General Council Meeting
Monday, 31 August 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
College of Law, Room 118

I. Call to Order
At 6:05
Non-voting members: Deya Nevarez Martinez, Kevin Chau.

II. Call to Audience
i. S. Netherton: Breathing exercise.

III. Approvals
a. Minutes: 11 August 2015
Vote: 18 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

IV. Early Reports
a. Events Director – K. Chau
i. K. Chau: I want to discuss the Graduate student orientation on August 19, and give a brief report on the International student pick up on August 8-August 10.
   1. I am grateful for the help at the Wild Cat pickup. We had close to 200 students sign up. We picked up 146 students. 35 of them were graduate students. This is the highest number of graduate students that we have ever picked up. We spent 12 hundred dollars, which also includes the cost of printing GPSC banners. Most of the money was spent on renting out vehicles.
   2. We started the grad orientation 2015 at 8 o’clock, hundreds of students were registered. The graduate orientation attendance was slower than last year, as there were other orientations in other departments. We will work on the attendance with departments next year. We spent 6 thousand dollars. By switching to meal play cards during the orientation, we saved lots of money. This year we had more info sessions: 5 sessions with 6 workshops. In this way, there were more workshops for students to choose from. Next year we might keep smaller rooms and will work to insure higher attendance. We will also try to increase the diversity of info session.
3. I have one more announcement to make about the student showcase. This year we plan to have the showcase in late February, specifically on February 24. We will probably need much help with this. We will also talk about it later this year.
4. We will also organize a GPSC “Win It” exposition. We will have the people who won research and travel grants last year invited to attend. They will present on the projects GPSC has funded in the past. This event will be held on October 24 from 10-1 pm. People can come and look at the projects. I will send out more information later.

b. Secretary – M. Khorosheva
i. M. Khorosheva: This semester we plan to start using some recording equipment during the GPSC General Council Meetings.
   1. We have ordered some new equipment, but in the meantime will try using the audio recording technologies that we have.
   2. To make the recording process easier, at least during the next few meetings, please try to say your name clearly before speaking.
   3. Hopefully, the recording technology works. Otherwise, when I am away, our treasurer Jared will be takes notes.
   4. I will also work on updating the governing documents this year. This will be part of the work we do in the Governing Documents committee, which I am chairing. Please let me know if you encounter any issues with the governing documents, so that we can look into them if necessary.

c. Social Chair – J. Veluz
i. J. Veluz: Hello, I am the GPSC social chair. GPSC is now having a Happy hour every Friday 5:30-7:30 pm.
   1. Please come and join us for lower prices.

V. New Business
a. NAGPS Legislative Action Days – J. Sun
b. Budget – S. Netherton
i. S. Netherton: This is the GPSC budget we will be voting on. It is based on the recommendation from the EB board.
   1. For a student government our budget is huge. We have 2 full time staff members, 2 grant program coordinators and Kevin, our events director.
   2. What we have not been part of in the past is SAGE. It is a new organization and an internal focus support system.
   3. We discussed our student healthcare project before and we have reserved money for that. We will have a committee that will deal with this project this year.

ii. J. Sears: Some of the budget money is reserved for positions that we haven’t hired people for yet.

iii. S. Netherton: We have a much smaller contingency fund this year.
   1. This is because it is more strategic to have less money in the account. We don’t want to necessarily fund other departments.
2. We are also partnering with Campus Pantry this year in order to address food security.
3. We are getting our Club and POD funding from student services fees.
4. We are currently hiring someone to administer our GPSC workshops program.
5. Our travel grants and research grants are our flagship programs. If we don’t spend all the money in certain categories, we can put it into travel and research grants, because we know it will get spent on students for sure.

iv. **J. Collins**: How much money do we have reserved for travel grants?
v. **D. Martinez**: There is an increase by 40 thousand dollars this year.
vi. **U. Younis**: What is this uncertainty in the budget in regards to rep stipends?
vii. **S. Netherton**: We don’t know the stipend amounts yet. We will know soon.
viii. **T. McEvoy**: What is the EB?
ix. **J. Sears**: That is the Executive Board.
x. **S. Netherton**: We hold meetings every other week. You are all welcome to come to any of them.
xi. **J. Collins**: I sent out an email about using some of the GPSC money on activities that can bring in further money. What do you think?
xii. **S. Netherton**: We have some money set aside for a project yet to be determined. Juhyung is in charge.
xiii. **J. Sears**: If anyone has an idea similar to Jim’s, talk to Juhyung.
xiv. **J. Sears**: Let us vote on the budget.

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

**VI. Funding**

a. Research and Project Grants – J. Sears
i. **J. Sears**: The numbers show the amount of research and project grants we have awarded.
   1. Students can request 2 thousand dollars per year for their research and project grants.
   2. They also have to give report at the end of the year.
   3. The total amount of grants we awarded this year is 98. So we gave a lot of money to many students

ii. **R. Fagan**: How can I get the information about what items can get funded?

iii. **D. Martinez**: We can provide you with a list when you ask.

iv. **J. Sears**: It is all up on the website.
   1. Sometimes we can even fund certain items if you can explain the necessity of them.
   2. We can also have someone come and give a presentation on the grants during your constituency meeting.
   3. You will hear about constituency meeting from Juhyung soon.

**VII. Staff Reports**

a. Program Coordinator – D. Nevarez Martinez
i. **D. Martinez**: All the SSF reports have been filed.
1. Most of the admins have been hired. We still need to hire the development administrator and elections commissioner. Will only have one GPSC election. But we do need the development administrator soon.

2. I will leave on 11th of September.

3. I am updating our administrative assistant on everything. She will serve as interim program coordinator.

   ii. **S. Seavey:** How do you apply for the positions?
   iii. **D. Martinez:** Through the website.
   iv. **F. Sonawala:** Who can apply for admin position?
   v. **D. Martinez:** Anyone can. You don’t have to be a rep. And even if you are a rep, you can still apply for an admin position.
      1. We give out stipends for the admin positions, so they don’t interfere with your GA positions.
   vi. **F. Sonawala:** Do you get paid every month?
   vii. **D. Martinez:** You get paid 4 times a year. The pay rate is 12 dollars an hour.
   viii. **S. Netherton:** We gave all the admins a raise this year actually. Now they are paid 15 dollars an hour.
      1. The actual pay depends on how much work there is.

b. Administrative Assistant – A. Marquez

**VIII. Representative Reports**

   i. **A. Karaman:** I oversee the Grad Organizing committee. The Grad Organizing Committee can provide support and information that complements the type of support that GPSC provides. Please contact me for more details, or if you want to get involved. We would love to have some reps esp. outside the humanities and social sciences colleges.

   ii. **J. Sun:** To clarify, GPSC and the Grad OC are not officially affiliated, even though we cooperate often.

**IX. Officer Reports**

   a. President – S. Netherton
   i. **S. Netherton:** I’ve met with most of the administration in the last week and a half. They were excited about what we are doing.
      1. The enrollment for graduate students is about the same as it was last year.
      2. We have a legislative affairs director that has just started working. So we will know what is going on in Arizona and nationwide, because this will be their job.
      3. I will be spending a few days in ABOR in Flagstaff in September. ABOR is the body that governs all the higher public education in Arizona.
      4. We are going to D.C. on September 26-30 as well. We will spend 2 days in training. It is a wonderful experience. If you are interested – send me an email.
      5. There is a huge push on title 9 at the UofA. Title 9 is for sexual assault prevention. There is a huge push from administration on title 9. It’s a big deal on campus in general.
6. We have the data from AAU survey held campus wide. I didn’t see the actual data, but was told what was in the survey. The data has shown nothing surprising.

7. We are also working on the graduate syllabus requirement. There is a requirement for undergrads but not for graduate students. The University will make one. I think this is overdue.

8. If there is anything you would like to be in it, let me know. The administration is always interested in hearing what students have to say.

9. 10 years ago people, faculty included, didn’t want a graduate syllabus requirement, now they do.

   iii. **A Karaman:** Will the requirement be generic?

   iv. **S. Netherton:** There will be a minimum set of standards that every syllabus has to meet.

   1. It will be a definite set of things, so the university can stay out of lawsuits. The university is tired of being sued because someone didn’t put essential information in the syllabus.

   v. **A. Karaman:** Is this policy being implemented for the university or is to help graduate students?

   vi. **S. Netherton:** In essence, it will help a lot of graduate students. Things like due dates should be clear. Feedback should always be given. So I think we need this.

   1. This won’t be a simple project, but if we have suggestive and constructive ideas, they will be taken into account.

   vii. **J. Sun:** On the undergrad end they are worried that there are too many policies. But on the graduate end- there are not enough.

   1. So this will be more like a series of best practices that every professor should follow to treat their students like human beings.

   2. A lot of these measures will also improve the communication between students and professors.

   3. So hopefully, we make a document based on student suggestions. I have a feeling this is how it will go. I think it will be good for us, as professors will be held more accountable.

   viii. **J. Collins:** Workload management clauses might not be appropriate for professional schools. How will this new policy effect the syllabi of professional schools?

   ix. **S. Netherton:** The graduate college had no power over professional schools. Since last week, it has one.

