General Council Meeting
Monday, 28 September 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
College of Law, Room 118

I. Call to Order
At 6:07


II. Call to Audience
a. Anne Myers, Incoming Eller MBA Rep
   i. J. Sears: Sarah and Juhyung are out of town today.
      1. I will swear Anne in.
      2. We have Dean Kendall Washington White here today.

b. Kendal Washington White, Dean of Students
   i. K. Washington White: I have never had the chance to attend GPSC meetings before. I am glad the meetings were moved to Mondays.
      1. I am the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.
      2. Jim sent me some question related to concerns about sexual misconduct on campus, but it was too late for my answer.
      3. “Sexual Misconduct” is the term we use in our code of conduct, it is related to the “Dear Colleague” 2011 letter.

   ii. J. Sears: Please clarify what it is.

   iii. K. Washington White: The letter has the guidelines and expectations for universities.
      1. We needed to improve the student code of conduct and disciplinary procedures.
      2. Before this, many sexual misconducts were not reported.
      3. Much of the non-reporting had to do with the stigma associated with sexual assaults. We are not a criminal justice system at the university.
      4. People usually think sexual misconducts are committed by strangers. But in reality, sexual assaults can happen not only at frat parties, but in honorariums and athletics. It is usually people who know each other.
      5. It is primarily freshman, and alcohol is sometimes involved.
6. Often it is because people don’t have enough education about healthy relationships, and sometimes it is when people are unable to speak up.

7. Who can you report a sexual misconduct to?

iv. **J. Collins**: The police.

v. **C. Tusing**: Residence halls.

vi. **A. Karaman**: The Dean of students.

vii. **K. Washington White**: Yes. Also OASIS.

1. The support in OASIS is confidential. They don’t have to report the sexual misconduct, it is only the psychologists involved.

2. At the Dean of students, we immediately start an investigation.

3. Our first priority is the person who was assaulted.

4. We do everything we can, so that both parties, especially the victim, can continue their education.

5. We are developing a title 9 website.

6. The next step is to improve our prevention measures.

7. We are moving OASIS to the student union, so that a broader group of students can be reached.

8. The AAU is a group of research universities, who have the common goal of research, and who have developed a survey administrated at all AAU campuses.

9. Since we didn’t want to do the government developed university surveys, we decide to pay 85 thousand dollars to be part of group the AAU group.

10. We administrated the AAU survey about sexual misconduct in April.

11. That was not the best time for the survey, but we had no control over the timing.

12. The response rate was 8 percent. This is low, but understandable, given time of year.

viii. **A. Karaman**: The response rate for graduate students was 10%.

ix. **K. Washington White**: Yes, that is true.

1. It seems most people had similar types of responses.

2. One of the key findings was that students felt confident that if they reported the misconduct, the university would take it seriously.

3. What was disappointing is that students didn’t know what would happen next after they made the report.

4. It is a message to us that we have to let students know what the process looks like. For the Dean of students, the process is different than for police.

5. 0% of dean of students cases are moved to police.

6. It is often student word against word. At the same time, the court system wants to see clear evidence, and so none of the cases were moved forward.
7. Our burden of proof is that it is more likely than not that the situation happened.
8. We can look at the information presented. We do a thorough interview and come to a decision: from an expulsion to a no finding. There is no middle ground for code of conduct process.
9. Often students don’t want other students to be expelled. They usually want some accommodations made, and the other person to be educated.
10. The university hearing board is comprised of staff.
11. Our current focus is on education prevention efforts. I am excited about this.
12. This is a challenging issue, and the universities are positioned to do much better. I am happy that the administration has given us more resources.

x. J. Collins: Can you give a general idea of how many cases of sexual misconduct there are on campus?

1. The first six weeks of school are sometimes called the “red zone”. 15 cases have been reported already.
2. The numbers have gone up over the last several years. This is partially because sexual misconduct definitions have changed.
3. More and more people are reporting. However, I can not say if more sexual assaults are happening.

xii. A. Karaman: I am curious if there is anything more we can do.
1. Much of the burden falls on OASIS and the Women’s Center.
2. We are not going towards challenging campus rape culture.
3. There is an underwear run happening on campus soon. And often high school students come in uneducated, and with ideas that enforce the rape culture.

xiii. K. Washington White: We have to start educating students before they get to college.
1. We have to have real conversations about what it means to be in a healthy relationship.
2. We can’t expect colleges to solve all the problems. If we can start early-we can prevent the problems.
3. Federal Grants target the military and universities. But a cultural shift has to happen everywhere. However, the spotlight right now is on universities.
4. We would love to have a mandatory course for 1st year students, real training and education. It would be one of the best ways to reach students, beyond what we already have. We also need to work with faculty and staff.

xiv. M. Khorosheva: Graduate students, especially International graduate students need to be targeted too.
1. Many international students come from cultures with different understandings of relationships and sexual misconduct.

xv. K. Washington White: Yes, some groups of students need the help more.

