

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2008

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

Present: Stephen Bieda, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, Jed Laver, Jill Burris, Lauren Sekora, Robert Jacobi, Sanket Unhale, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, David Lopez-Negrete, Helena Morrison, James Johnson, A Quadir Khan, Tim Chambers, Roeland Hancock, Tucker Peck, Jim Collins, Tiffany Goforth, Sandra Nameth, Mabel Crescioni, Jennifer Kruse, Sarah K. Smith

Proxies: Boris Glebov, Alison Betts, Stephanie Levitt, David Talenfeld, Brittany Perkins, Chizanya Mpinja, Tucker Peck

II. Call to Audience - none

III. Guest - Kris Kreutz: Reporting on ABOR student health program. Committees from all three colleges advise benefit choices, etc for insurance, on a yearly basis. 40% of the students participating are funded through graduate colleges. GPSC has reps on the committee. Plan to be more actively involved in terms of reviewing premiums and costs to update as necessary in 09-10 plan. Benefit changes coming into this year: coverage for domestic partners, costs of HPV vaccine standardized across student and dependent population, Last year was first year to have Aetna for student health. He Spoke to us earlier this year about refunds to be processed, and that has not been successful. They have agreed to have people specifically designated for UA claims processing, for our program. As such, the claims misprocessed are now reprocessed, should be receiving refunds very soon if you haven't already. Some physicians are not sending students to labs that process Aetna, and they have addressed that in the community now.

Q: David Lopez -Negrete: Subject of referrals: when I called, the policy in place was for students to go to ASU and receive a referral in person there, what is the logic, how can we make this more practical for students?

A: This is the gate keeping program: medical professional should be involved with decision of administration of care to patient. don't need to see someone, just go to the office, sign in and accept referral. What it does for person providing the eye exam is lets them know they will be paid.

Q: Lauren Sekora: Assumed pharmacy at campus health is cheaper than other options, and campus health charges \$20 for the same thing as walmart \$9. What can we do to get that changed?

A: Complaining won't do a great deal. We are faced with huge challenge with regard to walmart and Frys who offer \$4 prescription. Deficit reduction act disallowed universities from participating in such things anymore (2006). ACHA is lobbying congress, with other large university presidents saying students should have cheaper meds on campus readily accessible, to reverse the issue put into place by congress.

Q2: Is there any possibility to make it known to students, seems like students should be made aware of that fact.

A: We have structured our pricing so that the health service can remain in service.

Q: Tim Chambers: You had mentioned changes to plan, a couple of people asked about disability insurance. Can you advise?

A: Two reps on student health insurance advisory committee, they can bring this information to us, we will investigate these things.

Q: Robert Jacobi: what is your title?

A: Director of Administrative Services. I report to executive director of health and wellness, physician.

Q: Robert Jacobi: Any rumors that you will be affected by UA transformation. Any intent on cutting services there?

A: No. We assume relatively easy renewal.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – *Stephen Bieda* – (1) Administrative updates: Boris is away on business. In the interim have requested leadership from members of our internal graduate student policy committee. Robert Jacobi will chair in Boris's absence.

(2) UA transformation plan. We had a town hall meeting today, well attended by Humanities, Science, and Engineering. Grad students asked hard hitting questions about teaching loads.

(3) Faculty Senate. We heard a great deal on transformation plan. White papers due 10/13. Not the last point during which we can advocate, the provost's office will create website and post white papers. 2.5 week review expected by SPBAC.

(4) We will undergo a curricular review in January. Provost encouraged departments to hire TAs as normal, beyond that was not able to make a commitment.

(5) AZ Legislature has contributed 418 million to University Operating budget. Concern that they will consider 5% cut with another 5% in January. ASA and GPSC trying to deal with legislative action. We can use February to go legislature.

(6) We met with ABOR president Fred Boyce. Ceiling recommendation of 13.1% for undergraduate. We recommended and he agreed that grad students will be considered as part of the tuition cap.

(7) The University has a review committee to review items for maintenance and bonding for building on campus. They refused to meet to review anything.

Q: James Johnson: You mentioned curricular changes occur in January: any mention of how this will go hand in hand with accreditation process? What they will entail at this point?

