

Office of the President

March 21, 2014 Report

I apologize for not being in attendance at the meeting. I am representing GPSA at the Clinton Global Initiative events this weekend. Feel free to email me any questions throughout the meeting and I will try to weigh in.

1) Strategic Plan Update

Please continue to provide feedback on the document. I would like to adopt it as our last act in April.

2) Healthcare Task force

The final meetings for the student health insurance fees happened over the past month. I advocated for the platinum plan; however, the university (and NAU and UA) decided to go with the Gold plan. The final summary is attached. This is Dr. Markus rational for choosing the Gold Plan, instead of platinum:

Based on all the information including the effects on premium for all voluntary/required student purchasers including university departments and the low numbers of students who will benefit from the differences between OOP maximums (**estimated to be about 300 out of the ~15,000 on the plan**) it was decided to choose the Gold plan.

3) Tuition and fee setting

Provost Page was unable to attending this Assembly meeting, but I was able to meet with him earlier in the week. He is in favor of requiring the Deans to host annual meeting to discuss proposed fees, present information about the fee setting process and give students the opportunity to provide feedback. In lieu of a review committee set up at each location, Provost Page asked that we accept a report from each Dean detailing the fee expenditures. I think this is a good alternative and that the assembly will be able to use this information in constituent meetings. Additionally, this may be more transparent in some ways since the documents can be widely circulated.

Please attend the ABOR Tuition and Fee hearing on Tuesday, March 25th from 5-7 in the MU Alumni Room.

4) FY 2015 Budget

On Wednesday, I presented the attached budget to Dr. Rund and the Campus Deans. This is the first step, and my last step in the process. The next GPSA president will make changes upon taking office and make another presentation to Dr. Rund. Later in the summer, Dr. Rund will appropriate the "Operations" budget, as well as a better estimate of the student program fee amount that is based on student enrollment. At the point, the budget is revised a final time and sent to the assembly for approval at the first meeting of the Fall Semester.

5) Family Resource Board

The family resource center and I, with the assistance of EOSS and the Office of Institutional Analysis, launched a needs assessment of student parents to determine how to better support their academic endeavors.

6) Week of Philanthropy Event: <https://eoss.asu.edu/sundevilsunite>

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Alive @ 5 sponsored by the MU, Aramark, and GPSA

5 – 8 p.m.

Memorial Union - Engrained (Starlight Terrace Patio)

An opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to listen to live music while enjoying a fresh and unique all-you care-to-eat menu with tapas and desserts for just \$8.00/person. For every meal purchased at this special Alive @ 5, \$3.00 will be donated to the Valley of the Sun United Way.

To support United Way and other student organizations, I have purchased 150 tickets (\$8 each) for us to give away during Grad Week. I need your help distributing them! **Please let me know how many you would like and I will get them to you.**

7) Graduate Student Welcomes

I met with Graduate Education and EOSS Assistant Director Ben Davis to begin discussions of moving the Graduate Student Welcomes to be part of the larger campus-wide orientation events, like Passport. Both groups are receptive to this change and will proceed.

8) March 7th ABOR Meeting with NAU and UA graduate presidents' agenda

General Concerns

1. Student Health Insurance
 - a. Platinum is better than gold.
 - b. Price difference is small and less cost to students
 - c. For NAU, ASU, UA to be competitive we need best plan to attract best students
 - d. Pricing ourselves out of market as economy improves
 - e. System efficacy depends on graduate students
2. Tuition
 - a. State-based financial aid for graduate students

Campus Updates

NAU

1. Valuing all graduate programs
 - a. SBS example: Fewer professors devalue program and make it harder for students to graduate which affects retention and graduation rate. COH, Arts, SBS not just STEM.
2. NAU Presidential search
 - a. The person needs to value graduate research as well as undergraduate research
 - b. NAU wants to be nationally recognized. Graduate students want more support (survey)

ASU

1. Programs Fees Review

- a. Fees with termination dates and fees should have built-in reviews
2. Masters Degrees
 - a. Affordability, quality, and outcomes
3. Athletics Fee – additional questions?

UA

ASUA-GPSC MOU and remaining work

1. 2.5% convenience fee
 - a. International students & Access for low income students
 - b. Nelnet concerns
2. GPSC partnership with Tech Launch Arizona

Downtown Report

WEEK OF January 19TH

The water was delivered to the GSC. We now have 5 jugs of water, which I doubt will be gone by the next delivery date, but you never know. The students are leaving me notes on the whiteboard nowadays, instead of using the comments bucket. Maybe I'll remove it, it's quite unsightly. The red cart still has not been removed by Marcus, so I have moved it just outside of the door to the GSC. It's out of the way, somewhat hidden, so I hope they haven't forgotten about it. I'll have to email him about it since I have a few other questions I need to ask him. For one, the students are asking about the microwave, which was never moved down to the new location. Also, I know you asked him about the mini fridge last time we met with him, but I wanted to check on the status of that just in case. The second printer is still awaiting for someone to connect it, so I don't think Marcus has gotten around to that either.

I've also been corresponding with Annette about getting a replacement stapler. The students left a note that ours was broken. It was working right after the move, because I checked it to make sure it still had staples in it, so someone must have damaged it. Anyhow, Annette said there were extras at the Tempe GSC and I'll be able to pick it up, along with a new toner for the printer, next Friday before the social. Unfortunately, I don't anticipate I'll be headed out in that direction any sooner than that.

