

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 23rd, 2008

I. Meeting called to order at 6:08pm by Bridget Barker

Present: Boris Glebov, Randy Vazquez, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, Jed Laver, Stephanie Levitt, James Johnson, Tim Chambers, Chizanya Mpinja, Jim Collins, Alison Betts, Helena Morrison, Jessica Gerlach, Jill Burris

Proxies: Stephen Bieda, Robert Jacobi, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, A. Quadir Khan, Brittany Perkins

II. Calls to the audience – none

III. Guest Speakers –

a. **Student Health Care** – Boyce Morin and Kris Kreutz

Visitors from AETNA and Campus Health came to address campus-wide questions about claims, visits to specialists, and payment obligation for different types of office visits. Major problems with benefits that have been addressed recently: (1) Interpretation of policy documents has been made uniform to minimize confusion about copay. Most claims have been resolved or are in process of being resolved. (2) Copayment for HPV vaccine is reduced from \$50 to \$35 per injection. (3) Continuation insurance for graduates has been improved. Historically coverage has been poor and expensive. The same benefits are now continued, but with a higher deductible, at 1.5x student rate. (4) Benefits may now include coverage for domestic partners. (5) Lifetime maximum of \$300,000 has not been adjusted because the campuses have not had any cases exceeding \$250,000.

aetna.com is an excellent resource for students on the plan. It is a password protected site that lists who is insured, dates of coverage, and all claims received with a detailed breakdown. The site can be used to manage accounts and search for providers.

Q: Boris Glebov – We must have active student status to enroll, how does it work if one needs to enroll for benefits in the summer?

A: This is a national program, with coverage jan-aug. In this way, the summer is provided by the previous year.

Bridget Barker suggested we help facilitate a larger forum for students to become educated about their health care options.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – *Stephen Bieda* – absent

Vice President – *Boris Glebov* – (1) meetings have been cancelled over the past few months. (2) Have tried to contact GSBR talks. Person in charge is out of town. (3) NAGPS (national GPSC) is looking to fill positions of chief information officer and president. Will send out the call to graduate students soon, could be very worthwhile for a student.

Assembly Chairperson – *Bridget Barker* – Blood drive: met with Cory and Anne, and looks like red cross takes care of everything. We need volunteers to sign people up. Few people to help with actual blood drive, following Tuesday and Wednesday. Will send out announcement, anyone who wants to volunteer can sign up, even undergrad. Late September 9/28.

Treasurer – *Randy Vazquez* – Days Beyond Recall participants may come to explain CLU and POD funding application, which has some merit but has been rejected by the appropriations committee.

Secretary – *Emily Connally*– Webmaster position open for GPSC. Jim Collins volunteered for position and will take it. Socials are coming up. Bumsted's 6-8pm on 8/22.

V. Representative and Director Reports:

a. Alison Betts– Writing center is shutting down. Budget cuts may cut it from 50+ hours per week (and online stuff) to 30. The center is run by English department so it is very dependent on funding.

Emily Connally moved to table this discussion until we are able to gather information about the costs and have had time to research the stats regarding the center. Helena Morrison seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Jessica Gerlach (events director) Currently working on GO. All presenters have been confirmed. We will have 3 breakouts in 3 different sessions. We have an extra room for “ask a grad student” and need volunteers, from non council members as well.

VI. Reading and approval of June 25th Meeting minutes – Proxies need to be added. Randy Vazquez moved to approve with edits, James Johnson seconded. The motion carried with three abstentions

VII. Old Business

a. Discussion on proposals from CSW and TATA – Alison Betts and Stephanie Levitt

Stephanie Levitt- The CSW will be meeting in August, so they have no new information. They are currently seeking questions to pass on to committee for clarification?

Q: Bridget Barker - Could we ask around to have a better idea of what they want from us and how to proceed? Do they want a letter of support or just suggestions?

For now please send questions about TATA to Stephanie or Alison and they will compile answers for the next session.

b. Swearing in of MBA – Eller College Representative: Jill Burris

VIII. New Business

a. Introduction of new Events Director, Jessica Gerlach - Bridget Barker - Jessica is our events director. She has been working primarily on GO and fundraising. Volunteers for help with either of these are always welcome.

b. Discussion of ASA proposal to oppose Connerly proposition – Boris Glebov (for Stephen)– Stephen has refused to state an opinion on this matter. As a body, we are precluded from having an opinion. So far it is rather unclear how the amendment is worded.

Q: Alison Betts: Could this issue affect teaching classes about racial information at all?

Q: Helena Morrison: Should take on this political discussion at all, should we decide whether we can have a statement about this? What do we even know about it?

A: Bridget Barker - Issue is that the student letter from ASA opposes the proposition without consulting us, so they claim to represent our opinions without asking for them. We also had trouble locating the document, so we have not had time to form an official position as the GPSC.

Emily Connally moved to table discussion of the Connerly amendment to old business in the next meeting, after time to review the actual amendment content. Tim Chambers offered a friendly amendment to urge us to especially consider whether and how this initiative affects graduate students. Randy Vazquez seconded the motion to table, and it carried unanimously.

Helena Morrison moved to put forth a statement to the ASA regarding their representation of graduate students without consultation. The motion was seconded by Tim Chambers and carried unanimously with no abstentions. Alison Betts offered to write up a statement to ASA and send over the listserve.

Boris located actual amendment. Bridget Barker distributed the amendment to the listserve.

c. Graduate Orientation – Bridget Barker – Need volunteers. We are having effectively the same talks as always. Last year we had 20 feedback forms, this year we really need a better sampling. If we have many people around talking, trying to get these sheets we may be able to have the numbers to support changes in the current system. Tell all your friends and constituents to help. Free lunch for volunteers.

d. Setting meeting times for Fall 2008 - Emily Connally. Continuing 6-8pm on Wednesdays may not work for everyone. Bridget Barker will set up a meeting wizard account to determine meeting times for next semester.

IX. Motion to Adjourn – at 7:55 pm Emily Connally moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Jed Laver and carried unanimously.