

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA<sup>®</sup>

## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Bridget Barker

Present: Kunal Ramani, Jim Collins, David Talenfeld, Roeland Hancock, Brittany Perkins, David Lopez-Negrete, Helena Morrison, Sanket Unhale, Stephen Bieda III, Bridget Barker, Boris Glebov, Sarah Smith, Eirin Bareis, Jennifer Kruse, Tim Chambers, James Johnson, Robert Jacobi, Lauren Sekora, Alison Betts, Alan Schumacher, Stephanie Levitt, Mabel Crescioni

Directors: Jessica Gerlach

Proxies: Emily Connally, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, A. Quidar Khan, Tiffany Goforth

**I. Call to Audience – None**

**II. Guests – Michele Norin & Limell' Lawson of University Information Technology Services**

- a. Discussed the Technology Fee to accommodate reduction in budget
- b. Alan Schumacher: Does this represent an equitable change when comparing budgets?
  - i. No, these numbers were not run.
- c. David Talenfeld: Could you walk us through the budget cut process?
  - i. If a 5% budget cut were to occur, UITS would face a budget cut of \$642,131. If 20%, about \$2.4 million
- d. David Talenfeld : How would you be able to address any higher amounts?
  - i. Services would be cut, and no longer has people that she can cut without cutting services.
- e. David Talenfeld: Some of these programs are active and no personnel cut?
  - i. All services provided in the "Budget Reduction Impacts" document would be considered for cuts. Money from TRIF funding has been decreasing below what was anticipated. What has not been included in the numbers given would be that preparations being made to take a \$654,000. Past cuts through personnel. The next round of cuts will include services.
- f. Robert Jacobi: How did UITS reach the decision on which services to cut?
  - i. There are certain services that must be funded (i.e. budget, servers, data, etc.). Another core item is network productivity. It is a state-funded service that MUST be provided. Then there are things around this picture that must be run, specific to research. User support services and frontline services, such as consultative services and faculty liasons, are on the block. The question is what are the services that must be provided versus what must be given up. When it comes to running payroll or running online learning tools, obviously I will side with payroll. If a 10-15% cut has to be made, services will be targeted.
- g. Lauren Sekora: How does the Google Contract affect the budget, if any?

- i. It costs \$300k to run the current e-mail system. If we were to switch to Google, UITS would save \$75,000. This would be a student switch, not faculty and staff.
- h. Jim Collins: The cuts to these services, i.e. Virtual Reality Annex, would it only affect personnel? Are the services selected related to use?
  - i. No. It would affect the service as well as personnel. These choices were also not based on use or need based. As the cuts increase, UITS gets into major services.
- i. Jim Collins: Would the \$140 fee account for the 10 or 15% scenario?
  - i. The \$2million dollar increase provided by the fee would go into the services targeted for cut. Not knowing what the budget hit, it was attempted to be projected and accounted for in the fee increase.
- j. James Johnson: What was the starting budget for this year, and what was the initial budget planned for FY 2010?
  - i. Will start next year at \$1.3 million less than at the beginning of the year. The state budget that involves services is \$12 million.
- k. David Talenfeld: I am worried that spending will be committed for this year on new services. What would go to new services versus maintaining old services?
  - i. It depends on what the budget cuts are. \$2 million would go toward covering losses. Without classroom technology, \$2.2 million would go toward online learning. There could also be a split of the \$2.2 million to classroom technology and online learning.
- l. Sanket Unhale: If there is a 10% to 15% cut, would something like 24/7 help desk cut into the services?
  - i. At the very basic level, will take fee money to pay salaries for operational costs associated with instructional services. Then services will be the next item on the line item list for consideration for the pay. Personnel gets precedence over services and will be main focus.
- m. Robert Jacobi: As of FY 2010, will have paid off official loan for WiFi Service at the UA. About \$800k would be committed towards maintenance. With all due respect, that sounds large?
  - i. The UA paid \$9M towards wifi. About 10% is not unheard of.
  - ii. What about classrooms with high bandwidth already? Our office went for fall coverage without distinction of office use or location.
- n. Boris Glebov: Since WiFi has been successful, would wired services suffer?
  - i. Our position is that wired and wireless has equal emphasis. Wireless speeds are not on par with wired. However, in some space, you might be able to take a trade off where wireless coverage is good. Some places may not need maintenance of wired services and is driven on the needs of the space.
- o. Lauren Sekora: Looking at services, things such as 2<sup>nd</sup> Life, is a low priority. Would this fee be used to cover that?
  - i. Virtual Reality Annex is used by graduate students. Costs \$26,000 a year, which is really someone's salary.
  - ii. Description of Virtual Reality Annex.
  - iii. Heard anything about virtual meeting space for students? Has heard a lot about this.
- p. Alison Betts: Seeing things on this list, such as iTunesU, wondering how much of this fee will go towards graduate students as opposed to undergraduate students?

