General Council Meeting
Monday, June 8 2015, 4 – 5 p.m.
Student Union Memorial Center, Santa Cruz Room

I. Call to Order
At 4:10 pm
Attendance: Juhyung Sun, Mariia Khorosheva, Jared Brock, Sarah Netherton, Sierra Fung, Chandni Parikh, Jim Collins, Cari Tusing, Usir Younis, Kate Chisholm (proxy by Sarah Netherton), Falguni Sonawala (proxy by Juhyung Sun), Delaney Stratton (via Skype), Joy Veluz (via Skype), Jasmine Sears (via Skype)

II. Call to Audience
S. Netherton: We will start the meeting again with the breathing exercise. We will gradually build more technique. Take a minute to relax, inhale on the count of 2,3,4; hold your breath on the count of 1,2,3,4,5,6,7; exhale to 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. Wait a few seconds and do this one more time.

III. Approvals
a. Minutes – May 13, 2015
   Vote: 13 for, 1 opposed, 0 abstain

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
a. Healthcare grants – J. Sears
   i. J. Sears: It was too late last year to do the health care grants.
      1. This year I talked to Deya and it seems our contingency money is too big for our department. We could spend it on health care grants.
      2. This is the way it can work: we can let students submit their bills and an explanation of what they mean. We could award them noney.
      3. It would not take too much manpower to run this and we could decide to cancel the whole thing if it doesn't work.
   ii. J. Veluz: Do the grants cover dentals? And do they have to be for services done in Arizona? Or can you have them cover what is done at other places?
   iii. J. Sears: I will need to check with Deya. But probably that should work.
   iv. J. Veluz: Does it have to be for services done within the past 6 months?
   v. J. Sears: No, 6 months is just an arbitrary number. How much contingency money do we have left?
   vi. J. Brock: I only know the numbers Zach gave us. We don't have any specific numbers until the budget is finalized. If we have any rollover money, then we will have enough money for the grants.
   vii. J. Collins: The contingency money was reserved in case we lose our funding.
viii. **S. Netherton:** We should have 10 percent of contingency money for sure.
   1. But if money should be take away from some departments, they would need it and we could lose that money. So Cody said we shouldn’t have too much money in the accounts as it can be questioned. We need to put the money elsewhere.
   2. I currently don’t know how much contingency money we will have left over. But great idea, Jasmine. Maybe we should wait until next year.
   3. Also currently talking to a dental company, maybe we can allow individual students to buy insurance being part of our group. I’m meeting with them to see what we can do. Maybe it will make dental service more affordable.

ix. **J. Collins:** We can have NAU and ASU join with us in this. We talked about it with Zach. Can we revisit the idea of separate income funds? Can we put the contingency fund into a separate account? Maybe it’s a good time to look into this?

x. **J. Sun:** If we total up the contingency money, how much do we have?

xi. **J. Brock:** We will need to see, we have some estimations, but the budget is still in the air, especially as we are increasing spending in some areas, such as travel. Maybe we’ll have 50 thousand left.

xii. **J. Sun:** Once we figure out the budget, we can see how much money we have left.

xiii. **C. Tusing:** We can set up a flow chart of priorities, in case of an emergency especially, and think of possible distributions.

xiv. **J. Brock:** It’s a good idea, but it may be difficult to do. Who will be evaluating the receipts for the medical records? What is a medical emergency and based on what criteria? Are we taking into account dependents, kids, parents? While I do like the idea, I caution it as things can get very complicated very fast.

xv. **J. Collins:** Some students can’t get medical insurance at all, so maybe they can get something this way.

xvi. **J. Brock:** Will part time students be able to apply for this? We can spend 50 thousand dollars so fast on these health care grants. It’s a good idea, but I’m worried and skeptical.

xvii. **S. Netherton:** The University already does emergency medical funding.
   1. I talked to Melissa Vito and they set aside 50 thousand dollars to help with student prescription drug costs.
   2. Maybe we can give the grants based on needs? We will see how it all works out. It would be great to look into the health care grants though and how much money we have in GPSC.
   3. I would also be interested to see how other universities handle these things. Do they fund emergency visits?

xviii. **J. Sun:** This will be a sort of pilot project. GPSC has never done this before. We will do our best.

xix. **J. Sears:** Mostly I was looking to see if this was even worth discussing. I’ll look into average catastrophic medical costs and maybe compiling all existing resources.

xx. **J. Brock:** I would make a motion that we postpone discussing this issue until later.
b. Rec summer pass – S. Fung
   i. **S. Fung:** I had several students ask me if the summer rec fee is being waived this summer.
   ii. **S. Netherton:** For several years we had it waived, but not anymore.
   iii. **J. Collins:** When there was an increase in the rec fee, GPSC said we won’t oppose it if we had the summer rec fee waived.
      1. But now the rec center said this deal was originally only for 1 year and that they actually did us a favor by extending it for several years.
      2. The current rec center president wasn’t here when this deal was made, however she thinks of it this way. I can’t convince her otherwise, even though I was here when the deal was made.
   iv. **J. Sun:** Is there anything in writing?
   v. **J. Collins:** No, the deal was oral.
   vi. **S. Netherton:** I think we can randomly reimburse students for their rec summer fees, or use any other approach we want to take. I think we never really came up with a clear way of reimbursing students.
   vii. **U. Younis:** Should we do a raffle? Why overcomplicate things?
   viii. **J. Brock:** Agreed.
   ix. **J. Sun:** Agreed.
   x. **J. Brock:** We can’t vote on this now, but an email vote is possible.
   xi. **J. Sun:** We’ll do an email vote and propose the raffle to compensate students for their rec summer fee. This is the first time we’ll be trying to compensate rec costs and we don’t want to drag this out too long.
   xii. **J. Sears:** According to the Bylaws, it is my responsibility to do the email vote.

