in institutional research to help draft the survey. Paul asked for President Shelton's help in compiling data on GA stipends. Elaine voiced her concerns about decreasing graduate student enrollment, and talked about a university climate that she feels is not welcoming to graduate students. Many services are not available to graduate students (ex. tour of the campus). President Shelton asked us to compile a list of services not available to graduate students. Several representatives also presented concerns about the representation of students at the UA. President Shelton said he would look into how different people on campus deal with the GPSC, and how financing for the GPSC works.

### **b. CCIT Tech Fee Discussion**

A technology fee was created last year - \$50/year for CCIT, and \$15/year for the libraries. A proposal to increase this fee will happen later this month. In our recent survey, 84.5% of graduate and professional students indicated that they did not want to pay for an increased CCIT technology fee. The fee would not be covered by tuition remission or scholarships, nor would not be prorated based on credit hours. Paul has advocated to President Shelton to oppose the fee. He also met with Sally Jackson last Friday to talk about the fee. She indicated that if she were to get \$10 or \$20 instead of \$50, she would implement the wireless slower than the current plan. A four-year \$50 sunsetted fee would also be enough to get a loan to implement the wireless. Sally told Paul that she would organize a student advisory committee to get input on how to spend the fee. Representatives expressed concerns about the fee. Some were concerned that CCIT was not consulting with students about how the money will get spent, and would like more accountability. Others thought it was unfair that the technology burden fell so heavily on students, and thought it would be prudent for CCIT to look for supplementary funding, perhaps from grants. The representatives were supportive of technology, but concerned with the administration of the fee. Paul will formulate a proposal for the regents that advocates for a smaller fee.

**VIII. Call to adjourn** – At 7:59pm, Laura Gronewold made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ariel Fisher, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish.