

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 27, 2008

I. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Bridget Barker

Present: Stephen Bieda, III, Randy Vazquez, Boris Glebov, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, Jed Laver, Jill Burris, Stephanie Levitt, Sanket Unhale, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, David Lopez-Negrete, David Talenfeld, Helena Morrison, James Johnson, A. Quadir Khan, Kunal Ramani, Brittany Perkins, Tim Chambers, Chizanya Mpinja, Jim Collins, Alison Betts, Jessica Gerlach

II. Calls to the audience – Gabriel Matthew Schivone, Days Beyond Recall

Days Beyond Recall is a Journal on campus. Gabriel was invited to answer questions a trip to MIT to interview faculty about university involvement in political matters. The trip was for informing the public only, not for dissertation research.

Q: Boris Glebov: What were the interviews about?

A: To increase knowledge through practical and symbolic accounts of halted science for political motives. Many of the scientists involved in political moments of the past are still on campus. The interviews will be published and circulated around campus. The goal of the project is to talk about political bias science and how it affects professionals and scientists alike. The overarching lesson is in responsibility of lecturers and scientists. and the importance of neutrality therein.

Q: Helena Morrison: How does the activity contribute to a club instead of funding data collection for the one interviewer? Is it dissertation or thesis?

A: The club primarily publishes a journal. The material is intended for public release, not data for research.

Q: Tim Chambers: When you gather information, what is end goal? To publish in just the local journals?

A: The goal is to disseminate information around campus, through the local journals, in addition to prominent science magazines.

Q: Sanket Unhale: Will this publication be free?

A: Yes.

III. Guest Speakers – none

IV. Officer Reports:

President – *Stephen Bieda* – (1) Melissa Vito will be forming a student affairs fee committee. Need 2-4 reps. (2) Shelton has invited Executive Board to dinner. In general, he is supportive of our insurance needs and would like to add family benefits as part of discussion on 11/5 (3) Faculty Senate exec met, information coming out looks like university is trying to slow cuts as much as possible. Departments are targeted, looking to combine administrative units.

Vice President – *Boris Glebov* – (1) Tuition retreat report. Only 50% of budget is from public. The rest is tuition. Question is how to deal with rising tuition. Trying to lay out prospective plan for future,

including “fixed rate” tuition hikes. Problem is two fold, one, the money is low. Two, legislature approves expenditures without funding them. Tuition will be increasing by between 5-10% per year in the future.

Q: Alison Betts: How will this affect people who are here longer than 4 years?

A: Seems like they will be paying much more ultimately, but fine details are not available yet.

Q: Sanket Unhale: What about graduate tuition?

A: As far as we know graduate tuition will follow the same structure.

Q: Brittany Perkins: What about 5 year programs?

A: (Stephen Bieda) President Shelton said he would be willing to keep some numbers constant for us, but discussions have just started.

Assembly Chairperson – *Bridget Barker* - We will be collecting summaries from you regarding committees on which you serve, including minutes or memos regarding important votes. If you want to see what issues have come up in your committee before, e-mail Carol Elliott to look them over.

Q: Boris Glebov: We talked about getting soft copies of minutes for meetings. Who gets them?

A: Carol Elliott

Treasurer – *Randy Vazquez* – defer to new business.

Secretary – *Emily Connally*– Social at Bumsted’s went well. We have more upcoming. Look out in your inbox and forward to your constituents.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

a. **James Johnson:** Campus emergency response team had first meeting. New website: cert.arizona.edu Currently working on a new format for emergency message on UA homepage. Are considering switching the sign up for UA Alert. Now you sign up, but future plan is to just have your number in the system, and an option to drop the service. TEP recently installed new transformer that blew out in April, hopefully we won’t have as many drops now.

Q: **Boris Glebov:** How will they let students know about the opt out?

A: They have not discussed those details.

Q: **Alison Betts:** What kind of things will texts be sent about?

A: Last year it was used 3-4 times: fire in a dorm, major power outage, downed tree on 1st AVE. Primarily used to alert people to things that need significant population control.

b. **Jessica Gerlach:** (1) Last week the GPSC hosted Graduate Orientation (GO) for 558 incoming students. We received 172 Evaluation Forms. (2) Showcase applications are due at the end of September, the date for Showcase is 10/24.

