

Office of the President

September 20, 2013 Report

1) **Needs Assessment**

The needs assessment will be launching September 23rd. A representative sample from the entire student body will be collected by the October meeting. Initial results may also be available, but the final results will be done for the November meeting.

2) **Strategic Plan**

I continue to work on the strategic plan and hope to have the student input platform launched by mid-October.

3) **National Association of Graduate and Professional Students Legislative Action Day**

German, Adam and I attended LAD this past weekend to lobby congress members for more research funding and lower student loan interest rates.

4) **Fee Discussions**

I have continued discussion of creating a new graduate student programming fee that graduate and professional students would pay instead of the current \$25.00 student programming fee. It is my intent that the new fee would mainly be used to increase travel funding and graduate student organization funding. Other fees have been proposed by ASU administration and I have started a list of requests to benefit graduate and professional students including a \$200 across the board pay raise per year for Teaching and Research Assistants, full time internship coordinators for professional programs including nursing and social work, and research grant funding.

5) **Big 5 meeting**

I have facilitated two meetings with the undergraduate student leaders from Undergraduate Student Government, the Programming and Activities Fee, Resident Hall Association, Greek Life, and Student Alumni Association. The meetings have primarily been about increasing student attendance at football games. I have been trying to shift the discussion to how athletics can invest in students and the academic community in exchange for our investment in athletics.

6) **Boards and committees**

I have appointed more than half of the open board and committee seats but continue to need the following boards filled:

Technology (2)

Student Health (1)

Public Safety (3- D, P, W)

Parking Citations Appeals (2)

Parking and Transit Board (1)

MLK Planning (3- D, P, W)

Facilities Fee (1)

Campus Inclusion (1-P)

Status of Women (2- P, W)

7) **Outreach Directors' Reports**

This section includes the weekly reports done by the Outreach Directors

Downtown—Theresa

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1ST

Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

It has been very empty so far. Out of all the days I've gone this week and last week, I have only come across two different people. One of them was Kim Davidson, in the Social Work master's program, who I previously met at the Downtown Welcome. She was very helpful and provided additional information on assembly committees, as well as information about the First General Session of the GPSA Graduate Assembly. The other person I've encountered is a male who has his headphones on the entire time I'm there, so I haven't wanted to disturb him. He has been there on two separate occasions that I've been there.

Graduate Women's Association - Samantha Calvin

I reached out to Samantha Calvin, GWA's representative for the downtown campus. I explained that I am also a part of GWA, as well as GPSA. I told her about my position with GPSA and expressed that it might be mutually beneficial to combine our efforts and resources downtown. Given that GWA is looking to increase their presence at this campus and host events for students, it would be especially helpful for our organizations to work together. I will keep you updated on her response.

Graduate Women's Association - Social at Mad Hatter

GWA is having their first social near the Tempe campus on Friday, September 6th from 4pm to 7pm. I'm hoping to attend, but I'm not sure if I'll have the chance to. If I can, I'll have a chance to meet other members, as well as maybe have a chance to speak to Samantha Calvin in person.

Cronkite School of Journalism

I reached out to several people from the Cronkite School of Journalism including Andrea Tom, Academic Operations Coordinator; Elizabeth Smith, Outreach Director; and Marianne Barrett, Senior Associate Dean. I'm hoping that one of them will be able to help me recruit at least one student to represent their school at GPSA.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH

Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

There has been a considerable amount of students at the GSC this week. I attended on Wednesday at noon and there were about seven students there. Some were eating lunch and talking to each other, one was at the computer, and the others were in the conference room. All of them were in the social work program. I also attended Thursday at 1pm and there were two students at the computer, and a group of six were meeting on the couches and ottomans. The GSC seems to have gotten very messy in the time I visited last week. The trash is overflowing and the floor desperately needs to be vacuumed. Both times I was there this week, the GSC was quite full. I took inventory which I will provide below.

Cronkite School of Journalism

Elizabeth Smith, the outreach director at the Cronkite School of Journalism, gave me a tour of the school and I met a few students along the way. I also met Mark Lodato, a professor at the school, who said that any time I needed anything I could stop by, call or email. He also said that if I wanted to discuss the school further, that we could set up a lunch meeting. I have sent a follow-up email to him to let him know that GPSA is looking for a person to represent their school on the GPSA Assembly. I have asked him if he knows anyone and if he can forward on a message from me to graduate students.

Graduate Women's Association - Samantha Calvin

I still have not heard from Samantha Calvin, so I sent her a follow-up email. Hopefully she responds and we can discuss things further and set something up.

