

## August 2013

Members of the Assembly:

First, I want to apologize for the delay on this report. I'll explain during the meeting, but emergent circumstances prevented my timely delivery.

Welcome to the academic year as a Graduate Assembly Member. This August General Session is important to set the clip GPSA and the Assembly will move at for the year. I'll highlight the legislation in sections below and speak in more detail during my report.

### **The Assembly President *pro tempore***

Rep. Bobby Schmitz ([Robert.Schmitz@asu.edu](mailto:Robert.Schmitz@asu.edu)) will be out Assembly President *pro tempore* for the year. He is very well qualified and has the professionalism to match. In this role, he has the power to act in my absence. If for whatever reason I am unable to act or be in attendance, the powers of Assembly President are vested in him. This includes running and coordinating the meetings, but also document and funding approvals.

Additionally, Bobby will manage the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Funding Program. He will tender the applications, schedule the hearings, manage the reimbursement (with the ASASU Business Office), and is charged with promoting the program. Please feel free to ask him or myself questions regarding GSO funding opportunities.

### **The Parliamentarian and Secretary**

Rep. Sam Wildman will serve as our “secretarian” for the year. This is a new role. Last year it became clear that we needed a little more than just a parliamentarian for our business. In addition to the traditional roles afforded to the parliamentarian – to advise members and the chair on the conduct of business – Sam will pioneer the new position with additional responsibilities.

With new job duties that include document management and publication, meeting announcements, and bill drafting, the new role represents a GPSA commitment to transparency in and outside of the organization. Rep. Wildman and I both welcome any suggestions or advise to set an ongoing precedent.

## **New Members**

As of right now, the Assembly has 36 seats and 15 of them are filled. We distribute these seats amongst the various colleges of ASU to best enable representation of *all* graduate and professional students.

To fill a vacancy, a candidate must first be eligible for student government service with ASU and then must be nominated by the Assembly Operations Committee. After this, they must be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Assembly.

In cases where there are more applicants than seats, the Assembly Operations Committee will occasionally nominate a plurality. In this case, the Assembly will elect the nominee and then will confirm the winner of the election in two separate votes.

## **GSO Funding**

Early year GSO funding is always complicated. Deadlines are different than the rest of the year; people are returning from summer; and event coordinators, officers, and organization members are often new to our process.

This GSO funding bill will have one organization seeking funds for the rest of the semester. Whereas there may be other organizations applying for funds in September, we should talk about what is appropriate.

There are a few things I've asked Bobby to look into for the year: role of sponsors, deadlines, funding application, rules for organizations requiring tickets; and role of fundraiser events. Please share your comments or thoughts.

## **Joint Legislative Collaboration**

The Graduate Assembly is only one of five legislative bodies in the Associated Students of Arizona State University (ASASU). We have a similar and parallel role to our sister senates in the various locations of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). I've encouraged ongoing collaboration and dialog with the USGs, their Senate Presidents, and their Senators. This collaboration, hopefully, will take on several forms: joint legislative sessions; regular legislative president meetings; concurrent and joint business; and a heightened physical presence of sister legislators in our meetings.

With some luck and effort, the Graduate Assembly will host the first, Joint Legislative Session this semester. Don't worry, I will reach out to you to help me put it on.

## **The Vice President of External Affairs and the Arizona Students Association**

Earlier this summer I reached out to you to garner your opinion on some changes happening in the Arizona Students Association. I want to encourage all of you to ask questions and learn more about the ASA and the changing political landscape in Arizona.

The ASA bill proffered at this meeting, however, is simply a housekeeping bill. The ASA Board has changed its selection process and for us to require our VP of External Affairs to perform a duty that office is not otherwise able to perform is unworkable. The ASA bill at this meeting is adjusting our bylaws to these changes.

I'm sure there are concerns about the ASA, its decisions, and the affect of those decisions on graduate and professional students. I want to encourage that dialog and the potential for business of the same. Please let me know if you have any questions, but I also want to encourage you to reach out to GPSA President Megan Fisk ([Megan.Fisk@asu.edu](mailto:Megan.Fisk@asu.edu)) – who is also a board member, Vice President of External Affairs German Cadenas ([German.Cadenas@asu.edu](mailto:German.Cadenas@asu.edu)) – who has served on the board in the past, or Director of Legislative Affairs Adam Monroe ([Adam.Monroe@asu.edu](mailto:Adam.Monroe@asu.edu)) – former Assembly Member and current ASA Board of Directors Chair.

## **The Budget**

The fiscal authority of GPSA rests in the Assembly. As elected legislators, we have a duty to craft a fiscal policy that best protects the interests of all graduate and professional students.

The budget, and our fiscal policy is not limited to line descriptions and dollar amounts. Rather, this budget is an authorization of the included officers and committees to spend the revenue of the GPSA in the way that we – the Assembly – see is best for our constituents. Like the GPSA President is entrusted with the right to represent graduate students to external organizations, and like the Vice Presidents are tasked with the execution of the policies of their officers, the Assembly is tasked with protecting graduate and professional student's fiscal interests when it comes to GPSA retained revenue. Please take a fine-tooth comb to this budget proposal. Your vote, power to amend, and right to debate this budget, in concert, are the very fine-tooth comb given to you by referendum and election of the students you represent.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am always here to help.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/  
James Alling