

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 13, 2008

I. Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Bridget Barker

Present: Stephen Bieda, Randy Vazquez, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, Jed Laver, Sanket Unhale, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, David Talenfeld, James Johnson, A. Quadir Khan, Tim Chambers, Chizanya Mpinja, Jim Collins, Helena Morrison, Brittany Perkins

Proxies: Boris Glebov, Robert Jacobi, David Lopez-Negrete, Alison Betts

II. Calls to the audience – none

III. Guest Speakers – Sylvia Johnson, Information Security Officer: Personal Information Sweep: Beginning October 1, if you handle University information, like rosters (*i.e.* you are a TA) you will be asked to sweep this information off machines. Confidential information like last name and some sort of identifying info (*e.g.* SS#) must be separated. The University does not have insurance to cover security breaches. Arizona statutes regarding retention and disposal of official records: If you do not keep adequate records, you may be asked to show all your information. If you do not dispose, you can be punished. If you do not have appropriate records, can be legally responsible.

Personal information sweep: basic principle is that information is protected while in use and disposed when not needed. For more information about the procedures, see security.arizona.edu or call 621-UISO.

Jim Collins: Are students going to be informed about breaches that occurred before Arizona Revised Statutes §44-7501 was passed?

A: The Statute was created because the legislature saw a need at that time. Before then, there was no need nor precedent for notification. When people are informed about breaches, they take no action.

Q: Helena Morrison: will we receive notification of the need to do the sweep? Is this on honor? How will you enforce the sweep?

A: Students will not be directly contacted. The plan is to disseminate information, and the responsibility lies with the dean and department heads to do this. We also have a network of information security liaisons and staff members responsible for informing students. Specific details about where and when to sweep will depend on unit.

Q: James Johnson: Our cat cards double as an ATM Wells Fargo, how are we sharing our information? Who is legally responsible if Cat Card is stolen?

A: Cat card number is not private, and does not have additional access code that you would on a credit card. One has reason to be concerned about using the cat card as a debit card.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – *Stephen Bieda* – (1) Meeting with Shelton: talked about GO, budget cut numbers, and GA. GO: liked the subjects, will make an effort to attend and say hello. Budget numbers: 19.7 million cut from university budget. Shelton set aside 3.2, so cuts only total 16.5. Not across the board, some unit will be hit stronger than others. If your unit is not bringing in grants, then it could be subject to a stronger hit than others. Cuts will average 4.4%, his admin taking 5.4%. 0-10% depending on unit.

Looking to tuition increases for more money. Expects more budget cuts mid-year. GA will be asked to fill positions that are being lost due to Faculty bailing. We have dispersed 7 million for teaching already. A positive number: this year freshman retention was 80%.

(2) ABOR does not have a graduate student on tuition task force. We worry that hikes could be substantially higher for grad students than for undergraduates. Trying to organize to get voice on ABOR.

Vice President – *Boris Glebov* – absent, Stephen – (1) meeting with Horgan, Vito, and Velez to talk about GSBR. Intends to push further. (2) Student services fee committee training in September, will ask us to report due to travel grants. (3) Article in Tucson citizen, ERE rate charged on top of grants, need to watch out for this for TA

Assembly Chairperson – *Bridget Barker* - defer to business.

Treasurer – *Randy Vazquez* – none

Secretary – *Emily Connally*– Social at Bumsteds next Friday 6-8pm.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

a. **Jim Collins:** Have been making a personal attempt to address budget reports: got list of top 200 employers and has contacted a few to see how many of CEOs we can get to meet to show support of graduate education. The ultimate goal is to discourage cuts to grad student funding. Bridget Barker suggested possible forming of a small task force for the purposes of facilitating this movement.

VI. Reading and approval of July 23rd Meeting minutes – Tabled until August 27, 2008

VII. Old Business

a. **Ward Connerly Initiative and ASA Letter** – Stephen Bieda, III – Alison sent a report to the executive board outlining the purpose of the proposal, along with history of previous initiatives in other states. C-17-2008: proposal to prohibit preferential treatment or discrimination. Article 30, proposed Arizona Civil Rights Initiative. Protect Arizona Freedoms Coalition: passage will eliminate equal opportunity programs for women and people of color.