GPSA Back to School Social

I will be attending the GPSA Back to School Social on Friday from 6 to 9pm at the Sun Devil Fitness Complex. I'm hoping to meet more students from the downtown campus. Since the event is downtown, there should be a good amount of students to reach out to.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH

Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

This week I saw Debra Crusoe at the GSC on Monday and we discussed the issues that have presented themselves at the GSC. Specifically, the overflowing trash and the need for vacuuming. These issues have been resolved and I will be adding notes to the director's manual. I have posted signs with guidelines to follow at the GSC addressing issues and concerns from students I've spoken to. I am still waiting on an answer from Annette on when the toner is expected to arrive so that I can pick it up. Ideally, I'd like to store several toner cartridges at the GSC. This way other GPSA members are not having to figure out if they can bring them downtown, students are not waiting several days for the ink, and because it's difficult for me to make it out to Tempe during normal business hours.

The guidelines I set in my signs are below. I also printed a sign-up sheet for groups wanting to meet in the back room. Though there isn't much traffic at the GSC currently, I think it's a good way to get an idea of the groups coming through and the college/program they're in.

GSC House Rules

WELCOME TO THE GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

- ≡ **COMPUTERS:** if there are others present, please limit your use to 30 minutes and to schoolwork only, as others may be waiting to use them as well. The 4th computer in the back room is available when Debra Crusoe is not using it.
- ≡ **PRINTING:** please limit your printing to 10 pages per day; we simply cannot support printing of a semester's worth of class materials for all graduate students.
- ≡ **GROUP MEETINGS:** please use the back room as a courtesy to those who need the space on the couches/chairs.
- ≡ **CLEANLINESS:** This space is available for all graduate students, but please be courteous and keep it clean/neat.
- ≡ **GENERAL COURTESY:** please use common sense and be respectful to others. Phone calls should be handled outside the GSC.

**contact me with any issues & concerns` theresa.avila@asu.edu
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
gpsa.asu.edu**

GPSA Back to School Social

I met several students at the GPSA social event last Friday. One student, Amoneeta, is working on his PHD in counseling psychology and is possibly interested in joining GPSA as an assembly member. Another student, Graciela, from the social work program told me about a few issues she has encountered at the GSC, all of which I have addressed on the signs I posted today.

Tania Mendes - Educational Outreach & Student Services

She has finally emailed me letting me know that my keys for the GSC have been made. I've made note in the Director's Manual that this is a long process and should be started as soon as possible. The reason it took so long is because they needed to make a new key for me and there is only one man who makes keys for all of the ASU campuses.

Shelia Miller

Another student I spoke to on Monday came to Debra and I with the issue of access to the GSC. According to her, she wasn't able to get to the second floor because the elevator wouldn't grant her access. She said that her friend then swiped her sun card and the elevator worked. I have never had to use my sun card to use the elevator and neither has Debra. No other student has raised this concern either. I will try to figure out who is the appropriate person to contact regarding this question so that I can give her an answer. She said that she does not want to pay the \$25 to get a sun card when she doesn't need it for anything else. She stated that if a sun card is needed to access the GSC, then we should say so when we advertise its use.

NationBuilder Webinar

I was finally able to attend this webinar and it sounds like very useful and edgy software. Since I'm new to this whole thing and I'm not sure how I'll be involved with it, I watched the entire webinar and then I copied everyone's questions and corresponding answers. Maybe once I have an idea of how I'll be using this, I'll be able to form a better picture in my head. I assume I will have the ability to create events, pages, etc.

Cronkite School of Journalism - Elizabeth Smith

I followed up with Elizabeth Smith thanking her for the tour and also asking her to help me reach out to students at the Cronkite School.

Polytechnic—Kylie

September 3-6

Office hours :

Monday 3-5pm

Wednesday 2-6pm

During office hours: cleaned up around office, took inventory, cleaned up, talked to a couple students

Outreach:

Wellness fair

Volleyball Tournament

Club Hub

Employment Fair

Handed giveaways out in student union

September 9-13

Office hours :

Monday 3-5pm

Wednesday 2-6pm

During office hours: talked to a couple students about how to improve GSC (most say more room, more interactive pieces), Took some things off the walls, tried to make myself available for students

Outreach:

Handed giveaways out in student union

spoke with new president of Morrison School Graduate Student Organization at Polytechnic campus who would like to know the ins and outs of travel grant funding so I would like to meet with someone before speaking with her

Tempe—Carlo

09/09/2013 – 09/15/2013

1. Office hours

Friday, September 13th, from 10 AM to noon.

