

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2009

I. Meeting called to order at 6:09pm by Alison Betts

Present: David Talenfeld, David Lopez-Negrete, James Johnson, Cory Christenson, Jose Alvarez, Lucy Blaney, Jim Collins, Mabel Crescioni, Christopher Kiefer, Nolan Ken Kubota, Maribel Moreno, Priyanka Sundareshan, M'Baliala Thomas, Brenda Verdugo Gonzalez, Amanda Durbak, Jessica Gerlach, Alison Betts.

Proxies: Bryan Korth, Tarun Bansal, Francisco Barrios, Helena Morrison, November Papaleo.

II. Elections

Candidates for Assembly Chair: James Johnson and Mabel Crescioni. After voting, James Johnson declared the new Assembly Chair. Alison Betts relinquished her position as Acting Assembly Chair.

Candidates for Treasurer: Brenda Verdugo Gonzalez, Bryan Korth, Cory Christenson. After voting, Cory Christenson declared the new Treasurer.

Candidate for Secretary: Bryan Korth. After voting, Bryan Korth declared the new Secretary. David Lopez-Negrete will continue as Acting Secretary during this meeting because Bryan is absent due to illness.

III. Call to the Audience – None.

IV. Officer Reports

1. David Talenfeld – President and Acting Treasurer

We have a provisional budget to approve tonight. Thanks to the previous Council's fiscal conservatism and push for acquiring student fees, we have a healthy budget.

David T. has envisioned two goals to consider: 1) host a Wildcat Ball in the Spring to raise money for the University's endowment. The overhead should be low and by promoting it across campus, the event should raise GPSC's profile. 2) Establish a class to follow the legislative process and meet influential persons involved in the process.

Tomorrow, E-Board members are meeting with Student Affairs and Grad College administrators to discuss moving GPSC to Student Affairs. ASUA gets \$500k while GPSC gets \$15k.

2. David Lopez-Negrete – Vice President and Acting Secretary

As previously emailed to the Council, Dr. William Crist, VP of Health Affairs, is attending this week's Committee of Eleven meeting. Topics of discussion should include the recent turmoil at the School of Medicine. Please send any questions to David LN to raise with Dr. Crist.

SPBAC met this morning and discussed the University's effort to grow the amount of off-site UA students called "10,000 Strong." The University Administration is continuing to

negotiate the future growth of off-site UA campuses—or learning centers—with the Board of Regents and ASU and NAU presidents.

On an unrelated note, SPBAC briefly mentioned ASUA's concert and how it will likely operate with a reduced budget and pay-back the bookstore for the losses the event suffered. David LN asked President Shelton to confirm that GPSC's budget would not be adversely affected because of the loss ASUA incurred. President Shelton answered that GPSC shouldn't be affected because it was not at all involved in ASUA's concert.

3. Alison Betts – Elections Director and Acting Assembly Chair

None.

VI. Questions for Officer Reports

Jim Collins: what is the University going to do with the stimulus funds? Maybe we should push for it to get rid of proposed fees, surcharges.

David LN: it might be a good idea for GPSC to submit a memo to SPBAC detailing Graduate Students' concerns and recommendations on how to spend the stimulus funds. I recommend the Policy Committee handle this question in conjunction with the broader Council.

M'Balía Thomas: how much money did ASUA lose in their concert?

David T.: about \$917k; ASUA had to empty out their emergency reserves. It looks like they have agreed to a repayment plan with the bookstore of \$114k per year.

Cory Christenson: what's the timeline?

David T.: it seems they get a lump sum and then spread it out.

James Johnson: when does ASUA set their budget? Do we know what they'll cut?

David T.: not sure but this is a good reason to have an ASUA liaison as part of one of our representative's external committee.

Lucy Blaney: can the College of Humanities submit a memo with recommendations to the Policy Committee for how to spend the stimulus?

David LN: yes.

V. Representative & Director Reports

Jessica Gerlach: Graduate Orientation is happening on 8/19. We've already sent invitations to program coordinators to send to new graduate students but please encourage your own constituents to attend. We already have 100+ people signed up online. The max we can handle at the event is around 630.

Jim Collins: IT student advisory Board met but we haven't received an answer on the official policy of email as an educational record. Jim thinks the Council should formally ask for this.

Cory Christenson: AGGSCS formulated a letter regarding ASUA concert. This is a good opportunity for GPSC to increase our budget considering how disproportionately they are funded compared to GPSC.

Amanda Durbak: Regarding Travel Grants, please let know constituents that we will have funding for them next year. Applications have soared and we are funding about 50%.

David T. makes a motion for Executive Session. Alison Betts makes a friendly amendment for a time limit of 10 minutes, seconded by Jim Collins. Motion passes unanimously at 6:50pm.

James Johnson motions to leave Executive Session, which David LN seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 7:01pm

VII. New Business

1. Representative Orientation – Alison Betts & David Talenfeld

Alison created a packet encapsulating the orientation for reps. One of our aims is to promote GPSC so that all our constituencies and others know about us. The packet includes a host of information on events, accomplishments, resources (e.g., Travel Grants, funding) that you can relay to your constituents.

2. Committee Appointments – David Talenfeld, Special Guest Stephen Bieda

There are about 62 committee seats, so that's 2-3 per member. Stephen discussed some of the most important committees for representatives to consider.

3. Approval of Provisional Operating Budget '09-'10 – David Talenfeld

We conferred with the outgoing Council and formulated a conservative estimate of our budget for this term. David T. described the items budgeted for.

David LN motioned to pass provisional budget. Lucy Blaney seconded motion. Roll call vote as follows:

David Talenfeld—aye
David Lopez-Negrete—aye
James Johnson—abstain
Cory Christenson—aye
Jose Alvarez—aye
Lucy Blaney—aye
Jim Collins—aye
Nolan Ken Kubota—aye
Maribel Moreno—aye
November Papaleo—abstain
M'Balía Thomas—abstain
Brenda Verdugo Gonzalez—aye
Tarun Bansal—aye
Francisco Barrios—abstain
Helena Morrison—abstain

Provisional budget passes.

4. Approval of 1/2 Time GA Positions – David Talenfeld & Alison Betts

These positions are necessary for the GPSC. The program coordinator was eliminated; we have increased ½ salary for these positions.

Lucy Blaney: has the money been accounted for in the budget and tuition remission?

David T.: yes.

Christopher Kiefer: how does this look as the University is cutting salaries?

David T.: the administrators we spoke to support this move and we are at the same time streamlining our organization. Additionally, a position was eliminated to do this.

Alison Betts: directors do a lot of work for GPSC, including the Events and Travel Grants Directors. The Travel Grants Director's work would actually increase under this arrangement.

Lucy Blaney: Spanish & Portuguese are cutting back so this provides the possibility for funding graduates.

David T. motion for approval of ½ time positions, Lucy Blaney seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

1. Chief of Staff

This position will be vacant as of June, we will look for candidates.

2. Policy Adviser

This position is vacant, we will look for candidates.

3. Events Director – Jessica Gerlach

David T. moves to confirm Jessica as the Events Director, which Lucy Blaney seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Travel Grants Director – Amanda Durbak

David T. moves to confirm Amanda as the Travel Grants director, which David LN seconds. Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Reading & Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2009

Alison Betts motions to approve by email.

IX. Call to Adjourn

James motions to adjourn, David T. seconds. Motion passes at 8:10pm.