VI. Reading and approval of July 23rd Meeting minutes – Helena Morrison moved to approve the minutes without edits. Alison Betts seconded, and the motion passed with four abstentions.

VII. Reading and approval of August 13th Meeting minutes – Amendment offered by Jim Collins to insert a line regarding the fact that students who are informed of security breaches “do nothing.” Stephen moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kunal Ramani and passed with four abstentions.

VIII. Old Business

a. Ward Connerly Initiative and ASA Letter – Stephen Bieda, III – The initiative has been removed from the ballot. Sued by Micheal Slugocki (to be spelled properly soon)

Q: David Talenfeld: Who is funding lawsuit??

A: Boris Glebov- Michael did not file lawsuit, a lobbying organization did, and he supported them in invalidating the signatures. Last year's council wrote the letter, when Catherine Neish was on the board and supported it. When new people came in, they tried to retract the letter but it was too late.

Q: Jim Collins: Did we send a letter to ASA? We should continue with letter to let them know not to attempt to represent us? Jim Collins moved to continue with the plan to draft a letter reminding ASA about the consultation process. Jed Laver seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention.

b. Shelton visit - President Shelton would like to attend a meeting to give us 30 minutes for a general question and answer session.

Q: David Lopez-Negrete: should we advertise this?

A: Yes, and we need to look into other rooms to hold the expected turnout.

Q: Brittany Perkins: if constituents are planning on coming and have questions, should we find way to combine or screen questions?

Q: Tim Chambers: Have constituents give you questions in writing.

Q: Alison Betts: The best idea would be to have them funnel questions through you to Dr. Shelton.

A: Everyone contact and collect questions from constituents, you are responsible for asking on their behalf.

c. Rooms for fall GPSC meetings - Emily Connally - We will be meeting in AME 715N from now on.

d. CSW grad leave proposal (TADA) - Alison Betts - CSW Parental accommodation plan provides leave for students. The CSW wants granting leave to be up to grad college, not the department. If we support their work or are interested in it, they would like a letter of support.

TADA: Stephen - Dean Comrie will be moving forward with TADA proposal sometime in the next few weeks.

Alison Betts: TADA is in place right now for faculty and staff, but widely used by people have exhausted their federal leave, they want to give us TADA without medical leave, not designed as a primary care plan.

Alison Betts moved to write a letter of support for the proposal by CSW. Jim Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. Stephanie Levvitt and Alison Betts will draft the letter.

IX. New Business

a. GO Report - Bridget Barker - (1) Session review. Lowest attendance was career services.

Rooms were overcrowded for some sessions. Coping with stress was the most popular. The lowest ratings were for Health services and Insurance. The least attended session was “ask an expert.” Overall, majority of students found the sessions useful.

Q: Helena Morrison: Some sessions seemed to need more tables, more sitting space, how will we accommodate growth?

A. Bridget Barker: We need to figure out who we are reaching, go get more space. more rooms. We could have smaller groups.

Alison Betts suggested it may be worth asking some of the program coordinators to change the department orientation so more students can attend GO.

Q: Erica Cirillo-McCarthy: what are the major complaints about the health presentation? Are students complaining about the presentation or the benefits themselves?

A: Alison Betts: Students want to know specifics, and the presenters provided websites, not detailed information.

Sanket Unhale mentioned that international students already attend a health insurance session and therefore may not appreciate the one at GO as much.

(2) Events survey analysis – Bridget Barker – Tuition and Fees, and Healthcare are highest priorities. As a council we need to promote ourselves when we make headway in these issues. New students are also interested in residency issues, like gaining residency and we may want to consider taking this on.

C: Tim Chambers: This issue is relevant to me, as one person trying to become a resident now..

Q: Emily Connally: Who makes residency decisions?

A: Alison Betts: State rules and ABOR rules

C: David Lopez Negrete would be interested in having a representative come in and talk to us about residency status and application

A: Bridget Barker will arrange this, and David Lopez-Negrete will assist.

Other concerns raised at GO were public transportation issues, such as being left by city busses. Non degree seeking students have concerns about the cap on credits that can be earned.

