

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA<sup>®</sup>

## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 23 November 2004

#### I. Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Thomas Kinney

**Present:** Paul Thorn, James Eddy, Amanda Brobbel, Marc Barrow, Kevin Bates, Kevin Lichtenthal, Stephanie Golisch, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, Kale Klumphyan, Tom Dexheimer, Jani Radebaugh, Kristina Betts, Megan Nielsen, Jessica Lohff, Jennifer deWinter, Thomas Kinney, Kathleen Corcoran, and Kazungu Maitaria.

**Proxies:** Rachel Neal and Craig Quintana.

#### II. Calls to the audience: No Response.

#### III. Reading and approval of minutes – Tabled until the next meeting.

#### IV. Officer Reports:

**President** - Amanda Brobbel – Amanda reported that her recent trip to the NAGPS conference in Pittsburgh was very productive. She thinks that it would good for us to discuss and endorse the NAGPS legislative platform early in 2005. An important component of the platform is support for HR3412, the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act, which is in regard to the tax-exempt status of graduate scholarships, and the tax-deductability of student loan interest. Amanda thanked Jani and Kathleen for attending and speaking at the recent forum on the role of medical students in the GPSC.

**External Vice President** - James Eddy – James provided an update on his participation on the Student Stakeholders Group. The group has been discussing issues of fiscal viability, issues of accessibility to higher education for all Arizonans, and the likelihood that the varied proposals will foster a diverse student body. James will pass on the minutes of the last meeting to the GPSC listserv.

**Internal Vice President** - Thomas Kinney – Thomas requested that reps submit the contact data, that they have asked to gather, by December 1st. Thomas and James are planning to use this contact data to help organize constituency meetings in the early spring (a ‘constituency kickoff’). Thomas gave a brief update on the progress of the Committee of Eleven on the Patriot Act Resolution. Thomas passed around a copy of the resolution. Thomas requested feedback. Thomas iterated his concerns regarding recent discussion of taking the UA in the direction of the ‘enterprise model’ of funding faculty. On a related topic, Thomas mentioned that the administration has been proposing to take a bigger percentage of the ‘indirect cost returns’ that the university appropriates from faculty research grants. The faculty does not like this idea. There may be a possibility for GPSC to request a small percentage of this money to be directed to graduate student research grants.

**Treasurer** - Paul Thorn – Paul postponed giving a report on GPSC finances until later in the evening, when some new GPSC funding guidelines will be discussed and voted on. Paul mentioned that he had met, by accident, with the President of ASUAS, and that she had proposed appointing Amanda to be a Board member of the ASA.

**Questions on Officer Reports** – None.

#### V. Representative and Administrative Director Reports:

-Kristina and then Stephanie informed the council that they would be resigning from the GPSC at the end of the semester.

-James announced that there would be a forum on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm to discuss the current candidate to be Dean of the Eller College.

-Jessica relayed a concern of many of her constituents about the possibility of a delay in the issue of stipends in the spring. Amanda said that she would check into this with Dorian Vorhees at the Graduate College, but Amanda suspects that the cause of the delay may originate at the department level.