A: Stephen Bieda: All that provost stated was that they would review the curriculum.

Q: Erica Cirillo-McCarthy: What is the deal with the tuition hike?

A: Stephen Bieda: ABOR has given Shelton permission to raise tuition, with a recommendation of 13.1% cap.

Q: James Johnson: Will there be fee hikes in addition to tuition hike? I am concerned that fees will increase when nobody is watching.

A: Stephen Bieda: I only know of 2 fees to increase, the rec center and the library.

A: Jim Collins: This question comes up every time we have a big hike. University keeps hiking and will keep on doing it. Fees will go up, too.

Q: Helena Morrison: Are we just talking about in state, what happens with out of state?

A: Stephen Bieda: Majority of money comes from out of state students, with no political will to cap that source.

Q: Jed Laver: Is there any point in the past where the rate of increase is different, or do they rise in parallel? Have there been cases where the out of state has risen sharply. If that happens, is there anything we can do?

A: Stephen Bieda: As far as I know, he intends to keep the ratio the same

Vice President – *Boris Glebov* – none

Assembly Chair - Bridget Barker - I had a meeting with Dean Comrie this morning. It is unclear how colleges will be structured, etc, so while it is important to think about workload issues, that is not on the front burner today. In lieu of transformation it is something that will be held off until next year, or when we see how departments are going to be restructured. Payscale issues from college to college are another matter. His office is trying to make sure lowest paid GAs will be brought to liveable standard. Comrie asked if it was still a priority with GPSC. He was impressed with the white paper that Boris Glebov had sent out with main points.

Point of information by Stephen Bieda: President Shelton has approved the pay floor already. ICPC meeting has been cancelled

Treasurer - Sanket Unhale - deferred to new business

Secretary - Emily Connally - We have a wine tasting this Saturday at Vila's. We also had a Graduate Council meeting. We approved another member from GPSC and are becoming part of faculty senate.

V. **Representative and Director Reports –**

- a. A Quadir Khan - College of Pharmacy transformation meeting with dean: one change that could affect everyone in pharmacy, some ideas about merging. Something concrete may not happen regarding this transformation, so we are uncertain.
- b. Jim Collins: I attended a meeting of the IT student advisory board. The university considering outsourcing email system to msn.com or gmail.com. Personal opinion is that gmail would be better, and alot better than msn.com. University is leaning toward msn. wants our feedback on this.

point of information: Lauren Sekora: ASU does this, and the gmail is actually much better than webmail

Q: James Johnson: are there concerns about security, because they can use an algorithm to get an advertising spider to go through and read e-mails for ad selection.

Q: Robert Jacobi: do they use the exact same spider for this e-mail as for civilian

A: Lauren Sekora: not sure if the educational product is identical to what is available in the public.

Jim Collins took a straw pole on gmail vs msn, and gmail prevailed. He asked us to check with our constituents

Q: Tim Chambers: is keeping what we have an option?

A: Jim Collins: apparently not.

Q: Roeland Hancock: would we get access to the apps that come with gmail?

A: Jim Collins: Yes. but most people in university administration don't know about them or already have an account. The IT student advisory board is recruiting new members, I will send an advertisement to be passed on to constituents.

- c. David Lopez-Negrete - The Parking and Transportation committee met. It is a \$13.7 million auxiliary department, with less than 5% funding from university. Manages 17000

parking spaces. According to 2009 UA parking costs are medium priced compared to 2007 level at other universities. UA parking is below average compared to city parking. Biggest problem: 7% decrease in demand for permits, 32% increase in bus, 16% increase in motorcycle. He can talk to us more about it after the announcement is public

Q: Jill Burris: Is there any way that if you buy the permit, after hours you could go in different garages or something, have access to another garage?

A: David Lopez-Negrete: I can bring this up, most permits are garage specific.

Point of information: Helena Morrison: The 16% increase in motorcycle passes translates into a huge need for more motorcycle parking North of speedway. always full.