Activities: Outreach activities at my desk in the second floor. I devoted 45 min of my office hours to continue the inventory at the storage room in the first floor. I welcomed some students that visited the GSC during that time.

2. Outreach Activity

I followed up with my outreach activities with the following school:

- a) School of Social Transformation
- b) Mary Lou Fulton Teachers' College
- c) W.P. Carey School of Business

I got an invitation to a graduate student seminar from the Teacher's College next Monday at 1 PM so I will be attending to that. Apparently, attendance is mandatory for new grad students so it will be a great opportunity to do outreach. Other than that, I still don't have other classes scheduled to visit, so far communication this week was via email.

At the Carey School the person I contacted was reluctant to forward their email to the faculty since they normally don't give that kind of space during classes, but since it was for the benefit of the students at the School she would do it. I'm still waiting for some responses so hopefully next week I will have 3 or 4 classes to visit.

This week I took a bunch of magnets that I was carrying with me so I wouldn't ran out of them, like it happened last week.

I am almost done with the inventory after the new semester's welcomes and orientations. I ordered the boxes so there's space to actually walk through the room.

I'm planning on attending the Back to School Social event at the downtown campus to help with anything that is needed from me. I prepared a box with t-shirts and different giveaways for the event.

I had technical difficulties connecting to the nationbuilder training so I signed up to take another one the following Wednesday.

West—Kimberley

Friday, September 13th, 2013

- ≡ Office hours Thursday, 9/12/13
- ≡ Basic Outreach and Response to Grad Students
- ≡ Networking with students in GSC
- ≡ Postponed NationBuilder training tentatively for next week
- ≡ IT planning and HelpDesk Requests with Jason
- ≡ GPSA Back-To-School Mixer help with setup, 9/13/13

8) Presidents' Council

This is a list of the topics I discussed with the USG presidents at each of our meetings. If you would like more details please ask ↵

August 26

- Council took a tour of the facilities at the Poly location.
- Dean Krasnow and Dean Mader met with Council and encouraged them to look for ways to get student input, separate stories from fact and helped Council strategize on the presentation for University Priorities.
- Council reviewed current status of SunDevilsCount. Council needs to encourage organizations to use the system and remind students to sign in at events. Dan gave out flyers to help promote the system.
- Council reviewed the training documents for the Boards/Committee trainings.
- Dan and Sherril provided context for Gender Neutral Housing (from State Press article) and LGBTQ Coalitions concerns raised by Jonathan Sherman. Council wants to meet with Editorial Board of State Press to develop a positive relationship.
- Jordan and Megan reported on reduced allocation of Sport Club Funding from USGT.
- Council reviewed invitations to student leaders for the Big 5 meeting on Friday, August 30 at 10am in Fulton 2210.
- Next COP meeting is on Sept 9 (because of Labor Day) at DPC.

September 9

- Council selected 9am on alternating Fridays for the SDC meeting. Next meeting will be this Friday, Sept 13. Megan will send out notice. Council developed agenda items.
- Council wrestled with how to operationalize the work in the SDC meeting and communicate with the Working Group. Nicole Peralta (facilitator of the Working Group) will be invited to the SDC meetings. Ideas generated in meeting can then be incorporated more easily into the Working Group.
- Franz, Megan and Dan plan to join Nicole and Carole at a meeting with Bill Kennedy to determine banner space for the Inferno.
- Council developed plans for distributing boxes for the can food drive.
- Student Regents application is available and has been sent to each President. Jordan will discuss agenda for Candidate Forums with Valarie Hanna (current UofA student regent) and then work with Megan to create outline for an on-line webinar for the forums. Application should be on the students.asu.edu/studentgov site by end of week.
- Megan gave an update on the Needs Assessment. Final preparations are underway. Survey instrument will randomize order of questions.
- Several staff and students made a presentation about United Way to the Council. United Way focuses on three objectives: ensure children's success; end hunger and homelessness; increase financial stability. Council will find ways to partner with Student United Way and find ways for students to contribute time/money.
- Council was reminded that last Board/Committee training is scheduled for September 12 at 3pm, GPSA. Still need to identify several appointments. After September 12, Presidents need to ensure that training occurs.
- Next COP meeting is Monday, September 16 at ASU West. 9:30am Tour, 10:30-12:30 meeting.

(September 16th notes not available at the time this report was written.)