

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA<sup>®</sup>

## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
Law 168

### I. Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by J. Johnson

**Present:** L. Blaney, L. Sekora, N. Papaleo, H. Morrison, P. Sundareshan, N. Kubota, M. Moreno, J. Johnson, J. Collins, A. Schumacher, B. Verdugo González, C. Christenson, F. Barrios, M. Thomas, N. Patel, A. Barajas, J. Álvarez, A. Durbak, J. Gerlach, B. Korth, D. Talenfeld, D. Lopez-Negrete

**Proxies:** R. Potter (Sekora)

### II. Call to Audience

**David Martinez III from ASA** - D. Martinez III is the campus organizer for UA. As campus organizer, he is looking to improve outreach to Graduate and Professional Students as ASA represents not only undergraduate but also graduate students. Current campaign focuses for this year are tuition, financial aid, and vote work. ASA is also working with other organizations to find UA's next Arizona Student Regent. Currently looking to organize info sessions, with one particularly tailored to G/P students. From general info sessions looking to hire 25 interns to help ASA improve visibility and make an impact for students. Martinez works under ASA Board of Directors but wants to impress that works for the students.

**L. Blaney** - Question about outreach for graduate students, how? Also, of the 25 interns looking to hire, how many are graduate students.

**D. Martinez III** - Internship program open to all students, but does provide undergraduate credit. If unable/not interested in internship, can also get involved in lobby core, mobilization of students on key issues, i.e. last year's demonstrations against budget cuts. If would simply like to volunteer can do that as well. Looking how to improve outreach for graduate students as is new to the position.

**L. Blaney** - Concern about difference between undergraduate and graduate students, for example difference between tuition.

**D. Martinez III** - Will work with D. Talenfeld and B. Korth to ensure that adequate representation is provided - feel free to contact [dm3@azstudents.org](mailto:dm3@azstudents.org)

### III. Officer Reports

#### a. President - *David Talenfeld*

Great orientation, 600+ students signed up, official numbers to come. Thanks to J. Gerlach Current priority is to approve budget and in particular approve office manager to ease burden currently on office staff.

In addition, N. Papaleo has done great job as social chair, in particular the organization of happy hour events and the current GPSC flyer.

#### b. Vice President - *David Lopez-Negrete*

Issues of tuition, in contact with external relations, meetings are currently being organized.

SPBAC meeting - tuition and differential cuts are being discussed, will keep council informed. If interested or concerned, contact your deans.

Student Regents - UA is starting process of electing student regent for next year. More information to come as the process has just started.

**c. Assembly Chair - James Johnson**

Currently missing some or all representatives from various colleges, Currently looking into setting up special elections to fill out these positions. Will look to get out more information shortly as important to fill these vacancies.

**d. Treasurer - Cory Christensen - deferred**

**d. Secretary - Bryan Korth - none**

**IV. Representative and Director Reports**

**J. Gerlach** - Events Director

GO was relatively successful, 600 signed up, approximately 530 attended. Worked well due to volunteers, helped make successful.

Looking to begin planning of student showcase, occurs on homecoming weekend. Will look to send out information in the near future to being process of plan as well as call of students.

Letters will go out in the next few days, contact J. Gerlach if maybe able to help organize with discussion, donation etc. if have contacts within departments/colleges. Any amount for donations is welcomed.

**H. Morrison** - How do donators get recognized and what is typical/appropriate for donations.

**J. Gerlach** - Can look into using banners, provide greater visibility on non department/college days. Amounts range dependent upon donator.

**A. Durbak** - Travel Grants

Applications are up, have received a number of applications in last round. More money allocated for travel grants and are targeting to fund close to 70% of applications. Also looking for help with judges as well.

**L. Blaney** - Possible to hold seminar/workshop on applying. Concern from constituents in rejection of applications, is there a way to even field or improve feedback.

**A. Durbak** - Individuals can apply multiple times up until date of travel/conference. If do not get it, email A. Durbak to get comments and feedback to provide input and help. Can also contact ahead of time if have questions. Can look to hold workshop/seminar if may improve/make easier.

