GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, 19 January 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
College of Law, Room 135

I. Call to Order
At 6:03

Attendance: Jasmine Sears, Mariia Khorosheva, Juhyung Sun, Sarah Netherton, Joy Veluz, Jim Collins, Madeline Ryder, Usir Younis, Sierra Fung, Chandni Parikh, Jared Brock, Caitlin Harrison, Thomas McClintock, Alexander Karaman, Ankush Nayak, Justin Ostrowski, Sarah Seavey, Ryan Fagan, Karthik Srinivasan, Jahaira Vera, Adam Meier, Preshit Ambade, Victoria Moses, Delaney Stratton, Brandon Smith, Katie Strawn, Anne Myers, Vic Keschrumrus, James Geach, Mark Ryan (proxy by Sarah Netherton), Jim Carlson (proxy by Sarah Netherton), William Robertson (proxy by Alexander Karaman), Chris Sogge (proxy by Alexander Karaman)

Guests: Jason Harris, Chris Hargraves, Zachary Brooks.

Breathing Exercise

Greg Byrne, VP for Athletics
i. G. Byrne: New college stadiums opening up all over the country.
   1. We need to find a new funding model.
   2. We are not coming to students and saying increasing our funding is all on you.
   3. We are getting assistance from donors.
   4. We will ask donors for 100 million dollars.
   5. When we learned about GPSC’s Facebook post and survey, I wanted to meet with Sarah.
   6. We thought we would give you some accurate information.
   7. If you are a freshmen in the next 4 years, you will not pay the fee.
   8. If you are a current grad student working on a PhD you also won’t pay the fees.
   9. If you are a new grad student next year, then this fee is part of your tuition and fees.
   10. 60 million people were watched our games last year.
   11. We balanced our budget for 31 straight years.
   12. We have an issue with our stadium that we need to address, and need to find a way to do it.
   13. We understand why you did the survey, and wanted to come in and talk and answer any questions.

ii. J. Sears: Will there be a fee if a current undergraduate transfers to the graduate level?

iii. G. Byrne: No, there won’t.

iv. J. Sears: What is the actual deficit the Campus Rec has?

v. G Byrne: Most athletics departments have deferred maintenance issues.
1. We have made decision where every year we have a positive balance at the end of the year.
2. We need to address the stadium issue.
3. We have deferred maintenance issues.
4. At the end of the year, we have to hit the breaks and stop what we are doing.
   vi. T. McClintock: If a students took a year off and came back, would they need to pay the fee?
   vii. G. Byrne: We haven’t discussed this, will think about it
   viii. T. McClintock: In some athletics facilities the equipment is literally broken, and not suitable.
ix. G. Byrne: Our highest priority is the Arizona stadium, that students and the community uses.
   1. We will have a student group to help prioritize how we distribute our money.
   2. This advisory group will present statements about where the money went.
   3. We have 20 sports, 2 of them have a positive profit, 18 lose money.
   4. We are conservative in what we pay our coaches.
   5. With this fee we want to give graduate students a section in the stadium, and offer the possibility of not standing the entire time.
x. J. Brock: I was a zona zoo member for 4 years.
   1. We tailgate all the time in the college.
   2. It seems that putting a mandatory student fee is taxing the whole student body to benefit a few?
   3. This is not my question, the students from my college are asking this question.
xii. G. Byrne: This fee is not benefiting a few.
   1. Football team benefits, entire departments benefit, we have a competitive program, student athletes benefit, there is community and campus engagement and involvement as well.
   2. We cannot relocate.
   3. We are worth investing in as a community.
xiii. J. Brock: For Graduate Assistants, our FTE is covered, but the fee isn’t.
   1. University fees aren’t covered by our fellowship.
   2. Perhaps this could be part of our tuition, as opposed to being a fee.
   3. We want to support the athletics program, but students shouldn’t be affected.
xiv. G. Byrne: I have not heard about this before.
   1. We will bring this up in our discussions.
xv. Z. Brooks: Last year when we spoke we decided not to have a fee.
xvi. J. Collins: It seems hardly any graduate students actually use the facilities?
xvii. G. Byrne: Gard students go to our games, though it is a lower percentage than undergraduates.
xviii. J. Collins: Rather than charging graduate students that don’t have money extra through the fee, how much more money would you need to charge for tickets?
xviii. G. Byrne: Students would need to pay 37 dollars per ticket per event.
J. Ostrowski: This is a flat tax, it has a negative impact on people.
1. Students are not coming to the UofA for sports, but for social mobility.
2. The fee’s negative individual aspects will outweigh the collective benefit.

