

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday June 25, 2008

## I. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by Bridget Barker

**Present:** Stephen Bieda, Boris Glebov, Randy Vazquez, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, James Johnson, Chizanya Mpinja, A. Quadir Khan, Brittany Perkins, Tim Chambers, Alison Betts, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, Sanket Unhale, Helena Morrison

**Proxies:** David Lopez-Negrete, Stephanie Levitt

## II. Calls to the audience – none

## III. Guest Speakers –

- a. **Associate Dean of the Graduate College and GPSC advisor: Dr. Maria T. Velez** – Expressed pleasure with the new board. Dr. V. feels the GPSC makes a difference in representing graduate students on different committees. Dr. Velez described her duties, especially as advisor for grad students. She says it is important to her that we have our voices and feel free to do what we think is correct. She meets with Stephen once a month at least to give advice, evaluates Carol and tries to mediate before we need to go to the dean.

Q: Stephen Bieda asked what efforts she has made to improve graduate student lives, and Dr. Velez described a major goal of improving support to teaching assistants, through access to rules and regulations for the University in addition to online modules to walk people through teaching labs, discussion sessions, and managing courses.

In addition, Dr. Velez helped initiate a new program for international TAs to make sure people can communicate in English.

Dr. Velez reminded students she is always available to answer questions about the graduate college.

Q: A Quadir Khan asked if the new ESI test will have a fee as the old one did. Dr. Velez explained that we have the same fee, but if anyone has a hardship the fee can be waived.

- b. **Proposal from the committee on the Status of Women: Dr. Susan Richards & Jeanne Kleespie** – Parental Accommodations for Full-time Graduate Students. Try to serve the need for time off after birth or adoption, not common on other campuses yet. MIT, Rice, Yale, Stanford all have similar systems. Applies to both childbirth and adoption, but not foster children. Want students to maintain full time status, so called accommodations period and not go “on leave.” Both parents are eligible to receive funds but be excused from work for at least 6 weeks. They haven’t worked out budget details. All of the benefits are granted by graduate college, not advisor or an individual. Early requests are preferred.

Susan: Budget estimates. Proposal was well received, but HR has provided alternative. Alternative is the “temporary alternative duty assignment” allow students to apply for a semester reassignment, no absolute leave, may be able to shift times around, but different management of the time, work at same FTE while on assignment, reassigning you to home, etc instead of at lab. Alternative includes sickness or caring for sick family member (family medical leave, fml). Decision making should go to supervisor in alternative.

The committee is seeking our input, to see how important the issue is to graduate students. We were reminded that grad students don’t accrue sick leave or vacation and don’t qualify for leave of any sort. The committee’s

proposal was for family friendly policies given the fact that we do not get family policies as students. TADA policy provided by HR mirrors that available for other employees.

Q: Helena Morrison – New policy does not protect time, just gives you flexibility? Would TADA give academic break or just work assignment?

A: TADA does not protect full time student status if not working at the time.

Q: Brittany Perkins – Who judges applications for TADA? For parental applications?

A: Department for TADA. Grad College for Parental Accommodations period for eligibility, not an application.

Q: Allison Betts – What kinds of employee classifications use TADA the most?

A: Faculty use the TADA addition to sick leave. Faculty, classified staff and personnel eligible for both sick leave and TADA.

Q: Boris Glebov – What happens to course work with this absence? If fellowship depends on progress, how do they keep status?

A: Academic progress: during semester, students are registered, but expectations are modified based on specific cases. This is not set in stone as the payment... the current plan does not necessarily address missed classes, mostly about teaching classes.

Q: Tim Chambers – How does fml work for faculty?

A: Take sick leave first, up to 12 weeks off. Then use non paid leave or vacation. Government has guaranteed job for 12 weeks and employer cannot fire you, very different reasoning than for students parent accommodations.

#### **IV. Officer Reports:**

**President** – Stephen Bieda – (1) ABOR meeting last week. One good thing: Governors council approved recommendation concerning centennial scholarship to fully fund 4 years of schooling. Regents approved that. (2). 1.2 billion requested from 3 universities 750 requested by UA for new buildings and maintenance. ABOR had concerns but approved it unanimously. (3) Bookstores request to try to unbundled books that are received, but this costs more. Regents recommended pressuring book manufacturers on this point to reduce costs of books. (4) First reading of student code of conduct at ABOR. Concern regarding permission for DOS to go off campus. Regents requested information from Melissa Veto. Requested that off campus behavior be researched and brought back to the floor. (5) Legislature. Guns on campus bill has been shot down. (6) House and Senate have passed two different budgets. Senate budget cuts by 4.6%, fully funds enrollment growth, plus economic stimulus package. House wants to cut 6%, but did not include stimulus plan. Now will negotiate difference, governors office seems more on side of Senate than House. (7) Tuition task force. None of grad students are represented on task force at ABOR. Bruce has been given authority to represent us. Stephen will ask if we can have a voice. (8) More fees. KAMP fee and Arizona student association fee, \$2 per semester per student. UA had lowest approval versus other two campuses.

**Vice President** – Boris Glebov – (1) Bill of Rights. Meeting with Dianne Horgan. Done writing for now, lawyers and faculty senate and committees and council edits are happening. Statement of rights now, University is not willing to establish new policies or rights. Will meet with lawyer soon to talk about it. (2) Workload survey. Will work with Graduate College who can go back to department heads to improve conditions for graduate students. (3) Become very popular in department, need to know everyone, make yourself known to all students, everyone should know your name, we want survey to be maximum load.

**Assembly Chairperson** – Bridget Barker – (1) New Brochure, with Carol’s assistance. Everyone take one, make sure information is correct. These will be printed for the GO folders. Any feedback is appreciated. Should give feedback on or before next meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Report deferred to new business

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

**Secretary** – Emily Connally– EB minutes were distributed to everyone, no need for approval, just to look over. One slot left on Social Committee, contact if you want it.