I received my delivery of printer ink in my office, so I was able to print some flyers finally. Hopefully this helps with what seems to be low attendance at the GSC. I have still not had a chance to head over to the University Center to post find a spot to post the flyers there, but there is a place right in front of the building near the street. It's not the best spot, but for now it'll do. This Friday I was actually able to meet with Kimberly Roland because she was down here for a class meeting. I was able to show her the GSC and we discussed what's been working and what we've struggled with at our respective locations. I mentioned that you had suggested we all go to Target to purchase some things we need for our GSCs and she was very keen on the idea. So I

guess we're ready when you are! Since she had to get back to work, we weren't able to meet for too long, but we'd like to meet again in the future to brainstorm some ideas.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16TH

Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

Things are going very well in the GSC. Attendance has greatly increased and I also see a wider variety of students utilizing the space. There was an issue with the printer's toner, but that has been resolved. I was set to pick up the toner on February 7th, but I wasn't able to get away from work. Thankfully, Jason offered to take it over to the social and give it to me there, but we both completely forgot about it! When I went to the GSC that week, the printer did not say it was low on toner so I figured Jason had brought it down and replaced it. However, Debra sent out an email about a student who had an issue printing his paper because there was no toner. Debra found toner from the staff printer (not sure where that's located in the downtown GSC as I've never seen one) and the student was able to print his paper. I then emailed Annette asking if maybe the toner Jason had was still at the GSC, but Jason replied that he had delivered the toner and stapler. Anyhow, it's all resolved and I'm set to pick up the next toner from Tempe sometime in the next two weeks in order to limit the wait time for when the current one runs out.

I'm hoping that he can find the mini fridge and the microwave so that students can start using them. The mini fridge was rarely used in the old location, but perhaps they'll use it more at this new space? Some students have also asked for tissue boxes among other little things, so I'm going to try to work on getting that for them.

The only thing that seems to be a recurring problem is picking up the toner from the GSC. It's very difficult for me since I don't go out in that direction often, and on top of that, I work during the hours that the GSC is open. If I could go during the weekend it might help, but otherwise it's just difficult at the moment. I'm trying to figure out ways to work around this, so hopefully I come up with something so students aren't waiting at all for toner in the future.

WEEK OF MARCH 2ND

Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

Everything continues to go well at the GSC and attendance is increasing. There have been no issues brought to my attention. Also, Marcus responded to me about the mini fridge and microwave. He asked for descriptions of both. It doesn't bode well that he hasn't heard anything about them at this point. It's been about 3 months and no one has realized that they have a mini fridge that doesn't belong to them? That's odd. Hopefully, he is able to track down who had access to it, or where it could have possibly been mistakenly delivered. I know that's definitely one thing the students have mentioned to both Debra and me. Marcus will also be having his people haul the red dolly sitting outside the GSC away, because it's been there since the move and I have nowhere to put it. He is also going to work on getting the printer put on the network so that students can actually print from it.

Yesterday I received an email from graduate student, Shani. She had left her USB in one of the computers and asked if I could go over and get it ASAP. All her important papers were on it and she was far from campus at that point. I was able to retrieve it and we met up for her to get it back. She was ever so grateful.

Tempe Report

☞ Office hours

Thursdays from 10 AM to noon.

Regular weekly activities: Organize and make sure that the storage room is properly ordered and with easy access. Coordinate with Annette about weekly tasks such as organizing t-shirts by size and color so whenever someone asks for a particular type, it is within easy access. Planning the different outreach activities outlined in the section below.

☞ Outreach Activity

- Coffee Thursdays: Weekly gathering at the meeting room on the second floor of the GSC Tempe on Thursdays from 9 to 11. GPSA offers free coffee and pastries with the objective of building community and strengthening the presence of GPSA and the GSC among the graduate student community.

The students are increasingly showing interest in this event, and last week was the most successful iteration with about 20 visitors. All of the graduate students from different disciplines that engaged in different conversations. I was there at all times to answer any question or concern related to GPSA. Every week there's at least one person who asks about the procedure to apply for travel grants.

- "What does it mean to be a graduate student" Photographic contest. As part of the outreach activities in the Tempe campus, GPSA organized a photo contest with this topic with the aim of providing a space for the graduate and professional students community to express their concerns, desires and dream about grad school in an artistic fashion. The contest was advertised via the newsletter, Facebook and webpage. We received a total of 11 images. All of them are currently on display on the Facebook site and the three pics that receive the most 'likes' from the community will receive monetary awards: \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively. The selected images will be on display at the conference room of the GSC.

Polytechnic Report

Poly has had more activity in the GSC lately thanks to some graduate students playing intramurals and me talking to the at the SDFC about the GSC and GPSA as a whole. They were

very excited to learn about the support from GPSA and said they never knew about it before. I found this surprising because I went to the PE grad school orientation and many of these students were supposed to attend but did not have to so they chose not to. I think it would be helpful for schools to send something to incoming grad students about why orientation is important and what they can learn (GPSA).

I have had some frustration with the Poly GSC due to the potential move and only receiving information off and on throughout the year. It would be helpful to know where the GSC's home will be. Paper and Ink deliveries have been really good this semester and students are doing a better job at only printing a few pages instead of books.

Many students have asked for information packets about grants and other things GPSA has to offer, this might be a good thing to put in all of the GSC's in the beginning of each semester to help them have something tangible to look at.

West Report

- Graduate Student Pizza Party Planned for next week Wednesday
- I am continuing to promote the Travel Grants and assist grad students in applying
- I am working with a West Travel Grant recipient to create a FAQ form for other students to use
- I am going to be surveying students to see what other resources are useful/needed
- I am beginning to look at an end of the year grad student event
- I am also looking into end of the year improvements necessary in the West GSC
- Finally, computers have been updated and re-installed in the GSC