(3) Taxes: Stephen Bieda and Boris Glebov: fellowships and scholarships are now taxable, advocates are trying to change back to non taxable status.

Q: Brittany Perkins: Could we host a tax Q and A session on this? We had people call the tax advice people here, who are not allowed to give you advice on taxes.

A: Dave Talenfeld: The law school offers clinics to help students with filing.

A: Boris Glebov: Last year we had a series of professionals present about financial issues. A tax representative would be an appropriate addition to that lineup.

C: Tim Chambers: I would like to suggest that we put tax information on GO for next year.

Q: Dave Talenfeld: Will we address social events survey this evening?

A: Bridget Barker The social survey is on the agenda for a future meeting.

Boris Glebov moved to table further discussion of the GO events survey until next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Alison Betts and passed unanimously.

b. **BGLT** – Emily Connally - You have an upcoming e-mail about resources on campus, send it out.

c. **Graduate Student Bill of Rights** – Boris Glebov - In general, to the powers that be, our bill of rights looks like a strict document, so the suggestion on the table is to break the bill of rights into a mission statement and a list of expectations, or suggestions, without any expectation of being enforced. This two part document will be endorsed by grad college.

Q: Jim Collins: The Bill of rights started in Dec 2006. Other universities had them at the time, and we looked at possible problems, with their bills. As far as I understand, we were seeking approval from Faculty Senate because of the Undergraduate Bill of Rights, which was never approved. We put together a list of rights we think we should have, now we have

pressure from administration to say otherwise. For 2 years many worked on it, and it is an important effort on our parts. Some bills of rights reference University policy. There are some rights we are asking for that are not codified. I think it's an excellent idea to have a good summary, but not a good idea to replace it. Jim Collins made a motion to repeal the original document approved by GPSC in 2007.

A: Boris Glebov would like to initiate a discussion on the motion. Whatever the action is beyond our internal approval, even if the University rejects the document, we can still lay claim to the principles therein as our code of conduct to work by.

In absence of a second for the motion, the motion dies. We reaffirm our support for current bill of rights.

C: Boris Glebov: As far as I am concerned, the shared governance doctrine of this University puts us on the same level as ASUA. It also is as much of a guarantee that we have a right to participate in governance. As we are already granted that right, do not need to make further claim to it in our own bill of rights. If we continue to push for enforceable policy, we may run into trouble with the legal council, as a student code of conduct should all be written in one place and students should not be expected to search through multiple documents for these behavior guidelines.

Q: Alison Betts: We seem to have at least two different opinions about what the document should be. Is it enforceable or a vision statement?

Q: Emily Connally: As I remember, wasn't the issue that we felt we had rights and responsibilities not protected in current enforceable code?

A: Jim Collins: My understanding is that "as a collective group" we have a right to everything in the Bill of Rights we passed, and 90% of those protections are already in place. The fact is that there may be some things in bill of rights the university doesn't like, and therefore they are restricting our options to a vision statement.

Alison Betts moved to table this discussion. A friendly amendment was offered by Tim Chambers: we should be presented to constituents for feedback. Stephen Bieda Called the motion to Question. Emily Connally seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Stephen Bieda moved to table the discussion of library fees pending information the Dean in two weeks. James Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Club and POD Funding - Randy Vazquez.

Jed Laver: Days Beyond Recall has submitted 3 different budgets. Letter with faculty. The appropriations committee approved the final budget they came back with.

Q: Alison Betts: What is club or journal name, it is Days beyond Recall? Is this entire group regarding the one event in history?

A: The name of the club and the journal are the same, and the club publishes a local journal.

Erica Cirillo-McCarthy made a motion to approve funding for Days Beyond Recall. Tim Chambers seconded and the motion passed with 4 abstentions.

In other funding applications, the appropriations committee deducted 15% of printing costs for “going green” to encourage use of electronic advertisements.

Stephen Beida moved to approve the Club and POD funding presented as is. Alison Betts seconded the motion, which passed with four abstentions.

X. Motion to Adjourn – at 8:11 pm Stephen Bieda moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Jed Laver and carried unanimously.