1. The numbers in the survey reflect that it is mostly undergraduates who experience sexual misconduct.

III. Approvals
   a. September 14, 2015 minutes
   
   **Vote: 27 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain**

IV. Early Reports

V. New Business
   a. Student Regent Nomination – S. Netherton
      i. **S. Netherton:** We are having information sessions about the student regent position. Applications should be available in a couple of weeks. Graduate student have an advantage in experience over undergraduates.
      
      ii. **J. Sears:** Can you explain what a student regent does?
      
      iii. **S. Netherton:** The student regent serves 2 years. The 1st year is in training.
           1. The Arizona Board of Regents makes all the decisions. They have a huge impact to what happens in Arizona.
           2. Our Board of Regents is very responsive to students. I was just at the ABOR meeting this week.
           3. This position is a huge time investment. You can’t be on campus doing classes. Both of the regents now are in online programs, that is how they make it work.
           4. I would be happy to talk to you if you have questions.
           5. The applications will go to committees with graduate and undergraduate students.
           6. We will do application reviews, interviews, and will chose 3 students.
           7. The governor will approve them. Last year the governor did not approve any of the selected candidates, so we are strategizing around this.
           8. If you have any interested constituents, I can talk to them.
      
      iv. **A. Karaman:** Given what happened before with the governor, are we trying to politicize the selection process?
      
      v. **S. Netherton:** I am trying to communicate about this to the undergraduate students. We are planning to be strategic.
         1. Because we have a new governor, maybe things will work out this time.
         2. If this tendency continues for the governor to choose someone else, we are thinking to issue a letter among the three universities not to continue participating in this selection process.
   
   b. Library Journal Subscriptions – P. Ambade
1. **P. Ambade:** I found out that many journals have not been updated for subscription to the university.
   1. The interlibrary loan I requested it is taking more than a month.
   2. I am making a list of journals for public health that have had this problem.

2. **J. Sears:** We have a library committee.
   1. Right now we don’t have reps in the library committee.
   2. Please email Preshit with the names of the journals you have had problems with.

3. **B. R. Smith:** I am curious if this is a problem for people in other colleges?
   1. I have had good experience with the library, I have had journals delivered within 24-48 hours.

4. **J. Sears:** Yes, me too. Maybe public health is not served as well.

5. **A. Karaman:** It might have to do with what fields we are in.
   1. I have had situation where some journals were not there, or there only to a certain point.
   2. I have had a positive interlibrary loan experience.

c. **On-Campus Vision Testing – J. Sears**

1. **J. Sears:** Oct 12 we have on campus vision testing (9 am-5 pm).
   1. 10 grad students per hour will be tested.
   2. Maybe we will have a table outside the library.
   3. I will be writing up a flier.
   4. GPSC will reimburse you for a prescription of 35 dollars.
   5. I cant be there all day, but Kevin can’t be there all day.

   **M. Khorosheva:** We can do a volunteer sign up sheet for people to be at the table.

2. **J. Sears:** Kevin is taking care of this. Information will also be available in the GPSC newsletter.

d. **AAU Campus Climate Survey Response – J. Sears**

1. **J. Sears:** I went to Caltech as an undergrad.
   1. The survey response rate was higher, and we had a lower rate of harassment, but higher stocking.
   2. People were horrified with the numbers at our university, but at the UofA people don’t seem to not care. They think that the university will take care of things.
   3. I would love to see that people do something about this, and not just rely on the administration.
   4. Maybe we come up with ideas about what we can do. Please talk to me if you have any ideas.
   5. Carl has invited Susan Wilson.

2. **C. Tusin:** Susan Wilson is a title 9 investigator. She can come in on October 26.
   1. If you have any particular question, we can send it to her.
   2. Based on our reactions in past meetings, I told her we are interested in how cases are investigated, and the new numbers in the Clary report.
iii. **J. Sears:** So if we have any ideas, let me know and we can incorporate them.

iv. **J. Collins:** Some survey results were misinterpreted. For example, the majority of responses say they don’t believe the university can take care of the sexual misconduct situation.

v. **J. Sears:** There are many results tables.

1. We have all the information we need. Now we have to do something about it. It is sad that some data was ignored.
2. Lexi wants someone to serve on centennial committee.
3. The centennial award is for people who have overcome substantial difficulties, and many of them are student leaders.
4. There are also 2 slots available in the library committee.
5. Also 1 slot in the open access committee.

vi. **A. Nayak:** Where can we get the list of committees?

vii. **S. Netherton:** Most of the reps have been assigned committees, except for new reps. I will get the rest of the committee assignments out soon.