#### VI. New Business:

- A. Discussion of La Aldea with Jim Van Arsdale** – Jim proposed that he skip-over discussing the intricate financial details of the Res Life acquisition of La Aldea. Jim stated that Res Life will take over management of La Aldea on January 5, 2005. Jim addressed some concerns (raised by James) over whether the present management would ‘slack off’, given the impending change over. Marc wished to know whether any of the present La Aldea staff would be kept on. Jim said that state law required that any positions advertised by Res Life be open to anyone. In that case, Marc wished to have assurance that any retained staff be open to reconsidering past policies that they had adopted under the former management. Jim stated that any retained staff would be working under Res Life policies, and not the policies of the former management. However, Jim was also very clear that Res Life would not consider compensating present La Aldea residents for harms brought about by the former management. We have heard that Res Life plans to furnish La Aldea units. Marc expressed that providing an enclosure to the grounds would be preferable to furnishing the units. Jim agreed to look into the possibility of providing an enclosure. He also said the Res Life would be flexible in its plans to furnish La Aldea units. Jim also stated that he would like to have a La Aldea staff member visit the GPSC regularly to keep us updated on developments. Jennifer asked whether Res Life planned to market La Aldea as an apartment block or as a dorm (since she believes that the latter will not be attractive to grads)? Jim stated that Res Life would try to fill the complex as best they could, that they would try to serve grads as best they could, but that it was not the intention of Res Life to subsidize La Aldea.—The complex is supposed to run without making or losing money. Jennifer next asked whether the complex would be open to the partners of students. Jim stated that Res Life was working on this issue. Jim Collin recommended that Res Life set-up an e-mail address, and a FAQ page, regarding La Aldea. Jim said that Res Life would do this. Marc asked whether Res Life has plans to improve the parking situation at La Aldea. Jim stated that residents may rent spaces on university lots, and that Res Life could not change the situation. Amanda suggested that most La Aldea residents may be car-free, and asked whether Res Life would consider running a shuttle service to take residents to buy groceries. Jim said that he would consider this proposal. Marc asked whether a computer would be installed in the La Aldea ‘computer room’. Jim said that this would happen, if that was what residents wanted to do with the space in question. Thomas asked whether there was a commitment to make La Aldea graduate student only. Jim stated that there was a commitment to provide housing for graduates, but that Res Life was not committed to making La Aldea grad only, if this would mean losing money. Jim said that there are plans to phase out undergraduates, and to try to make sure that the undergrads in La Aldea were mature ones. Jim concluded the discussion by saying that he would like to set up a grad student focus group on La Aldea, in January.
- B. Proposed Amendment to Elections Code (Mid-Term Vacancies)** – A proposed Elections Code addendum that would permit for mid-term elections for GPSC rep positions was circulated. James expressed a concern for the way that the proposed amendment may appear to outsiders, since it stated that whether a mid-term election would be held was at the discretion of the council. A consensus formed that it would be preferable to simply vote to allow a mid-term elections for the present vacancy in Medicine, and the upcoming vacancies in Law and Fine Arts (rather than pass the amendment). Jani made a motion to hold these elections according to the text of the proposed bylaw, and James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention. The conditions were:
- A. Upon a vote of the majority of the council, a mid-year election may be held to fill a vacated representative position for which there are no alternates.
  - B. The conduct of the election will be subject to all relevant GPSC governing documents.
  - C. In accordance with article VII of the GPSC constitution, the council’s vote to hold a mid-year election will be considered a positive vote of confirmation for whoever is elected by the mid-year election process.
  - D. Any representative seat which is filled through a mid-term election will be opened for a new election during the annual GPSC elections.
- C. Proposed Amendment to Bylaws (POD and Club Funding)** – A statement of describing GPSC funding requests and appropriations for the fall, 2004, was circulated. Paul stated that this fall we funded almost twice as much as for the last academic year. Amanda expressed thanks to the vigorous way that our reps were putting the word out about GPSC funding opportunities. We funded approximately 87% of the dollar value of all requests. Last year we funded 100% of the dollar value of all requests.
- A proposed Bylaw addendum that would change a number of GPSC funding policies was circulated. The addendum:

## **“Article X - Funding Guidelines**

### **Section 1 – POD Grants**

- A. The maximum award for a POD grant request will be \$1,500.
- B. POD grant applications must include a letter of recommendation from a UA faculty member.

### **Section 2 – Club Funding**

- A. The maximum award for an initial club funding request will be \$200.
- B. The maximum award for a special club funding request will be \$1,000.
- C. Any recognized club with a membership of at least 50% post-baccalaureates may apply for GPSC club funding provided that the club has not received ASUA club funding during the present academic year, and is not presently applying for ASUA club funding. (Clubs who participate in Spring Fling are still eligible for GPSC club funding.)”

Paul explained that the new guidelines were intended to (1) generate more competition among funding applicants, (2) get a better measure for unmet needs, and (3) open up the possibility (with section 2, C) for graduate clubs to work within the ASUA system. Nadia expressed some concern that funding applicants sometimes overestimate their expenses, and that raising the caps might exacerbate this problem. Paul agreed that applicants often overestimate their expenses, and said that we would have to be careful not to fully fund requests, when applicants overestimate their expenses. Paul also stated that raising the caps did not automatically mean that we would have to start funding all requests for large amounts.

James made a motion to accept the addendum, Kale seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- D. Notice for Proposed Amendment to the Constitution (Specifying Units)** – A proposed Constitutional amendment was circulated. The proposed amendment will be discussed and possibly voted upon at our next meeting.

- VII. Call to adjourn** – At 8:00, Thomas made a call to adjourn, and the motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn