General Council Meeting  
Tuesday, 2 February 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Student Union, Ventana Room

I. Call to Order  
At 6:07 pm  

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

Guests: Jason Harris.

Breathing Exercise

II. Call to Audience

III. Approvals  
a. January 19, 2016 minutes  

Vote: 29 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

IV. Early Reports  
a. Website Update – W. Ng  
i. W. Ng: The new website is up and going.  
1. Alexei and I are working on new content.  
2. Originally we were just going to migrate content, but now we are working on new content too.  
3. There are 4 different items on the front page, this will allow us to highlight and promote events throughout the academic year.  
4. With this website, resources will hopefully be more organized and it will be easier to find information.  
5. These are the categories we came up with.  
6. If you feel there should be another category-let us know.  
7. We are still playing around with the website, so this may not be the final version.  
8. Look at the website in 1-2 weeks, and let me know if there is any missing content.  
9. The website will only work on campus for now, otherwise you will need VPN.  
10. The “about” page should now be more excited.  
11. Right now the content is still being updated.  

ii. J. Harris: The website is gpso-dev.arizona.edu  
1. If there is anything you want us to showcase on the website, send us the info.
iii. **A. Karaman:** Maybe students might be confused by the 4 items on the bottom, and the 6 item links on top.
1. They might think that these are the 4 main categories.
2. But the website looks very good in general.

iv. **W. Ng:** We are using the UofA template right now, though we changed several things.
1. Any feedback is welcome.
2. We have been trying to take out as much redundancy as possible.

v. **J. Harris:** Wei Ren put in an incredible amount of time into the website.
1. The website is much larger than we planned.
2. We will launch the main website soon.
3. We should be able to go live with the website within a month.

vi. **A. Karaman:** On the “resources” side of the website, are many of the resources not part of GPSC?

vii. **S. Netherton:** Yes.
1. There is GPSC childcare and we also have DES childcare.
2. We want to give out information about as many resources as possible.

viii. **M. Khorosheva:** VPN is needed to access the new GPSC website right now, but what will people travelling who don’t have VPN do?
1. Is the old version of website going to be available for them?

ix. **W. Ng:** No VPN will be necessary after the website is prepared and goes live, it will replace the old GPSC website.

b. Social Chair – J. Veluz
i. **J. Veluz:** I’ll be sending you emails and updates on GPSC events.
1. March 25 is the date for our gala.
2. The event starts at 7:30.
3. On February 19 we want to have officers and GC members be more visible, so maybe there could be an officer night and you can come and talk to people who may be interested in running or those don’t know anything about GPSC.
4. Let me know if you can come that day.

IV. **New Business**
a. Governing Docs Amendments Vote – S. Netherton
i. **M. Khorosheva:** This year I was the head of the governing docs committee.
1. We made some changes in terms of where things belonged in our governing docs.
2. We worked on them this semester.
3. Our constitution was too long, and many of the things belonged in the By Laws and Election Code instead.
4. We made the necessary modifications.

ii. **S. Netherton:** In the constitution, we modified the clause of GPSC being the “sole” graduate student representation.
1. We added a non-discrimination clause.

iii. A. Karaman: In regards to the language about representation - I don’t see another entity on campus who represents graduate students.

iv. S. Netherton: That’s ASUA.
1. I had this discussion with the administration and ASUA.
2. ASUA claims that they represent all the students.

v. J. Sears: It’s not that GPSC is the only organization helping students.
1. It comes down to semantics in the representation.
2. We are the main organization supporting grad students, but I don’t see us saying that we are the sole organization.

vi. S. Netherton: It is funny that we have this “sole” clause, especially if we are working more with ASUA.
1. If people feel strongly about this clause, we can leave or change it in a different way.

vii. J. Carlson: I’ve reviewed the governing documents for ASUA and the law school.
1. GPSC is good in terms of the general content of its governing docs.

viii. A. Nayak: ASUA still represents us, so why should we think GPSC is the sole graduate student representative organization?

ix. S. Netherton: Where the constitution talked about elections, we took out all language.
1. The Elections Code contains all the necessary information on elections.
2. Officer and representative responsibilities are now in the by-laws.
3. “Ineligibility” is the same.
4. We clarified that all representative terms are one year.
5. If an office becomes vacant, the person who gets elected in their place can only serve until the next GPSC election.
6. How to impeach representatives was moved further down in the constitution.
7. We added the clause about any “additional officers”.
8. This was done so our current constitution will not need to change if we have more officers join GPSC.
9. We moves the succession of the presidency down in the constitution.
10. We got rid of our EB by-law in addition to the regular GPSC by-laws
11. I never saw any organization have two sets of by-laws.
12. EB has officially voted to combine the two by-laws.

x. R. Fagan: Can the EB create their own by-laws?

xi. S. Netherton: Not anymore.
1. The representative and officer duties used to be listed in constitution, now they are in the by-laws.
2. We now have staff advisors and a department head.
3. Vacancies will be filled in accordance with the elections code.
4. We didn’t change anything about the GPSC meetings.
5. We do have information about what quorum means.
6. Quorum is more than 50 percent of active voting members.
7. We added Information about teleconferencing for UA online students.
8. These students will not be penalized for skyping in.
9. We added the word “collectively” to maximum 6 proxies per whole EB at one
given General Council meeting.

xii. M. Khorosheva: Is everyone ok with moving EB and GC responsibility descriptions
to the by-laws?

xiii. J. Sears: Any there any contentions on the Constitution?
1. The Constitution and by-laws were seconded from the Governing Docs
   Committee.

   **Vote: 26 for, 0 opposed, 3 abstain**

xiv. A. Karaman: The changes in the constitution are really hard to follow through.
1. It would be better to italicize certain items and strike them out, so we don’t
   need to compare old and new governing docs.

xv. S. Netherton: We hope that we will not need to change the constitution, so
    future amendments should be simpler, and changes will be made to the by-laws
    primarily.
1. All representative requirements remain the same as what we did last year.

xvi. A. Karaman: What is the purpose of serving on the committees, if we never hear
    what people are actually doing on them?

xvii. M. Khorosheva: When I was Assembly Chair, we used to have on the agenda the full list
    of representatives, so that all the representatives would report on their committee
    updates during General Council Meetings whenever they had anything new from their
    committees.
1. We could start doing this again.

xviii. J. Sears: We could mandate it that representatives report on their committees at
       least once to the general council.

xix. A. Karaman: Yes, that is a good idea.

xx. B. Smith: Some committees have confidential information we can’t report on.

xxi. M. Khorosheva: Will this mean that representatives who are on more important
    committees and perhaps do more work for GPSC need to report, and others do
    not?

xxii. J. Brock: Reporting at least once a semester is ok.
1. I don’t know if we should codify this in the representative responsibilities in
   the by-laws.

xxiii. A. Karaman: If we don’t even know what the committees do, how can we start
       influencing people on campus?

xxiv. B. Smith: I would suggest maybe not codifying it.

xxv. J. Sears: The new VP will be figuring out information on committees from now
     on.

xxvi. S. Netherton: We are we happy to put in representative committee reporting
      once a semester.
xxvii. **A. Karaman:** Someone is put on a committee to represent GPSC, then they don’t do anything, and decisions are made to harm us.
   1. We need to know before a decision is made.

xxviii. **S. Netherton:** We have created a new Vice President position, and one of their responsibilities will be to monitor GPSC participation.

xxix. **A. Karaman:** Committee stipends should be correlated to the amount of labor per committee.
   1. There is currently no backchannel to know what GPSC is doing.

xxx. **M. Ryder:** From personal experience, as a representative I joined GPSC after election were over, and so could only attend 4 meetings.

xxxi. **J. Brock:** From my own point of practice, if you came to GPSC later, we could prorate the stipend.
   1. We would see if you attended the meetings after you were sworn in.
   2. Any meetings you did not attend before you were sworn in should not be counted against you.

xxxii. **S. Kosso:** There should be a better boarding process for new reps.
   1. I wasn’t added to the list serve straight away, didn’t have a placard for 1.5 weeks.
   2. I couldn’t even check the minutes.
   3. New representatives were sworn in in a massive way.

xxxiii. **J. Sun:** Yes, this is what happened at the beginning of last semester.
   1. Representatives were getting added massively.
   2. I take responsibility for that.
   3. This year was unusual in how many GPSC positions were filled by random recruitment.
   4. I tried a few mass tactics, but didn’t refine them, so we could have taken better care of the new representatives.
   5. Next year our tactics should be better than they were this year.

xxxiv. **S. Netherton:** I came into GPSC at a weird time before too.
   1. If your stipend was not accurate, we will fix it.
   2. We know you were here after you were sworn in.

xxxv. **J. Sears:** Election packets just went live yesterday.

xxxvi. **J. Sun:** This by-laws discussion has brought up all sorts of issues.
   1. This conversation is not part of the planned meeting.

xxxvii. **S. Netherton:** In the by-laws, we added a description of the administrative vice president.

xxxviii. **A. Karaman:** I think the questions about the stipend pushes us to reconsider what the stipend is for.
   1. I think we do more to merit the 180 dollars a year.
   2. People should be paid their full stipends regardless.

xxxix. **J. Brock:** The stipend is $450 per year.

x. **J. Sears:** I will write that down for next meeting discussion.
xlii. **S. Netherton:** We took out specific references to the constitution.

