

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Tom LaGatta, Shaun Halbert, Aaron Gubi, Joshua Scott, Rob Schumaker, Kedar Dhane, Erin Vincent, Jennifer Cohen, Randi Tanglen, Kathryn Williams, Christina Vasquez, Nick Fernandez, Ariel Fisher, Kathleen Corcoran, Gail Bradford, Laura Gronewold, Sarah Mosher, Jim Collins, Paul Thorn, Joe VanOpdorp, Elaine Ulrich, Boris Glebov

Proxies: Claudia Benavente, Anne Murdaugh, Catherine Neish, Megan McKee

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 11/02/06 minutes. Motion is seconded by Nick Fernandez, and carries with one abstention.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) Student Showcase turned out well this year. It emphasized the importance of having a full-time staff member, as the Events Director spent 137 hours in the 3 weeks leading up to Showcase. (2) Paul shared the tuition proposal put forth by President Shelton. A lack of student consultation seems to have resulted in the removal of a program fee request from the Eller College. (3) Paul discussed the need for an increase in need-based aid for graduate students, and the need for an increase in funding for graduate assistants. (4) Paul is working with the ASUA president on a joint tuition and fee proposal for the 2007/2008 academic year. (5) On Monday, November 20, there will be an ABOR tuition hearing held at sites throughout the state. At the UA, the site will be Harvill 211 at 6:00 pm. (6) ABOR will set tuition at their meeting on Friday Nov. 30 at the UA campus. Further information will be forthcoming. (7) The pay period will change from 10 months to 9 months. The Graduate College will be communicating the new dates for pay periods in the near future. Paul shared a draft of the communication with the council members. (8) A draft version of the Request for Proposals for the student health insurance plan has been sent out to the health insurance advisory committee. Paul will meet with the Associate Director of Campus Health to discuss how to best improve health benefits. (9) The ASA is in the process of selecting a new director. 28 candidates applied; 5 made the final cut, and Serena Unrein was selected as director. Former ASA director who misappropriated ~\$200,000 was sentenced to prison. (10) 15% of all tuition collected is put into a set aside fund, and is used for need based aid. Graduate students have traditionally received about 5% of the total they put into tuition. Last year, the Graduate College diverted the money to a diversity fellowships program. The graduate college only used about \$500,000 of that money, and returned the remainder to the financial aid office. Financial Aid office has been holding the money, potentially for use in the spring semester. Paul will discuss the situation with the Financial Aid office and the Graduate College. (10) Jeanne Kleespie from the EEO/Affirmative Action office wants a GPSC representative on its Transgender Project. (11) We need two volunteers to man a table at the International Student Orientation on January 2. (12) There will be a GPSC Barbecue on Sunday, November 19.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – Anne is away in Seattle at the National Graduate & Professional Student Conference.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – Deferred until new business.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – Deferred until new business.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – Catherine is away in Seattle at the National Graduate & Professional Student Conference.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Aaron Gubi: The next round of Travel Grants are due December 1. Judges are needed.

Elaine Ulrich: (1) Congratulated Anne Murdaugh for the successful organization of the Red Cross blood drive. (2) Reported on new policies implemented by the ASUA. The ASUA has created a new representative body, controlled and appointed entirely by the ASUA president. Elaine expressed concern about the lack of representative oversight in this body. She feels that it is detrimental to the interests of the undergraduate student body.

Boris Glebov: The SUMC alleged that GPSC member(s) taped flyers onto SUMC walls during the Blood Drive. Neither undergraduate or graduate students are permitted to tape anything onto any SUMC wall without explicit permission from an SUMC director

Sarah Mosher: Sarah passed out further information on health insurance for graduate students. She will be working to create a comprehensive section on the GPSC webpage with health care options available for graduate students within the local community.

Jim Collins: Discussed a policy that could bar non-matriculated graduate students at the discretion of the academic department. The policy was altered; now, all non-matriculated students can be barred from the entire university. Requested further discussion of this issue at the next meeting

VI. Old Business

a. Student Health Insurance

Paul discussed health insurance concerns for graduate students without assistantships, and the ways that the GPSC could assist. Some initial ideas: (1) Compile information on affordable options and alternatives, of the sort underway by Sarah, and place in the GradCat and on the GPSC website. (2) Have health insurance be provided as a form of merit or need-based financial aid. Ariel Fisher expressed her support for the need-based aid, but did not agree with the merit-based option. Paul requested that individuals with any other ideas contact him.

VII. New Business

a. GA Workload Survey

Randi reviewed the GA workload survey with GPSC members, and received oral and written feedback.

b. Club and POD Funding

Josh Scott proposed initial club funding for “Anthropology Graduate Students” \$442.27, “Latin American Studies Students” \$438.98, “Plant Sciences Graduate Student Club” \$150.00, “Students of Arizona Health Law” \$395.00, “U of A Student National Association of Teachers of Singing” \$379.00, special club funding for “International Business Working Group” \$415.00, “U of A Student National Association of Teachers of Singing” \$404.00, and POD funding for “American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society” \$1500.00. The motion carried. Concerns were expressed about continued GPSC funding of groups aligned under ASUA, such as clubs in the College of Law and Medicine. It was pointed out that a central tenet of the GPSC mission is to academic, economic, and social aims of all UA graduate and professional students. Hence, it was decided that the GPSC would continue to fund law and med student clubs.

VIII. Call to adjourn – At 7:44pm, Jim Collins made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Nick Fernandez, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Gubi