**L. Blaney** - Is the judging blind

**A. Durbak** - Judges do see applicants names, but work hard to remain objective

**M. Thomas** - Applicants need to be sure to follow instructions, have seen many applications that have not read instructions, etc. Information is available on-line and those that apply must be critical of own application to ensure not making errors in submission.

**A. Durbak** - Must be sure follow directions, deadlines are firm, and make sure to utilize website information.

**L. Blaney** - ASUA liaison - couple of notes

ASUA has indicated that will post working budget on-line as well as posting meeting minutes.

Suggests that GPSC does the same to provide same level of accountability and transparency.

"Bridgification" between ASUA/GPSC is underway. Has impressed that would like to work with ASUA on things like a blood drive and student showcase, among other things.

## **V. Questions for Officer, Representative and Director Reports**

**C. Christenson** for **J. Johnson** - SBS already has interested members, when will elections occur and how? Also heard that College of Science and Letters will get additional representative following addition of hydrology, verification?

**J. Johnson** - information to come regarding special elections and unsure about the additional CoS seat.

**C. Christenson** for **L. Blaney** - ASUA meetings location and time?

**L. Blaney** - 5 - 7 pm, every Wednesday, Ventanna room, Memorial Union

**C. Christenson** for **D. Lopez-Negrete** - What is SPBAC doing in regards to differential cuts, is it waiting for the state budget to be finalized?

**D. Lopez-Negrete** - Cuts come from the office of the president, but since state budget is in limbo, topics will be recurring issue, will keep council informed as more information becomes available.

**H. Morrison** for **D. Talenfeld** - When do external committee assignments go out and when will they get contacted?

**D. Talenfeld** - Will try to get out assignments by the end of the week. Committees lacking assignments at the end of the week, EB will look to fill out. D. Talenfeld will be contacting chairs of respective committees in the near future. For those who previously served on external committees and would like to continue, will look to give preference prior to moving to alternate designation. **\*Need to serve on at least 1 external committee, but is ok to serve on more. Sign up on Google Doc.\***

## **VI. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

**a. May 6, 2009**

**b. June 17, 2009**

**c. July 15, 2009**

**d. August 12, 2009**

**B. Korth** suggested to send out and approve meeting minutes through email.

**L. Blaney** motioned to approve minutes through email, **N. Kubota** seconded, motion passed unanimously. Minutes will be sent out via email in pdf form in the coming week.

## **VII. Non-Consent Agenda Items**

### **a. Club and POD funding**

**C. Christenson** - Discussion of Club and POD funding, funding levels for various events and how committee determined appropriateness. Total comes to ~\$100 under current budget

**H. Morrison** - What is the ability to fund, previous year looked to push for increase in funding for travel grants but not for Club/POD. Is it possible to get an idea of what percentage is funded and for what types of events.

**C. Christenson** - Will look to put together historical numbers. In past some applications have not been funded, typically due to budget constraints and not due to quality of application.

**J. Johnson** - Funding of food?

**C. Christenson** - Will not fund food expenses since cannot trace to end user.

**L. Sekora** - Are events open to all?

**C. Christenson** - Yes, events must be open to all, requirement for Professional Opportunity Development / Club applications

**P. Sundareshan** - There is an ASUA fee for clubs? Does this also apply to POD/Club through GPSC?

**C. Christenson** - ASUA requires a fee to be recognized by the university as a club, POD does not require event holders to be recognized as a club.

**H. Morrison** - \$200k of student fee went to ASUA last year, any graduate/undergraduate organization can get funding as long as are recognized by the U of A. GPSC and delegates should look to push graduate organizations to apply for funding, including GPSC. Must have sponsorship of college and a faculty advisor/sponsor to be recognized by university and ASUA

**C. Christenson** - GPSC is currently looking into and considering application.

**L. Blaney** - Publish events on-line?

**A. Schumacher** - Publishing events to university wide audience may result in over attendance which may burden event holders.