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

Carol (via Bridget) – Passed out list of activities for this year. We will need assistance at all GO 8/20-8/23. Student Showcase and pride night are more events to start thinking about it. Recruiting high quality research. GPSA is tentative date, if you can make a good argument for different week, please do.

T-shirts. Everyone needs a t shirt, sign up for your size

Allison Betts – The childcare issue is still underway, with an official proposal meeting this week. Last year invited providers to develop solution to problems. Two providers are interested, but we still don’t know if on or off campus yet, or who will provide facility. Proposals are due by 7/14, then the committee will meet again to review. List of insurability, ability to provide services, etc. checklist is used to rank providers. One major issue is hours, can we drop in before or after school, full time, are after hours available?

Q: James Johnson: They haven’t found a place, is it part of economic stimulus?

A: Nothing designated, no idea whether need to build, how many locations, etc...

**VI.** Helena Morrison is sworn in as new rep.

**VII. Reading and approval of May 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting minutes** – Boris Glebov moved to approve the 5/28/08 minutes, Allison Betts seconded, the motion carried with three abstentions.

## **VIII. New Business**

**a. Approval of 2008-2009 Budget** – Randy Vazquez – Vote on whether we want electronic copies of these documents from now on. Wants us to have a sense of current tentative budget. Retained fees increased \$50,000 to travel grants. Bookstore and resident life money will be confirmed, working with Stephen to get final numbers. Proposed increase in fundraising during GO. College and departmental money for student showcase is being worked on. So far have confirmed carry forward and \$100,000. Randy noted that we will decrease carry forward because of office supplies and projector purchased during FY 2007-2008.

Emily Connally moved that we use electronic means of displaying information such as agendas, minutes, etc starting in the next general council meeting. Bridget Barker seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Stephen Bieda moved to approve budget, Boris Glebov seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Approval of Club and POD funding** – Randy Vazquez –Group has met twice for club and POD funding. Confusion about which clubs want to be recognized as such, and how that affects funding.

Q: Boris Glebov – Latino student Association should include logo in promotional materials, before we release money. Randy should ask for previews of fliers, etc.

A: Randy: Usually asks for posters for conferences, but will start to implement requested publicity for all clubs we fund

Q: Allison Betts –Edits to format of form, particularly on page two.

Stephen Bieda moved to have committee revisit policy about banners and promotional materials and require GPSC name on such materials before funding. Bridget seconded the motion, motion carries unanimously.

Q. Helena Morrison – If “days beyond recall” provides enough information will we fund, or is the problem that the group is not a “club”? Helena makes a motion for appropriations committee to look at policy on what is fundable as a club. Bridget seconds the motion, motion carries with two abstentions.

Point of clarification by Sanket Unhale: Committee discussed these repeated applications in the last meeting, discussed that most members of appropriations are new, and thus should give groups chance to reapply without bias from past members.

Emily Connally moved to approve club & POD funding with edits suggested, Allison Betts seconded the motion, motion carried with one abstention.

- c. **Approval of Events Director** – Bridget Barker – Full executive board meeting with Carol to interview two candidates. Both were excellent, one was not available all of July. Jessica Gerlach incoming graduate student, already moving here, has been offered the position. July 7<sup>th</sup> is the signing date and she seems to be interested in continuing for several years. Helena moved to approve her hiring. Emily Connally seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Approval of Research & Policy Director** – Boris Glebov – Approval of Allison Betts as R& PD.

Q: Helena Morrison: what is the job description?

A: Boris Glebov: to research things we need to know, like information about the parental assistance program

Tim Chambers moved to approve hiring of Allison Betts, A. Quadir Khan seconded the motion, which carried with one abstention.

- e. **Discussion of CoSW proposal** - Stephen Bieda, III –

Q: Helena Morrison: when do we need to put forth a recommendation?

A. Stephen Bieda: we need to talk to Stephanie, probably by August, about

Q: Allison Betts: thinks this is a great proposal, doesn't care for the TADA option HR gave, basically requiring someone to work in first 6 weeks after childbirth.

Q: Bridget Barker: when advisor is not supportive, bringing them into discussion is not a good idea.

Q: Helena Morrison: If students do not get paid through UA, leave of absence is not allowed for any reason. Basic protection of academic progress should be granted through graduate college. With money and fellowship, any way to get that sort of situation written in as well is good.

Q: Erica Cirillo-McCarthy. TADA breadth is good because you can leave if you are ill or family is ill... could keep that.

Emily Connally moved to table this discussion for next time, with issues separated, Erica seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

- f. **Graduate Orientation** – Bridget Barker – Very important, majority of our budget is because of GO. We need everyone there. If you have ideas, get them to us, information in those packets, what should it be? Main session, and then separate breakout sessions for writing, financial aid, health care, etc. Bridget will try to send pdf out, if you run across stuff, pamphlets to include, get that to us. People will be around. Put 8/20 in calendars, need people as early as 7am. 8-9am to man different areas, looking for stragglers, need extra bodies. Everyone needs to recruit constituents. Free t-shirt and lunch for volunteers. Vendor fair at noon.

Q: Brittany Perkins – What do we need to register volunteers?

A: Next meeting will have sign up sheet asking reps to sign up for things, email to send out. If you know of businesses that grad students go a lot, who might donate a gift card, etc, then talk to Carol.

- g. Discussion of Committee Appointments** – Stephen Bieda, III – no one leaves until all committees are filled. **Two needed and filled today.**
- h. Other New Business**

**IX. Motion to Adjourn** – at 7:58 pm Emily Connally moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Stephen Bieda and carried unanimously.