G. Byrne: I don’t know that it will.

J. Ostrowski: Maybe we can have a staged tier system of payment?
1. Maybe someone making over this mount - has to pay this much, etc.

G. Byrne: Can the university tell how much money you make?

J. Ostrowski: Yes, through FASFA.

R. Fagan: I want to quote a selections from an email from a constituent I received.
1. I was a collegiate athlete and I know first hand what Athletic Departments can do to a campus when they get too much money and power.
2. I went to Auburn University and know about the Southeastern Conference.
3. Those wanting the hike will always want more.
4. The schools start changing their campuses because they want to accommodate for athletic events and donors who give lots of money.
5. There's too much emphasis on athletics and money instead of education.
6. The only sports that benefit too are the big money sports, football and basketball.
7. Money equals power and that's exactly what the Athletics Department wants.
8. Can't we do more with less?
9. Why can't our football coach get paid only as the highest paid professor like Stanford.
10. It should just be optional rather than a mandatory fee.

G. Byrne: I was disagree that it is about power.
1. I promise you we will not allow one cent of these dollars to go towards paying coaches.

R. Fagan: I looked at the payroll for the athletics dept.
1. It increased by 4 million dollars between the 2011 and 2015 fiscal years.
2. That amount of money could have paid for a lot of the deferred maintenance this fee will supposedly address.
3. It is hard to believe that the fee won’t indirectly fund salary increases.

G. Byrne: I believe we have coaches right now that are worth investing.
1. We will find other ways to do that.

S. Seavey: Have the safety issues, such as the stadium cement falling, be fixed first?

G. Byrne: Yes, it will.
1. We have done some re-ceiling.
2. We have to create a much better environment than what we currently have.

S. Seavey: If we continue to upgrade our facilities, if the stadium became more lucrative, can we take out the fees in the future?
1. Maybe we can have a need based waiver.
2. We should also make sure other department are not asking for fees as well.

Z. Brooks: It is hard to even have a 2 dollar fee waived for students.
1. You are the person who can do something about this.

xxxii. G. Byrne: If in 5 years we say we don’t need an increase in the fee (there will be a fee increase every 8 years), we can decide not to increase it.

xxxiii. Y. Younis: Where is the progress at serving alcohol at the stadium?
   1. That would make lots of money.
   2. There could be limitation to serving alcohol to undergraduates.
   3. I don’t go to the game because it doesn’t serve alcohol.

xxxiv. G. Byrne: We can’t do alcohol, because the stadium doesn’t have the restrooms to support it.
   1. West Virginia started selling bear last year.
   2. The University of Texas serves beer.

xxxv. Y. Younis: Yes, there are colleges who have done this.

xxxvi. A. Nayak: Can the fee for graduate student be lower than for undergraduates?
   1. Graduate students use the stadium less.

xxxvii. A. Karaman: Does women’s sports use the stadium?

xxxviii. G. Byrne: Women teams don’t use stadium, but the profits from games revenue supports women’s sporting events.

xxxix. A. Karaman: This fee is classist, it is ethically repugnant.
   1. It is refusing low income students their right to an education.
   2. Students are already dropping from the university because the fees are too high.
   3. It is an unethical fee.

xl. G. Byrne: Athletics can be part of the education experience.

xli. A. Nayak: Even 30-40 more dollars is a lot of money for students from other countries.
   1. Deferring fees would be a good thing, that is helpful.

xlii. G. Byrne: We will think about this.
   1. Thank you for letting me come today.

xliii. J. Collins: Having an advisory board that determine fee spending may not do much.
   1. What can we do?

xliv. J. Sears: There is insufficient understanding of how fees work, maybe we can use this for future discussions.

xlv. J. Sun: What can we possibly do?
   1. Just the mere presence of the survey and Facebook posts made this meeting with Greg Byrne possible.

xlvi. S. Seavey: The fee is a much bigger issue that athletics.

xlvii. S. Netherton: The faculty and staff are not happy with the idea of the fee, so now it’s becoming difficult to come up with a fee proposal that flies.
   1. I hear more discussions are going on.
   2. We have a large amount of students that are opposed to the fee.

xlviii. R. Fagan: We should be advocating for future students too.

xlix. J. Collins: Yes, the strategy that it won’t affect you if you graduate, shouldn’t work.

l. M. Khorosheva: Yes, and what if we take a break or decide to get a second degree?
1. We'll need to pay the fee in this case.

li. C. Hargraves: The next senate meeting is this Wednesday.

lii. J. Sears: I was excited Greg Byrne showed up.

II. Call to Audience
Swearing-in of 2 new reps

III. Approvals
a. November 30, 2015 minutes
   Vote: 33 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain
b. Research and Project Grant recommendations
   i. J. Sears: We are approving just the titles of the proposals, approved or rejected, and
      the dollar amounts.
      Vote: 33 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain
c. Club/POD Funding recommendations
   Vote: 33 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

IV. New Business
a. GPSC Contributions to Departmental Libraries – J. Sears
   i. J. Sears: James Geach proposed that GPSC buy reference copies of books commonly used
      by the college and have the books in the colleges.
      1. In this way students are not going to libraries to get book loans.
      2. James came up with a book list that students in Humanities could use for the next
         10 years.
      3. This would be a one time purchase that could be beneficial for a decade.
      4. Do you think it is beneficial for your department?
   ii. B. Smith: How can this be beneficial?
       1. We are moving in the opposite way of the worldwide electronic tendencies.
   iii. J. Geach: I am the representative from Humanities.
       1. We are very traditional, I come from the classics departments, and we primarily
          use paper book copies.
   iv. M. Khorosheva: I am the college of Education representative currently, and was the
      Humanities representative before.
      1. I agree that it is important to have physical book copies.
      2. This is especially important for the dissertation process.
      3. With physical copies you are able to underline information, etc.
   v. J. Sears: Open up discussions for books that your department may need.
   vi. P. Ambade: In our college, core books get updated now and then.
      1. We don't get digital copies in time.
      2. We could use other new furniture and chairs for our college.
   vii. A. Karaman: I come from an interdisciplinary field.
      1. It is hard to say what books we need.
2. Perhaps we can purchase research oriented technology and library furniture instead?

viii. S. Netherton: In the initial proposal, the humanities students were not able to use REAP money.
1. We were trying to see if there are colleges and departments that we are not serving well.
2. This is how this conversation started.
3. We wanted to serve Humanities, but we didn’t know how.

ix. A. Karaman: REAP needs to do something about how it gives its funds.

x. J. Sears: James and I talked, and it seems a lot of departments can’t use the money.
1. We are trying to alter the program.

xi. S. Netherton: We either need to redo the program, which I don’t think we should, or just provide a different opportunity.

xii. J. Sun: Instead of GPSC doing research for each department, let us know what your college needs.
1. Buying equipment is a possibility too.
2. We have transcription equipment, and can start purchasing other equipment we could use.

xiii. A. Nayak: Every department has its own needs.

xiv. J. Sears: Our money expires at the end of the year, so get your ideas in early.

xv. A. Karaman: Can we have a full budget available for the meetings so we can see the numbers?

xvi. J. Sears: We will have hard numbers to work with next time.

xvii. J. Collins: There is a stipends issue.
1. If someone is not getting a full stipend, we should tell them why.

xviii. J. Brock: I can publish the stipends breakdown.

xix. J. Sears: 2 years ago the stipend breakdown became public, but was not helpful.

xx. J. Collins: If people are not getting a full stipend, maybe we can send them an email.

xxi. J. Brock: It is something we can look at.
1. There are 48 people total, 24 are getting their full stipend.

xxii. M. Khorosheva: I always tell people to check their attendance for every meeting.

xxiii. J. Brock: Representatives get paid $90 over summer, and $180 every semester.
1. You can miss 1 meeting over the summer, and 2 in each semester.
2. We are not lessening the stipends for representative duties.
3. People are being paid $60 for representative duties in any case.
4. You need to attend at least 5/8 of meetings.
5. I will send out the spreadsheet.

xxiv. J. Harris: Individualized emails should be send out.

xxv. S. Seavey: Last semester I tried to meet all the representative duties.
1. We should put the responsibility back on us to meet our duties.

xxvi. J. Brock: I agree, we need to follow representative responsibilities and by-laws.