VI. Funding

VII. Staff Reports

VIII. Representative Reports

IX. Officer Reports
   a. President – S. Netherton
      i. **S. Netherton:** Last week there was an ABOR meeting. I wasn’t there but I met with all the state representatives that evening.
         1. The UofA wants the regents to have some interaction with students. We will try to do barbecues with state legislators. We’re doing one at NAU this month and some across the state with the alumni. Perhaps grad students can host one here.
         2. I told the regents we don’t have houses to accommodate them. But we talked about having a barbecue at the mall and the park, as it is more representative of student life. We don’t have fancy dinners at houses.
3. The regents have a better idea of student life, the state legislator's idea of student life is less accurate - they think we can take and pay back loans easily and drive fancy cars. But this is usually not the case. So we are trying to change this misconception, especially since we heard the state funding will soon be close to zero. We are trying to do whatever we can.

4. I’m also trying to work with the campus pantry to see what we can do to afford better food securing and a better connection to the community food bank. This is a new project I just got in touch with last week. I don’t think this is publicized enough.

5. We are trying to see what funding we can funnel to them so we can support them at what they do best. However, I don’t want to reinvent the wheel. We should also be careful with how we use our GPSC money.

6. We are also working to get one more student on the campus pantry committee. I am seeing to have a representative on campus so that students can apply for these services.

   ii. **J. Sears:** I will let the students in my college know to donate to the university pantry service, not the food bank. I would also recommend GPSC-food pantry team building.

   iii. **C. Tusing:** Maybe we can have this as a service commitment? Instead of serving in certain GPSC committees?

   iv. **S. Netherton:** Yes, this is a possibility.

   v. **J. Collins:** The Tucson market may be able to donate to this cause too.

   vi. **S. Fung:** Maybe we can partner with the food markets too?

   vii. **C. Tusing:** It is illegal to reuse some of the food, it has to get dumped.

   viii. **J. Brock:** Yes, often left over food is thrown away. I’m sure the Tucson food bank has already established all the connections it needs, so we should just talk to them.

   ix. **J. Collins:** Airports also throw away lots of food, and no one takes it due to health reasons.

      1. I can even tell some immigrants to get the food. But no one wants to take it because people are afraid to be sued.

   x. **J. Sun:** We can talk about this some more at a later time.

b. Vice President – J. Sun

   i. **J. Sun:** I’m the Western NAGPS chair of legislature. If you hear about something that could be of interest, let me know.

      1. I also apologize if someone was unhappy about getting their rep stipends paid out later than expected. At this time everything has been paid out.

   ii. **U. Younis:** I am confused what the rep reports are?

   iii. **J. Sun:** This is something only continuing reps do, not new reps.

   iv. **J. Brock:** We will explain more about what they are during the new rep orientation.

c. Assembly Chair – J. Sears

   i. **J. Sears:** My computer broke, I’m getting a new one. Otherwise nothing else to report.
ii.  **J. Collins:** I have some info about laptops deals. Especially about leased out laptops that are now being resold.

iii. **S. Netherton:** Please send out this information

d. **Treasurer – J. Brock**
   i. **J. Brock:** I’ve already said everything. I’m working with Sarah on the budget. It is going forward. During the next meeting I’ll be doing a presentation on the budget.
   ii. **C. Tusing:** Did anyone see the article about how the budget cuts will be distributed?
   iii. **J. Sears:** Can you send it out?
   iv. **J. Brock:** Yes, please send it.
   v. **C. Tusing:** We don’t know what percentage of the administrative money has been cut, we are only given the numbers.
      1. There is a deficit in the K-12 and the state owes them money.
   vi. **S. Netherton:** They are getting twice of what they were owed, but this isn’t good under the current conditions.
   vii. **J. Sun:** Let’s talk about this some more later.
   viii. **S. Netherton:** Our university budget plan got finally approved this week. Before this the budget was only theoretically planned out.

e. **Secretary – M. Khorosheva**
   i. **M. Khorosheva:** I’m the Western NAGPS International Concerns Chair.
      1. I’m thinking about collaborating with ISS and creating a questionnaire concerning international student needs. I’m an international student myself, so I have some thoughts about what international students could be interested in.
      2. Please send me any info about what you think international student concerns are or if you hear about anything I should know.
      3. Also, as I previously mentioned, I might be away from Tucson for some time during this summer.

f. **Social Chair – J. Veluz**
   i. **J. Veluz:** I was asked to present at the grad orientation about the fun things students can do in Tucson.
      1. I would like to get more info about hikes or anything that involves nature. Please send me any info about what you like to do in Tucson, so I can present it at the orientation.
   
   ii. **U. Younis:** Students can see the Lake in Mt. Lemon, different pools after the monsoons, Sabino Canyon falls, the Romero Pools. Mountain biking, rock climbing, and camping are also possible. Just google Tucson hikes and things will come up.
   
   iii. **J. Sun:** I have also sent info about a card you can use during the summer.
   iv. **J. Veluz:** Yes, thanks, I have that information, though it was more about other resources and events.
1. If there are any outdoor events you know of that I can incorporate in my presentation, please let me know.

X. Updates

XI. Other Business

XII. Call to Adjourn
At 5:02