

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 7 December 2004

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

**Present:** Paul Thorn, James Eddy, Amanda Brobbel, Kevin Bates, Kevin Lichtenthal, Stephanie Golisch, Kale Klumphyan, Tom Dexheimer, Jani Radebaugh, Kristina Betts, Megan Nielsen, Jennifer DeWinter, Thomas Kinney, Kathleen Corcoran, Hung Tran, Pietro Valsecchi, Elaine Ulrich, Jim Collins, and Kazungu Maitaria.

**Proxies:** Marc Barrow, Nadia Sylvestry Rodriguez, Jessica Lohff, and Craig Quintana.

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

**III. Reading and approval of minutes** – Jani moved to approve the minutes for November 9<sup>th</sup>. Pietro seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously. Jani moved to approve the minutes for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Kevin Lichtenthal seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### IV. Officer Reports:

**President** - Amanda Brobbel – Amanda announced the creation of Kidz Korner. This is a new play area for children on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Student Union. The space is adjacent to a convenient study area. Amanda encouraged reps to spread the word about the existence of Kidz Korner, since use of the area may be used to assess the need of further programs for students with children. For example, various on campus groups have been discussing the creation of an on-campus daycare facility for infants, ages 6 weeks to one year. In the spring, Babycats will be holding a forum to discuss the best way to use our energy in lobbying for childcare. Amanda also reported that GPSC administrative director, Danielle Bennett, is working with Dave Wietecha, from Residence Life to set up a social event at La Aldea, which will be paid for by Residence Life. Amanda announced that the Finance Enrollment Committee is discussing a 5% to 8% across the board tuition increase.

**External Vice President** - James Eddy – James reported on the last meeting of the faculty senate. James reported on the creation of the Public Art Committee, which will contain representatives from ASUA, GPSC, and the Faculty Senate.

**Internal Vice President** - Thomas Kinney: Due to lack of quorum, there was no vote on the Patriot Act Resolution. A vote by e-mail will probably be held. There was more discussion of a new levy of *indirect cost returns* by the central administration. Faculty members are still against this proposal that is being promoted by Likins and Provost Davis. Thomas iterated some concerns regarding the UA moving in the direction of the 'enterprise model' of research funding. Thomas gave an update on his preparations for GPSC general elections. Applications will be due April 1, and voting will begin April 11.

**Treasurer** - Paul Thorn – Paul announced that there had been virtually no change in GPSC balances since the last meeting. Paul mentioned some possible improvements to this year's GPSA week, including having colored T-shirts, and having a band play at the Barbeque on the Mall. Paul and James will work to see whether the Alumni Association will contribute. Paul asked for volunteers to help with the interdisciplinary medical liability conference that is being planned for the spring. Paul asked any reps who wished to waive their stipends to contact him.

**Questions on Officer Reports** – None.

**V. Representative and Director Reports:** Jani expressed concern that the newly elected, and more conservative legislature, may make the funding situation for UA more difficult. Amanda has heard some discussion of this issue, and others have suggested that the new legislature may be cooperative provided that a more proactive effort is made on the part of top administrators at the UA.

### VI. New Business:

**A. Academic Dishonesty Policy Discussion (with Alexis Hernandez)** – Alexis Hernandez, Associate Dean of Students, gave a presentation of some proposed modifications to UA policies regarding academic dishonesty. The present protocol is as follows: (1) the faculty member who has accused a student of academic dishonesty gives the respective student a hearing, and then determines a sanction, (2) a student who disagrees with the sanction may bring their concerns to the governing department head, who may choose to council the respective faculty member to change the sanction, (3) if the student is not satisfied at that point s/he may request a hearing with the University Hearing Board. (4) Finally, it is possible to appeal the decision of the University Hearing Board to the Provost.

The proposed protocol is as follows: (1) same as before, (2) a student who disagrees with the sanction may bring their concerns to the governing Dean. The recommendation of the Dean is final so long as the sanction does not involve

notation on the transcript or suspension. (3) If the student is not satisfied with the sanction of the Dean, and the sanction includes suspension or notation on the transcript, the student may request a hearing with the University Hearing Board. (4) Same as before.