**D. Talenfeld** - In past have donated \$~2k to ASUA as recognition that does help with funding of clubs etc. Done as a good-will gesture.

Motion to pass Club and POD funding by D. Lopez-Negrete, second by D. Talenfeld - passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **a. External Committee Assignments**

**D. Talenfeld** - Enter preferences by end of week, official selections will go out shortly. Once assignments go out, if each individual could find the contact information for the assigned committee, put in on goggle doc. so that D. Talenfeld can contact committee chairs with selections.

### **b. GPSC Budget**

**C. Christenson** - update of current budget, president and vice president have taken reductions in stipend, Club/POD funding reduced from \$40K to \$34K, and computer equipment allocation removed in order to provide office manager as 0.5 GA position. No other major changes compared to previous iterations.

**D. Talenfeld** - While wanting to get budget approved, important that all understand and agree upon it. More pressing matter is to get allocation for office manager approved so that process of hiring can occur. Willing to pass only that aspect if others would like more time to review budget.

**L. Blaney** - Officer manager position - 0.5 GA position - will position cover tuition remission, benefits, health insurance, etc. Is position 20 hour, if so are there open hours, etc. -

**A. Durbak** - can work 0.75 GA at university, as long as not on another grant -

**J. Johnson** - People in the office are taking on office manager duties in addition to positions currently held.

**A. Schumacher** - Motion to have written document, containing responsibility, requirements, etc. prior to moving forward. Motion seconded by ?

**Friendly amendment from D. Talenfeld** - Motion to have position requirements, responsibilities, etc. written up and distributed to council via email for clarifications or additions followed by distribution and open call.

Motion proposed by A. Schumacher with D. Talenfeld friendly amendment passes 21-1-0.

**M. Thomas** - Can a member of the council apply/hold office manager

**C. Christenson** - Cannot have elected representative also hold a GA position

**D. Talenfeld** - Members of council have right to resign elected position, voting responsibilities in order to hold office manager position.

Further questions can be directed to J. Johnson

Motion to approve budget in current iteration by C. Christenson, seconded by D. Talenfeld  
Roll call vote on motion to approve budget as follows:

D. Talenfeld - aye	L. Sekora - aye
D. Lopez-Negrete - aye	R. Potter (proxy Sekora) - abstain
J. Johnson - aye	L. Blaney - aye
C. Christenson - aye	P. Sundareshan - aye
B. Korth - aye	N. Kubota - aye
N. Papaleo - aye	M. Moreno - aye
J. Alvarez - aye	H. Morrison - aye
N. Patel - aye	J. Collins - aye
M. Thomas - aye	A. Schumacher - aye
F. Barrios - aye	B. Verdugo González - aye

Motion to approve budget passes.

## **IX. New Business**

### **a. Office Manager Position**

Will send out to GPSC-L listserv the office manager position documentation followed by open call, interview process, and call in front of council

### **b. Drop Course Fee**

**M. Thomas** - \$25 fine to drop classes after first week - Is this a problem? Are other's constituents concerned? What type of actions do GS have?

**D. Lopez-Negrete** - Graduate students can contact Office of the Registrar directly with concerns/problems. Also, if hear from constituents bring back to policy committee and will work on drafting together information and suggestions

### **b. Internal Committee Meetings**

From committee chairs - Meetings be starting shortly, if they have not already done so. Contact the committee chair with questions.

### **b. Constituency Meetings**

**D. Lopez-Negrete** - Must have a meeting with constituents prior to Feb. 2010. Way to address students and get feedback, it is ok to bring swag. Information about the meeting and requirements is in constitution which can be found online.

### **d. Special Elections**

**J. Johnson** - discussed previously in officer reports

### **e. GPSC Shirts**

Information from the office staff about shirts will go out shortly. Unsure at the current time where money will come from, but will free up some money in the budget.

## **X. Call to Adjourn**

D. Talenfeld motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm - second H. Morrison - motion passes unanimously