V. Staff Reports
a. Grad Slam/Student Showcase – S. Netherton
   i. S. Netherton: I sent an email about the Grad student showcase.
      1. Our goal is to get 200 applicants.
      2. We currently have 150 or 140 applicants.
      3. We want to showcase the value we bring to the university.
      4. Please send out the email.
      5. The email is going out to graduate colleges already.
   ii. B. Smith: It doesn’t seem there is a restriction on embellishing your research.
      1. Math PhDs have a harder time at winning.
      2. I don’t want it to be a competition about who can brag the most.
   iii. J. Harris: We have no control over the judging.
      1. The faculty and administration do the judging, so we at least have people who understand the field.
   iv. S. Netherton: The Grad Slam is new as of last year.
      1. It is a 3 minute presentation.
      2. We are competing with the NAU.
      3. ASU has not made it.
      4. There will be a statewide competition in Phoenix.
      5. We have training and workshops.
      6. There is more information on our website.
      7. Kevin has all information as well.
   v. Y. Younis: Is there an ASU and NAU winner?
   vi. S. Netherton: There are both, plus an Arizona winner.
   vii. J. Collins: How much can you win?
   viii. S. Netherton: 3 thousand dollars.
      1. You just need to make your research interesting and accessible.
   ix. J. Sears: There are posters about the event in the GPSC office, get them and hang them up.
      1. We want as many students participating as possible.

VI. Representative Reports
a. I Will Campaign and SSFAB – A. Karaman
   i. A. Karaman: It is important to promote the “I Will” campaign directly to student in class.
      1. I will send the necessary information.
      2. SSFAB has 40 dollars per year.
      3. A significant portion of GPSC money comes from SSFAB.
      4. There are twice as many SSFAB applications this year.
      5. Keep this information about SSFAB applications as an internal document, SSFAB is okay with GPSC seeing it.
      6. You can have discussions with your constituents about what you want to support.
ii. **J. Collins:** I will send an email out to people with something I put together from pitchfest.
   1. There is a website I would like to advertise that sells used laptops, etc.
   2. Everything is 25 percent off.
   3. You can use it for buying food and cars, etc.
   4. The website can collaborate with GPSC.

iii. **J. Sears:** GPSC has a foundations account we can work with.

iv. **A. Nayak:** The University subscribe to graphing and analysis software, but it doesn’t have all the necessary software.

v. **J. Sears:** Maybe software costs can come out of the IT fee.

vi. **A. Nayak:** The university does not have some of the necessary technology.

vii. **J. Sears:** We can look into that.

VII. Officer Reports

b. President – S. Netherton
   i. **S. Netherton:** We have 980 responses in the athletics survey.
      1. Please continue to send it out.
      2. We will have 2 days at the capitol, tell me if you want to go.
      3. They will be on February 17 and March 2.
      4. Maybe we will start paying for free triage visits for every graduate student.
      5. These visits will be at CAPS, which offer counseling and psychological services.
      6. We will send out the governing docs, we made many changes.
      7. Our gala is on March 25.

c. Vice President – J. Sun
   i. **J. Sun:** Try to do the meeting with your Deans
      1. If you tried but were not successful, that is ok.
      2. If you know of any clubs that applied for funding but couldn’t get from POD, let us know.

d. Assembly Chair – J. Sears

e. Treasurer – J. Brock

f. Secretary – M. Khorosheva

g. Social Chair – J. Veluz
   i. **J. Veluz:** Our 25th GPSC Anniversary Gala is on March 25 at 7:30 pm.
      1. I’ll send emails when GPSC events come up.

VIII. Updates

a. Athletics Fee – S. Netherton

b. New VP Structure – S. Netherton

Tabled for next meeting

**Vote: 33 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain**

IX. Other Business

X. Call to Adjourn

At 8:04 pm.