

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:13 pm by Bridget Barker

**Present:** Stephen Bieda, Boris Glebov, Bridget Barker, Emily Connally, Alison Betts, Jed Laver, Jill Burris, Lauren Sekora, Robert Jacobi, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, David Lopez-Negrete, David Talenfeld, Helena Morrison, James Johnson, Tim Chambers, Roeland Hancock, Jim Collins, Chizanya Mpinja, Mabel Crescioni, Jennifer Kruse

**Directors:** Jessica Gerlach

**Proxies:** A Quadir Khan, Sanket Unhale, Brittany Perkins, Tucker Peck, Tiffany Goforth, Sandra Nameth

**I. Call to Audience - none**

**II. Guests - none**

**III. Officer Reports:**

**Vice President – Boris Glebov** – I recently met with Provost Hay, tried to pitch limiting workload, she seemed surprised and concerned that students spend more time out of class than in class for TAs. I also met last Friday with Representative Burns, who gave us some recommendations on how to lobby in order to continue to make education budget a priority instead of a cash cow. I think we will write a letter highlighting benefits of the community to university, like skilled workforce. We can then have local business leaders sign the letter to appeal to business views and paint university as a benefit to community and as a business opportunity. I attended a meeting with Gregg Fahey to discuss ways in which University benefits local community. Please let us know if you have access to business leaders. An effective letter rests in support of business owners, basically the number of signatures. Do your best to shake down contacts and see what you can find.

**Assembly Chair - Bridget Barker** - GIPAC just ran an analysis of central office support. They have about \$100,000 to be cut, in the form of all program coordinators for IDP programs and members of central office, rather than cutting program coordinators. The current stats are 400 students supported by \$600,000.

**Treasurer - Sanket Unhale** - none

**Secretary** - *Emily Connally* - SAPC met last Thursday. Point of information. We had some disagreements about the proposed changes to the student code of conduct, and many of our suggestions were taken into account but ultimately not incorporated. Jim and I can discuss this in detail and decide what might be best.

- President** – *Stephen Bieda* – (1) We had a tuition hearing on the 17th. As part of our effort I made a series of proposals regarding fees, with a general message that we do not encourage additional fees. We talked about the option of rolling in current fees as part of GA benefit package. President Shelton is willing to consider that. Our other goal was to educate regents regarding what graduate students do and that we are not pleased about increases in class size. Chose that graduate student side of the class increase needed to be mentioned. ASA had three major recommendations, one was accountability, to ensure that ABOR would oversee tuition funds flow toward student oriented priorities. Wanted AZ university to report on expenditure of revenue. Wanted predictability in tuition, similar to NAU and ASU. In looking at tuition recommendation from NAU and ASU, there are many fees. We have fewer fees than other schools and should talk about our stance on this later, because fee will be likely
- (2) We had a recent meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The committee still refuses to look at the speed package and will not raise them to the agenda, in spite of all approval from the appropriate players. Provost did much backpeddling about the proposed merger in Humanities, SBS. The popular idea is that the merger will be Humanities, SBS and Science, or none. Spring semester general temporary funds have been delivered to department heads and should have been filled by now. All sections should be filled, and all open seats should be offered. If they have not offered these positions in your colleges please let me know and I will do my best to do our part.
- (3) We had a Graduate and Assistant Associate Round Table today. Workload issues. Humanities and English department were big issues. The president did not like the idea that there were no commitments offered students beyond semester to semester. Students had concerns about GA training, some would like to see training beyond what is received. We will be working with Comrie about GATO and improving training. Major concern reflected in regards to lack of flexibility with tuition funds flow. Task force will be formed to review the information. We will likely be receiving appointment recommendations in next few months. The accreditation committee is requesting students to serve as well.

#### **IV. Representative and Director Reports –**

- a. **Alison Betts:** The childcare task force is still moving forward. We are moving ahead with two companies that proposed plans and should have more details in January.
- b. **Lauren Sekora:** Met with Commencement committee. Deferred report to new business.
- c. **Chizanya Mpinja:** Diversity committee met. Shelton said commitment to diversity has not changed with budget crisis. Talk about bringing in more students international. Melissa Vito talked about restructuring student services. They want someone to do research and assessment on things like retention, will employ grad student to help with that.
- d. **Robert Jacobi** Engineering has called science/ engineering merger off table. Some departments may be shifting.

- e. **Erica Cirillo-McCarthy:** General Education task force met, and Gen Ed classes are increasing to 4 credits. Faculty are under the impression they will get more TAs, but have been told administration will not give them more TAs, because will not pull from RAships.

**V. Questions for Officer, Representative and Director Reports**

- a. **Robert Jacobi:** Any chance of anything in the ASA's request for openness of funds direction going ahead? The president made it clear that, in terms of numbers students were asking for, he couldn't convey without significant filters.

**VI. Consent Agenda Item: reading and approval of minutes from October 22, 2008 and November 5, 2008.**

- a. Tim Chambers seconded the motion to approve minutes. Passed with five abstentions.