1. We put in language about the new executive vice president position.

xliii. **J. Sears:** We have previously heard and approved the rationale for the Executive and Administrative vice presidents.

xliv. **B. Smith:** What happens if the president leaves GPSC?

**S. Netherton:** The vice presidents jointly take on the role of the president.

1. The attendance will now be taken by the secretary not the Assembly Chair.
2. The secretary will now send out minutes and attendance within 10 days.
3. These changes will only start next year.
4. We won’t do election code right now.
5. We will vote on the current GPSC by-laws edits.

*Vote: 24 for, 2 opposed, 3 abstain*

b. **University Budget – S. Netherton**

i. **S. Netherton:** Because we don’t have time to talk about this right now, please submit ideas and priorities.

1. Right now on the table are salary increases.
2. We need to think about what we need to fund this year.
3. It won’t be a fun year, no matter what we do with the tuition.
4. If you have any comments, please put them in google docs.

ii. **J. Sun:** We want to talk about what is important to you.

1. Free your mind when you are filling out the form.
2. Think along the lines of “if we had to take the tuition increase to fund this priority, we would be more comfortable with this.”

c. **GPSC Budget – S. Netherton**

i. **S. Netherton:** I am proposing we send 30 thousand dollars to travel grants.

1. I want us to also fund one triage visit per grad students for this semester.
2. I put 25 thousand for college libraries.

ii. **M. Khorosheva:** My college said they have no storage space for books we buy for them.

iii. **S. Netherton:** Maybe the reference copies can be stored in the library?

1. Will think about this.

iv. **S. Netherton:** I want GPSC to get golf carts.

1. We will buy 25 thousand magnets.
2. We will help pay 5 thousand dollars for interview costs for program coordinator positions, if the interview candidates are out-of-state.
3. We are requiring applicants to have at least an MA degree.
4. I set aside 5 thousand dollars for each of the cultural centers.
5. We will be funding peer educators, and giving them employee stipends.
6. I am grasping at straws at this point on ways to spend money.

v. **A. Karaman:** These are big numbers and I am uncomfortable with approving this.
vi. **S. Netherton:** I didn’t get any input from representatives on their ideas to spend excess GPSC money.
   1. I can send the spreadsheet with numbers.
   2. I am still moving to approve this.

vii. **A. Karaman:** My constituents are very active.
    1. If I voted on this without informing them, they would be very upset.

viii. **J. Brock:** If we give reps 2 weeks to find out the necessary information, we will see if they like this or have different ideas.
    1. At the next GC meeting we can give definite approval to this.

ix. **A. Karaman:** Where is this money coming from?
    1. Is it coming from student tuition?

x. **S. Netherton:** It doesn’t come from SSF.

xi. **V. Moses:** I can see why we can’t put this money into Travel or Research Grants.
    1. But maybe we can establish a broader GPSC research grant?
    2. Maybe this can be something anyone can apply for?

xii. **S. Netherton:** The problem is we can’t give this money to students.
    1. It can only go to departments.

xiii. **J. Sun:** We were facing this problem a few months ago.
    1. We had 2 thousand dollars.
    2. We were thinking about what we could spend for what.
    3. If people are uncomfortable voting today, I’d be surprised if 10% of the excess money was actually spent.
    4. If you talk to your constituents and come up with suggestion in the next month, it’s a good chance we will be able to make it happen.

xiv. **J. Sears:** This sounds like it’s a contentious topic.
    1. It is best to let everyone talk to their constituents, and we can vote on this in 2 weeks.

xv. **S. Netherton:** I would still like research and travel grants to get their discussed money additions.

**Vote: 29 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain**

xvi. **J. Brock:** Sarah, can you send the budget spreadsheet tonight?

xvii. **J. Harris:** Our GPSC Advisory council will be on the 11th.
    1. There are 7 members of the faculty that help us.
    2. You can meet them.
    3. Our EB meeting is right after that.
    4. Cameron, our travel grants director, also needs judges.

xviii. **S. Netherton:** You have to register every round to evaluate the travel grants.

xix. **J. Harris:** Please register, Cameron still needs judges.

xx. **J. Sears:** Kevin needs help with the showcase.
    1. Please volunteer.

xxi. **J. Sears:** I move to table office reports and updates.
    1. Our next meeting is at the College of Law.
V. Staff Reports
   a. President’s Chief-of-Staff – J. Harris

VI. Representative Reports

VII. Officer Reports
   a. President – S. Netherton
   b. Vice President – J. Sun
   c. Assembly Chair – J. Sears
   d. Treasurer – J. Brock
   e. Secretary – M. Khorosheva

VIII. Updates
   a. Athletics Fee – S. Netherton

IX. Other Business

X. Call to Adjourn
   At 7:59 pm.