- d. Robert Jacobi - SPBAC met this morning. (1) Transformation issues: The website for submissions is not yet running, we hope it will be up Friday. We have no idea how many proposals are around. Proposals need to be less structured than we originally thought. Everything should be publicly available by Monday. The public white paper page will have comment section, inviting comments from the public as well. Be aware that we face disclosure under public information requests on all information, this includes e-mails and technically someone may request our e-mails. If it is relation to a public meeting, all information could be made available. (2) We are also drafting strategic plan for 2010. Due by 11/1, still looking at guidelines. Provost and SPBAC do not appear to be on same page about what is necessary.

VI. Swearing in of New Representatives

- a. Jennifer Kruse, College of Business Administration, non-MBA.

VII. Old Business

- a. **Club and POD funding** - Sanket - Two POD applications. One from Department of Linguistics, another from Anthropology Graduate Students at the UA. Robert Jacobi moved to approve the appropriations committee recommendation. Tim Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

- a. **Voting for Treasurer-** Sanket Unhale was elected as Treasurer.
- b. **Discussion of White Paper** - Robert Jacobi - We don't have enough suggestions to write a white paper, by the guidelines. I would like to move to write a letter, such as the one sent by Regent's Professors. The letter is intended to discuss larger issues such as what should be protected to save world class status. In addition, one or two constructive suggestions should be included. I have started writing a draft, to be sent to the internal policy committee and the executive board and then released to general council.

Q: James Johnson: My concern with downgrading to a letter is that the memo may be held in less regard. It probably won't be listened to as much as a white paper.

A: Robert Jacobi: The Regents professors suggested we send it and he thinks it will be better. I do not consider it a downgrade, I consider it more appropriate channeling.

Helena Morrison recommended that we support the memo, stating that if we've all done our jobs, this memo reflects things that have already been brought forth in our departments for consideration for white papers.

Robert Jacobi moved to write a memo instead of a white paper Jim Collins seconded the motion.

Discussion

Q: Jed Laver: when do we want to have memo finalized?

A: Robert Jacobi: still as early as possible. or it will require electronic vote.

Q: Sanket Unhale: does it have GPSC only or will it be ASUA combined?

A: Rorbert Jacobi: It will be GPSC only.

Stephen Bieda called to question. Emily Connally seconded. The motion passed with one nay and no abstentions.

- c. **Administration Reaction to pamphlet** - Erica Cirillo-McCarthy - last meeting I brought up two documents, including college of humanities memo and flyer, e-mailed to GPSC just in case, was not college of humanities, but was a group of students. Concerned students handed it out on mall, and many students were there. Administration reacted tenderly.

Point of information: Robert Jacobi: The notice Came over SPBAC listserv as well, though not everyone thought it was bad. General communications should be on a secure listserv.

Discussion regarding the nature of such a listserv continued and two competing motions were called to question by Stephen Bieda, and seconded by Emily Connally.

Emily Connally made a motion to open a google account for the purpose of secure communication. The motion was seconded by David Lopez- Negrete, 9, opposed, 12 opposed, with 4 abstentions. The motion did not carry.

Robert Jacobi made a motion to go to a secure listserv, the GPSC Representatives listserv, with current representatives only, and Jim Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with 13 ayes, 9 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

Erica Cirillo-McCarthy requested a discussion next meeting to orient students to the systems of calls to question and other rules of being a representative. Bridget Barker will hold structural information session next meeting for that purpose.

- d. **Information Item: Presidents Chief of Staff** - Stephen Bieda - The office staff are overworked. We are looking into hiring Chief of Staff to oversee office staff. If I find someone who would like to serve, we will go through with that process as soon as possible. This is independent from the constitutional amendment proposal sent out over GPSC-L. Stephen will send a new announcement, all graduate and professional students can apply including GPSC Reps.
- e. **Student Showcase Update** - Bridget Barker - Showcase sign up sheet was passed around. Jessica Gerlach: we had 75 applicants, fewer than 93 last year. But we reviewed them today, all acceptable, no one from Business and Public Administration. We had a good

mixture of grad and undergrad applications. Bridget Barker funding has gone better than last year, especially from other departments and sources.

Jim Collins made a motion to request permission from the council to automatically deny requests for listserv access from anyone not elected to serve on the GPSC. Emily Connally seconded the motion and it carried with no abstentions.

IX. Motion to Adjourn – at 8:13 pm Stephen Bieda moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Robert Jacobi and carried unanimously.