General Council Meeting
11 August 2015, 4 – 6 p.m.
Student Union Memorial Center, Pima Room

I. Call to Order
At 4:11 PM
Attendance: Alexander Karaman, James Carlson, Chandni Parikh, Trudie McEvoy, Sierra Fung, Usir Younis, Jasmine Sears, Sarah Netherton, Juhyung Sun, Cari Tusing (proxy by Alexander Karaman), Jim Collins (via Skype), Delaney Stratton (via Skype), Myra Joy Veluz (via Skype), Mariia Khorosheva (via Skype)

Guests: Deyanira Martinez, Kevin Chau

II. Call to Audience
   a. Breathing exercise – S. Netherton

III. Approvals
   b. Minutes for July 21, 2015: postponed to later date.

V. New Business
      i. Proposal to spend $3500 to fund vision screening exams for graduate students.
      Vote: 11 for, 0 opposed, 3 abstain.
   b. Other healthcare initiatives – J. Sears
      i. Variety of options/alternatives listed on the suggestions spreadsheet.
         1. Committee to be formed later on to research such options and present them along with relevant data to the general council for a vote.
   c. Sponsoring InnovateUA Pitchfest – J. Sears
      i. Pitchfest involves $1000 awards in 7 categories for an idea pitch. Awards can be won by undergraduates or graduate students.
         1. There was a discussion over whether to support graduate student awards for each category ($7000 total) or to support one prize only, either through a “best” graduate student submission or a new category focused on improving graduate student quality of life.
         2. Suggestion offered that additional funds could be offered to graduate students who decide to develop their pitch into a real project.
         3. Concerns expressed that Pitchfest would be concurrent with Grad Slam and thus lead to mixed messaging for GPSC ventures.
4. J. Sears would follow up with InnovateUA Pitchfest to determine exact form of sponsorship desired, with a vote to follow on specific sponsorship package.

IX. Officer Reports
   a. President – S. Netherton
      i. Budget is still a work in progress.
         1. Reconciliation required between sources of funding and final use of funding.
         2. J. Brock had set formal parameters for budget and allowed S. Netherton to set final allocations.
         3. Discussion had over how involved general council should be in creating final budget. Suggestions ranged from opening up the budget to the whole council, assigning formal work to the appropriations committee, and simply passing a budget as soon as possible regardless of input.
         4. Suggestion made that even a tentative budget could be released, as there is room for revision and review of the budget after approval.
      ii. Increase in recruiting GPSC representatives, including UA South and non-M.D. representatives from College of Medicine.
      iii. Committee assignments are coming soon.
      iv. Many opportunities for travel, particularly to legislative events.
   b. Vice President – J. Sun
      i. Meetings to happen with GPSC representatives to assist them in their duties.
      ii. More legislative campaigns to come in the vein of the FASTR campaign.
         1. Open to comments and suggestions.
         2. T. McEvoy offered prior political organizing expertise.
         3. Suggestion made to have call sessions during general council meetings as well.
   c. Social Chair – J. Veluz
      i. Thanks given for participation in bar crawl survey. Currently trying to assess venue options.

XII. Call to Adjourn
   At 5:10 PM