In the case of multiple violations (on the proposed policy), a student's home college will be notified, and the Dean of the college will have the discretion to impose additional sanctions. The proposed policy will also allow for the immediate removal, by the governing college dean, of a student who is on a clinical rotation, provided the alleged dishonesty is relevant. In the case of immediate removal, the decision may be appealed to the Provost, immediately.

Dean Hernandez stated that the proposed policy had several advantages: (i) It incorporates a procedure for increased sanctions for multiple violations. (ii) It involves college deans. (iii) It has a more expeditious time-line for resolving cases. The GPSC reps had a number of questions for Dean Hernandez...

Jim: What if a sanction of failure in a course results in a decrease in GPA which results in suspension?

Alexis: One failing grade is not sufficient to reduce a GPA to such a degree that suspension results. Only a track record of bad grades combined with a sanction of failure could result in suspension. (Jim was not completely satisfied with this response.)

Kale: Since the Law School has its own policies for academic dishonesty, what would be the procedure for a business student who is accused of dishonesty in a law class or a law student who is accused of dishonesty in a business class? (Alexis was not sure what would happen in such cases.)

Kathleen: Do people have to pay again to take a class or participate in a clinical in a case where a person's studies are disrupted, but the student is eventually absolved of charges of academic dishonesty?

Alexis: There are no official policies regarding such matters. However, it often turns out that certain fees are waived in such cases.

The GPSC reps had a short discussion after Dean Hernandez left...

Amanda and Kale agreed that it would be good to expedite the process by which charges of academic dishonesty are handled.

Amanda also agreed with involving the deans, as an alternative to non-binding recommendations by department heads.

This is an improvement, since the deans are more remote from faculty.

Jim proposed that we request that the policy be modified to treat cases where a failure would result in suspension the same as cases where a sanction of suspension is given.

The council voted unanimously to table discussion of the proposed academic policy to a later meeting.

**B. Healthcare Plan Issues** – The majority of UA grad/professionals do not receive the AzBOR health plan through an RA or TA-ship. Amanda called for volunteers to help circulate material regarding alternatives, prior to the beginning of the spring semester.

**C. Constitution Amendments** – Paul summarized the content of two proposed amendments to the GPSC constitution. The amendment to Article II would recognize the College of Management (MBA) and the College of Medicine (MD) as separate constituencies. The amendment to Article IV would mandate mid-term elections in the case of vacant rep positions. The amendment would also change the process of filling a position in the case where there are no candidates for a special election. In that case, an ongoing advertisement would be placed on the GPSC website for a new rep from the respective constituent unit.

There were several friendly amendments to the proposed constitutional amendment regarding Article II, section 2 of the constitution. Thomas motioned and Jen seconded the proposed amendment. The amendment passed unanimously.

There were several friendly amendments to the proposed constitutional amendment regarding Article VII of the constitution. Thomas motioned and Jim seconded the proposed amendment. The amendment passed unanimously.

Paul also introduced the idea of amending the current recall provisions in the GPSC constitution. Currently, a recall election is mandated by the collection of the signatures of 5% of a constituent unit (or at least 10). At that point, a positive vote to recall must be ratified by a vote of the GPSC. Paul proposed increasing the number of signatures required to initiate a recall election and at the same time removing GPSC discretion regarding the acceptance of the result. There was discussion regarding how many signatures should be required. Paul proposed the lesser of 50% of the constituency or 50 signatures. Several reps thought that 50 signatures was too small, including Kale, Thomas, and James. The chief concerns were the possibility of (1) frivolous recalls, and (2) students from large active departments automatically initiating recalls of reps that do not come from their department.

There was consensus to change the GPSC recall provisions. Paul proposed that, before the next meeting, reps think about what would be a reasonable number of signatures required to initiate a recall election.

**VII. Call to adjourn** – At 7:58, James made a call to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Thorn