- i. iTunesU has only been offered for a year.
  - ii. What classes use iTunes U? Not just students, includes guest lectures and office use. Medical College is using a lot of these services.
  - iii. Betts: Don't have basic technology in a lot of classrooms, concerned about this.
- q. Jim Collins: Online learning component, could it be covered by a per student fee usage?
  - i. This has been used. 4200 sections, 3800 with presence and desire to learn. A fee per course will not get us there quickly enough.
- r. Helena Morrison: College of Nursing program uses technology extensively, i.e. online classroom. This could be considered a double fee for the College of Nursing. How would you see the College of Nursing fitting into this? Would the College of Nursing be exempt from this fee increase?
  - i. That is something that can be taken under advisement. TRIF funding was cut, so this would be used to supplement the fee.
  - ii. Heard from students that there is inconsistency between who is in D2L and who is not. Certainly, this sort of discussion should be taken back to the larger discussion.
  - iii. TRIF money ran out about 1 year ago. ½ time support to the College of Nursing. There will be a direct benefit.
- s. James Johnson: Classified contracts could be impacted by Google Contract. There are at least a dozen students who benefit from this project. How would this impact such students?
  - i. Any students that touch ITAR project have a system of their own that would follow specifications according to ITAR.
  - ii. Would offer Google service to students. Unless there is an arrangement that can be made, it would be imagined that the departments would continue to use their own service.
  - iii. When a student leaves the UA, Google would be advised to delete the account. This sort of service could be negotiated and alternatives must be explored.
  - iv. NAU has a separate contract w/Google independent of ASU/ABOR.
- t. Alan Schumacher: If the fee is enacted, there would be a \$2M increase in the budget. Advised that demand could be reduced concerning WiFi and Wired. College of Medicine pays a "boatload" of money to help cover the IT services. Does not see a need for a \$140 per year fee hike. In addition, Obama Administration has indicated a willingness to increase funding to Universities (i.e. UA). Does money that is saved on operational cost come back to IT?
  - i. Has not seen any of these dollars.
- u. Jim Collins: What is the possibility of saving money on refresh?
  - i. UITS is on a refresh cycle of every 5 years.

### III. Officer Reports:

#### **President - Stephen Bieda.**

We need a new secretary. Jim Collins suggests we might look into transcription service; Sarah Smith noted that such services are expensive and using one may not be practical for our meeting format.

Sen. Pearce is pushing \$155 mil cut to UA, about 25%. This is the legislature's starting point. The university presidents are sending the message that this isn't a good option. There is some indication the governor is resisting possible stimulus money if it comes with too many strings. We are looking into what we might get from the stimulus package.

Pres. Shelton is going to ask ABOR for a suspension of the "top of the bottom one third" tuition criteria. He will ask at March ABOR meeting for radical increases in tuition. Differential cuts are being proposed in order to hold science, medicine, and nursing harmless from budget impacts. This means that other colleges could see larger cuts (between 25-33%) to reduce or eliminate cuts science, medicine, and nursing. There is a consideration to move away from our status as a "land grant" institution to other designations of "state-located" or "state-assisted." State-located = less than 10% of funding from state, which allows the president to raise tuition to private university rates. State-assisted = less than 25% of our funding from the state. Changing our designation may impact our programs and the services we provide. There is a list of programs being targeted for shutdown: about 26 programs are on list, which is forthcoming. If programs shut down faculty can be relocated to other departments, perhaps not related to their work. We are working with Dean. Comrie to get fees covered in GA tuition waivers. ASUA and GPSC: In light of the upcoming elections for both organizations, we are working to clarify our position as the sole representative of graduate students.

#### **Vice President – Boris Glebov**

Boris started by clarifying the "top of the bottom one third" regarding our peer institution.

There are strings on the stimulus package from the federal government. The package includes direct funding for K-12 and higher education. To be eligible, the state must continue to fund education lines, which we are already below. That could be their argument for rejecting the stimulus money, because it would require the state to find additional funds for education in order to accept the federal money. I am thinking about fundraising efforts for the GPSC. We need to look at what we would use it for. The hope is to find a funding source for the GPS C that allows for more independency from the state and even the university. Boris is soliciting feedback on how to raise funds or what we should do with it.

#### **Assembly Chair – Bridget Barker**

Bridget met with Dean Andrew Comrie. Bridget is sitting on the graduate program review that will be overseeing the decision of which programs will be cut. There is an idea out there of a possible \$1000 general fee to "keep the lights on." The exact number isn't clear/hasn't been determined. The problem is that grad students just achieved 100% tuition remission—a fee of this size dramatically mitigates that remission. Some members of ABOR are resistive to increases in tuition because some tuition dollars go to the state. A fee is a way to get around the state.

#### **Treasurer – Sanket Unhale**

The University Fees Committee has a list of proposed fees. These include course fees and new mandatory fees. Sanket will be sending the list around and is looking for comments.

#### **Social Chair – David Talenfeld**

The Social Committee is trying to get some events going. They are looking at the amount of funds available. The committee is considering a night-club event. In response to Boris's point

on fundraising, David suggested that events could be used as a source of funding. When ASUA brought Katy Perry to Centennial Hall recently they made some money. There is a bowling night coming up. If people are interested, the committee could do a speed dating session. Jessica Gerlach requested to meet about GPSA week.

A calendar is forthcoming, and open for feedback. Boris Glebov offered a point of clarification: UAPresents (Centennial Hall) puts on events, which is why they can charge. We could be in a sticky place as a non-profit student organization.

#### **IV. Representative and Director Reports (10 min)**

Alison Betts: Faculty Senate is attempting to get rid of the University-Wide Gen Ed Committee, which some see as an attempt to get rid of shared governance. There has been a big loss in temporary funds, which is where TA lines are paid. Some departments are moving temporary funds to make up for fund losses in permanent lines, which keeps faculty, but diminishes funds for TAs. There will be courses held in Centennial Hall next year. There is no firm idea on what those courses will look like, but the number of TAs available for those courses will be limited. There are likely to be fewer TAs next year and there is some concern over how this will impact Gen Ed courses.

Jennifer Kruse: Commencement update. The committee is looking at speakers for next year's ceremonies.

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

- I. James Johnson – What do we mean by “suspension” vs. “elimination” of top of the bottom one third? Is there a chance for a tuition reduction as some point?
  - a. Boris Glebov – Probably not, but they could choose to not do increases in the future until other peer institutions catch up.
- II. Roeland Hancock – If we are no longer land-grant, does that mean we don't have to fulfill our obligations?
  - a. Stephen Bieda - That is true. Some services would go away. For example, they have already suspended the cap on acceptance rates of out of state students.
- III. Jim Collins – Non-degree students can't work as a RA or TA; can we change that? 25% of Grad students are non-degree.
  - a. Stephen Bieda– we'll look into it.
  - b. Alison Betts – Given that current TAs may be losing their positions, I think it is problematic to try to secure some of those spots for students who are not degree-seeking.
- IV. Jim Collins – In regard to getting some independent funding for GPSC, maybe we should look into a GPSC fee.
- V. Robert Jacobi – Are the drastic cuts going to go through to the colleges if we get a tuition cut?
  - a. Explanation of how the cuts will work by Stephen. Follow up question on letter to ASUA.
- VI. Robert Jacobi - Question on fees. Do we need to start going public on the fee issue? And we need to consider whether we should really be asking for fees for TA fees, since

not all of our constituents are TAs. Should we think about suing the legislature over the lack of funding?

- a. Stephen Bieda – A lawsuit was done in the past with no result.
- b. Jim Collins – There were some problems with that lawsuit, but that doesn't mean another attempt would fail.

#### **VI. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

- a. Feb 4, 2009 – Deferred until March 4 meeting.

#### **VII. Committee Non-Consent Agenda**

**Library Fee Endorsement** - Sanket Unhale: -We don't endorse the fee as it is. We need more information. The motion to not endorse the fee was already seconded, so it was put to a vote. 1 opposed, the rest aye

**Club & POD Funding Approval** - None

#### **VIII. Old Business**

- a. UITS Google Gmail Contract Jim
  - I. Jim Collins - The contract we received is not the actual contract, so it is difficult to assess. There are privacy issues, and a concern over compliance with FERPA and privacy of student records.
    - a. Bridget Barker – Motion to oppose this version of the contract.
    - b. Jim Collins – Offered an amendment to the motion to send suggestions on issues to the Google review committee. Bridget Barker accepted this motion as friendly.
    - c. Motion seconded - ?
    - d. Unanimous vote to accept motion
- b. GPSC Elections 2009
  - II. Alison Betts – Deadline in March 6. We encourage current reps to run for office; if you are not planning to run again, work to recruit to fill your seat.
  - III. Stephen Bieda – GPSC is trying to get RAs for Pres. and Vice Pres.

#### **IX. New Business**

- a. Announcement of New Social Chair - Stephen Bieda: David is our new social chair.
- b. UITS Fee Proposal - Sanket Unhale

Proposal one – fund classroom technology; Proposal two – more online courses.

Stephen Bieda – Motion to have the proposal reviewed by the Appropriations Committee.

David Talenfeld – Second the motion

Bridget Barker – Motion to establish a temporary fee committee

Jim Collins – Amendment Stephen's motion to move the review to the Policy Committee, or to have the two committees do a joint review. The latter was accepted by Stephen as friendly. Alan Schumacher seconded the motion for a joint meeting between Policy and Appropriations. The motion to have the fee reviewed in a joint session of Policy and Appropriations passed unanimously.

c. Arizona State Legislature – Boris Glebov. We want to invite members of the legislature to speak with us in a private, off the record setting, so if anyone has an "in" please let Boris know.

Stephen Bieda - Move to adjourn at 8:13 – Seconded by Boris Glebov.