**VII. Committee Non-Consent Agenda: Club and POD Funding**

- a. Emily Connally moved to approve funding proposal, Alison Betts seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. **Discussion of President's Visit-** Stephen Bieda -

- i. Q: Erica Cirillo-McCarthy: President Shelton kept talking about tuition task force. Juan Garcia said that will not happen until Mosaic is set up, so it seems like we should look at the software to see if it has to do with ability to see where money is going. Did he mention that in the meeting?
  - 1. Point of information: Bridget Barker: He did not mention it today. He said it would not be implemented before academic year 10-11.
- ii. Point of Information Robert Jacobi: They want to figure out the algorithms necessary for these calculations, Provost said that in SPBAC, and the want to come up with results in the next 9 months. We should be vigilant for the algorithm when it is released, and see how they determine how much money follows which thing.
- iii. Q: Alison Betts: I was disturbed by the fact that he doesn't seem to take issue with the fact that students are asked to work 25-30 hours per week in stead of 20, considering the relative value of 5 hours per week when you are paid for 20.
  - 1. Bridget Barker: I would suggest we come up with a document that talks about TA workload, time to graduation, ability to recruit students with these conditions and make our own algorithm to compare to it.
  - 2. Stephen Bieda: we should do another workload survey
    - a. Alison Betts: we have several surveys, how many of these do we need to bring up?
  - 3. Robert Jacobi: A workload study is planned for the spring. We should be able to draft a short document with average workload now, and responses about how it affects research could be incorporated.

- b. **Student Code of Academic Integrity Final Revisions -Jim Collins -** Made a bunch of suggestions, the majority of them were ignored. Each suggestion and what they did about it is outlined in the document I sent out. Discussion commenced. Bridget Barker made motion to send the document back to committee for discussion. Alison Betts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Schedule of Future Meetings**

**i. Spring 2009**

1. January 21, February 4, 18, March 4, 25, April 8, 22, May 6.
2. Agave Room in Student Union

**d. New Representative Orientation**

- i.** 12/12 from 12-2 in GPSC Offices. This is the day after dead day.

**e. Dates for GPSA Week - Bridget Barker**

- i.** We normally have our bbq on Wednesdays, both the week of the 8th and the week of the 1st the Mall is booked. Our options are April 3rd (Friday), Monday 6th or Friday 10th, which is Good Friday. If we end up starting on April 2nd, we can have a bbq on the 3rd, picnic on Saturday, and other things into the following week. March 16-20 is Spring Break. Will be doing elections that week as well. Starting March 1st we will put out calls to all programs and departments to garner new reps.

**f. Accrediation Committee Appointments**

- i.** Comrie is requesting 10 students for five teams.
- ii.** Team 1: Mission and Integrity working group: land grant mission, diversity, health sciences
- iii.** Team 2: Planning for the future: planning and resources, for finances, research and capital, in contact with SPBAC, Faculty Senate, Diversity Coalition, deans
- iv.** Team 3: Student Centered Experience in the Classroom and beyond. Talking about professional education, graduate education and careers.
- v.** Team 4: Academic outreach, sports, arizona outreach college and study abroad.
- vi.** Team 5: Creativity and Knowledge Discovery: GIDP, Collaborative research, graduate training, education, research, education.

James Johnson also needs 3 non GPSC people through Spring 2010. Stephen Bieda will resend this information with more detail via e-mail we should forward it to expedite this extremely important process.

Q: Lauren Sekora: Are these 5 subcommittees of one committee?

A: Stephen Bieda: These workgroups are separate, James Johnson is serving on the overall accreditation planning committee, workgroups are breakout of.

**g. Commencement Committee Update - Lauren Sekora:** This shouldn't be controversial, our committee met to discuss a few things, separate from commencement agenda is memory books, videos, sponsorships, etc. Josten will work out sponsorship for commencement program, to be provided for free to all attendees. There is talk of memory book where space could be sold to families to congratulate kids or to vendors. They also discussed an online thing, and we would be the first University to do something like an only announcement. Talk of graduate video being done, is currently tape recorded and no one buys it, they want to make that snazzier, potentially included in the grad pack sold to students in the purchase of gowns, proposing separate videos for the two ceremonies. Ceremony as proposed, just in planning. Plan to process students, would take place Friday night. Still deciding where. Worried about timing. Thinking of coming up with some graduate award to give for "student" award.

Q: Robert Jacobi: Grad Student award already given, right?

A: Lauren Sekora: There is an award given in December, winter session. They want one now for Spring it is still in discussion.

Q: James Johnson: How will they get ahold of families to solicit input? They cannot contact our families.

A: Lauren Sekora: I am not sure about these details, they may just be asking graduate students and asking parents of undergraduates.

Q: Boris Glebov: Are PhDs being hooded off the stage?

A: Lauren Sekora: They are also looking for marshalls, usually use one team for both commencements, but there's worry with two ceremonies they won't be able to get all volunteers, so the plan is to ask wants for graduate student volunteers for the Friday night commencement.

Q: Robert Jacobi: Our department has their own ceremony, what will happen then?

A: Lauren Sekora: All conflicting ceremonies are being relocated in time. Timing for general commencement has been approved.

**IX. Motion to Adjourn** – at 7:42 pm Emily Connally moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Alison Betts and carried unanimously.