The elimination of programs may not reduce opportunities, but may increase focus on economic background instead of sex or race. Spoke with Micheal Sklegoky, who had many e-mails saying letter should have considered more carefully before release.

Q: James Johnson – Initiative didn't include mention of sexual orientation or veteran status, will it be amended before ballot?

A: Stephen Bieda, III - These two issues are considered superseded by federal law.

Q: Tim Chambers: was a letter officially sent from GPSC to ASA?

A: Stephen Bieda, III - If we want to be affiliated with the letter, we say nothing. Must send a public letter otherwise letting people know ASA and GPSC differ on this.

Q: Erica Cirillo- McCarthy: What will happen to student groups?

A: Stephen Bieda, III - Right now no one knows, but groups that directly focus on race would be prohibited.

Q: James Johnson- In general we are not able to discriminate when forming groups, but would groups that focus on race or gender need to disband? Would they be able to apply to GPSC for student club funding?

A: Stephen Bieda, III- In the past the initiatives did not eliminate programs, as long as open to membership by everyone

Randy Vazquez suggested soliciting input from people who are targeted and directly affected by the initiative. He thinks this would not affect clubs, but some people might be scared about regulation of groups, close them down, etc..

Bridget Barker reminded the council that our position is neutral, not about the content of the bill, but in supporting or not supporting a particular bill in a public forum.

Stephen Bieda, III moved that we write a letter to the ASA expressing our discontent with their representing us. James Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Alison Betts will draft the letter.

Tim Chambers moved that we write an open letter reiterating our nonpartisan status. Helena Morrison seconded, and the motion carried with one abstention. Discussion of where to send this letter will take place at a later date.

VIII. New Business

- a. **GO Volunteers**– Bridget Barker – Jessica has organized and the program has been finalized. Packets will be stuffed with a brochure, Bike Map, evaluation form, Cat Tran, Campus Health. We need volunteers to collect blue evaluation forms from 12-2pm on 8/20. We want to have these returned, so get in there and encourage people to turn them in. If they put information in, we can raffle and have incentive to turn in. Attempted to reduce the amount of paper. Packet Stuffing occurs this Friday.

If you cannot make it to GO, please just send a volunteer in your stead!

Q: James Johnson: will we give people information on how to register to vote?

A: Bridget Barker: Carol Elliott is going to Pima County to get forms, will be booth for specific cause of registering people to vote.

- b. **Shelton Visit** – Stephen Bieda, III – Shelton will be a guest at a future meeting. He will come before us for 15-30 minutes for a “get to know” session in addition to Q and A or issues of concern. President has never been to a GPSC meeting before, it increases our legitimacy. As soon as we get final date, will be sent to GPSC-L. Please announce to constituents as well. Melissa Vito is also set to visit us. If you want other guest, just let Stephen know.
- c. **Blood drive dates** – Bridget Barker – Finalized blood drive with red cross. 9/29 and 9/30: in grand ballroom. Will be soliciting volunteers to help direct traffic, hand out cookies, etc. Week prior to that will set up in Mall. Does not need to be GPSC, can be anyone, we would prefer to keep it grad, but not enforcing it. Shelton coming to blood drive with family and staff, important for us, good publicity.
- d. **Rooms for Fall 2008 GPSC Meetings** – Emily Connally – We will be in the Sabino room 8/27 6-8pm. Otherwise we need alternatives this semester, because the Student union is booked.

Jed Laver and Sanket Unhale have rooms in their departments and will e-mail Emily the appropriate information.

- e. **Final Update on Committee Assignments** – Stephen Bieda, III – If you haven't gotten an e-mail about being appointed, let him know. Only $\frac{3}{4}$ confirmed as serving. The Alumni Association Board of Directors are the donors, and they want a grad rep, so we need to fill that spot, too.
- f. **Discussion of new rep orientation** – Bridget Barker – New rep orientation: Friday 4-6pm 8/22. Upstairs in GPSC office. Will reschedule another time for people who cannot make it.

IX. Motion to Adjourn – at 7:27 pm Emily Connally moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by A. Quadir Khan and carried unanimously.