1. On Oct 11 there is a meeting for brainstorming ideas related to sexual assault prevention. This is separate from the “I will” meeting.
2. I need 2 people for the graduate council. It is an interesting committee, though time consuming.

viii. **M. Khorosheva:** I would love an update on who is on the governing docs committee, so I can start setting up the meetings for this semester.

ix. **S. Netherton:** I have sent out an email before, but will send an update. We can also discuss this during the EB meeting.

x. **J. Sears:** Can you also send out an email about available committees?

xi. **S. Netherton:** Grad council is the only available committee.

VI. **Funding**

VII. **Staff Reports**

VIII. **Representative Reports**

a. Commission on the Status of Women – C. Tusing

i. **C. Tusing:** I’ve heard from the childcare group, the commission on women, on improving childcare on campus.

1. They were told that it was impossible to have childcare facilities on campus, though other institutions have them.
2. They are looking into a voucher system, where there is a certain amount of subsidy towards finding childcare off campus.
3. This is not just for women, and they are thinking of having a name shift in the next few years.
4. They are also working on mentoring with us. Everyone wants to have more mentoring available.
5. Everyone is welcome to join.
6. We also have good food during meetings.

IX. Officer Reports
   a. President – S. Netherton
      i. S. Netherton: I spent the last week at ABOR, which was educational.
         1. The Board of Regents would like to pass a resolution.
         2. The resolution is that if the head board makes a resolution, the individual members, Arizona universities, may not be lobby for anything. This resolution will most likely be passed. This doesn’t impact students directly, so we can get involved more.
      ii. A. Karaman: ABOR stood in support of what the administration wrote opposed to budget cuts.
         1. 63 students lost GA positions because of budget cut.
         2. There is a lot of anger about the bonuses Ann Weaver and Michael Crow and other people have received.
      iii. S. Netherton: Juhyung and I talked about this while in DC.
         1. We are interested in looking into this issue. We have one of the best student to administration ratios.
         2. Ann Weaver Hart is making less at the UofA than she made before, and not as much as other presidents.
         3. We don’t have a good place to stand as far as our own campus.
         4. We are looking to see if there is a state-wide movement. This issue needs to be addressed across the board. We are looking for a group we can partner with.
         5. I can send out the research I did on administration salaries across the state.
         6. Another issue is that we are not competitive as far as what we are paying our faculty.
      iv. B. R. Smith: I really like the idea of looking at the trends in salary inflations.
      v. C. Tusing: We are about to get “cut to pieces” in funding.
         1. This has to be addressed in collective way. If we don’t say something, nothing will change. We want to show that this is systemic. GPSC should address this issue.
         2. Maybe we can write a letter saying that in our funding situation, this is not acceptable.
   b. Vice President – J. Sun
      i. J. Sun: Hopefully, people have seen to the handbook I sent out. If there is any help that you need, let me know.
         1. Yes, the situation with the salary is sad. We have to accept it if there is a raise in administrative salary.
         2. But we need to be attractive as university.
3. We want to be partners in a conversation with the university, and not angry students.

ii. **A. Karaman**: It is important to connect our agenda to national ideas.
   1. It is also frustrating because we have made many efforts to change the situation at the university with GPSC’s help, and so far we have been unable to do anything.
   2. There are universities that have organized themselves to do something about the funding situation, and have been successful. There are no national campaigns that have been successful.

iii. **J. Sears**: When we have a statement and most people support it, we can do something about it.

iv. **S. Netherton**: If GPSC can’t do something as a whole, individual students can bring up concerns.

v. **M. Ryan**: I agree with what you Alex said.
   1. However, the universities that were successful aren’t faced with the Arizona legislature.
   2. We should focus on other things, not on salary raises.

vi. **J. Collins**: We can either work with the administration, or go on strike.

vii. **C. Tusing**: These efforts can be combined. The university does listen to our concerns.

viii. **A. Karaman**: We aren’t saying that administration should give back the raise.
     1. But we should remember that we are representatives and should hold our constituents interests in consideration.

ix. **B. R. Smith**: We also need to lookout for other students coming through the system in the future.

x. **A. Karaman**: The question of tuition is complicated.
   1. Graduate students teach 1/3 of the hours at the university, yet we don’t get paid a living wage.
   2. Though I agree GPSC is doing many things to help, maybe we should diversify our portfolio, so we can approach issues from different angles.

xi. **J. Carlson**: There has to be lots of feedback from my constituents before I consider doing something.

   c. Assembly Chair – J. Sears
      i. **J. Sears**: ASUA has implemented an in-state graduate surcharge. They can’t raise tuition, so for residents they are increasing the fees.

   d. Treasurer – J. Brock

   e. Secretary – M. Khorosheva
      i. **M. Khorosheva**: I have nothing else to report.

XI. Other Business
XII. Call to Adjourn
At 7:56.