   1. Implementing this policy will be an interesting process, since many professors will want to have a say in things.

   2. So it won’t be quick.

   x. **S. Seavey:** Syllabi are often not updated to account for on-the-fly changes.

   xi. **S. Netherton:** Another important topic is career services for grad students.
1. Maybe we should be hiring someone like Andrew Greene for graduate career services. However, it would cost a hundred thousand dollars a year to hire an individual.

2. Perhaps the university could start tailoring some of the existing workshops towards graduate students needs.

xii. **D. Martinez**: We’ve brought Dr. Greene to give workshops for grad students before.

1. Currently there is no dedicated person for graduate students, and 40% of the students that go to career services are graduate students, so it’s a problem.

xiii. **J. Carlson**: How many departments have internal dedicated career services people?

xiv. **S. Netherton**: I don’t know, but professional colleges don’t do it very often.

xv. **A. Karaman**: Perhaps we can talk directly to department chairs/college deans to publicize new services to help combat graduate student reluctance and better serve specific populations.

xvi. **J. Sun**: How many people do we need to talk to about this? Our message would be a lot stronger if everyone in the administration was on the same page.

xvii. **S. Netherton**: Yes, I agree. Moving on to the health care topic.

1. I talked with Dr. McDermot at Campus health and they said the thing they would like to try first is to utilize after hours campus line. They can do a triage.
2. We will be promoting this via social media. Please promote this as well. Its not guarantee that you will not have to stay at the ER, but it might save you a visit.

xviii. **D. Martinez**: I called the number recently and it worked out well for me. I have had a good experience with it.

xix. **T. McEvoy**: Who would we talk to?

xx. **S. Netherton**: A nurse practitioner or an MD.

xxi. **F. Sonawala**: Can you send out an email to reps about this?

xxii. **S. Netherton**: Yes. Also we have all the seats but one filled in the General Council. I’m really happy, because this was one of my goals for this year.

1. So we need just one more online representative. If you know any online students interested- let me know.
2. The vice president will be taking care of most of the representative relations, but you can still let me know if you need anything.

b. Vice President – J. Sun

i. **J. Sun**: I’m in charge of representative relations.

1. In the past we had people stay in positions for several years, so succession is a bit difficult now.
2. In regards to representative orientation, I believe people want as short orientation as possible.
3. I’ll just collect the Representative reports from previous years and send them out.
4. I’ll also send out an initial orientation PowerPoint and list of responsibilities.
5. In tandem, I'll be meeting with program coordinators and other staff in charge of creating programs.

6. Sarah handles Dean relations, I can handle immediate needs on the ground/events.

7. There is a new program ($10,000): largely, I'm here to make sure something gets done. I'll manage a timeline.

8. There will be two NAGPS events: Fall legislative action day (Sept 25-29) and NAGPS National Conference (Oct 29 - 11/1). If you're interested, let us know, even if you can't make the whole thing.

9. The benefit of legislative action day is the chance to lobby on the hill.

10. The benefit of national conference is: advocacy tips, trading notes, seeing other graduate students in a similar vein, might excite you in ways that others don't, make you feel good about yourself.

11. The purpose of the faculty senate is a chance to talk about issues across campus across all departments.

12. There are other important themes I want to discuss as well, such as the decentralized form of budgeting.

13. Before, new funds and budgets were based on direct negotiation between colleges and central office. Certain "units", often departments, are given funds based on certain metrics. The unit then decides how to spend, cut, etc.

14. Other topics are no less important, but easier to understand.

15. IT security is becoming a more public topic.

16. Fundraising and development are key issues, given continuing state decrease in support.

17. There is the question of research: lot of soul searching, as metrics are going down even as central funding decreases.

ii. A. Karaman: RCM will affect different colleges differently.

iii. F. Sonawala: I will be graduating in December, but GPSC elections aren't until March.

iv. D. Martinez: You can hold special election in January, as your college has their own elections process.

v. Assembly Chair – J. Sears

i. J. Sears: I am the chair of the research and project grants committee.

1. We need another 2-3 reps.

2. Its 5 hours of reading and judging applications once a month.

3. I’ll be sending out an annotate agenda to help you guys understand it.

4. I will also put the most important things at the beginning of the meetings. Let me know if you’ll be arriving late or leaving early, so I can leave you a spot in the agenda.
5. If you have anything to report as a representative, you can tell me in advance to put on the agenda, or you can just report anything directly during the meeting.

6. I’m on the committee of eleven. If any of you might be interested in training grants please contact Sarah.

i. Treasurer – J. Brock

   i. J. Brock: We have already covered the budget.

1. I am on faculty Senate and chairman of POD and Club funding committee.

X. Updates

XI. Other Business

XII. Call to Adjourn

At 7:36.