

Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting
Twelfth Legislature—Sixth Regular Session
2:00 P.M. January 23, 2015
Wrigley Hall L1-04—Arizona State University, Tempe Campus

Present:

Rohan Shah, Owen McKenna, Stacy Porche, Michael Bernstein, Tara Salehpour, Lusia Nurani, Yanqin Liu, Sultan Kilinc, Chun Tao, Anna Cirell, Yashu Chen, Katie Brown, Andrew Waldron, Emily McIvor, Jillian Childress, Kerrie Wilkins, German Cadenas, Bobby Abdallah, Peter Krehbiel, David Bakardjiev, Pauline Venieris, Evelyn Baca, Hilary Charles, Carlo Altamirano

New Member Candidates:

Jordan Hibbs, Rajat Aggarwal, Ashley Laverty

By Proxy:

Irfan Kula (Venieris), Bryson Jones (Greg May), Yashwanth Kumar (Taruni Kamchela), Kerem Demirtas (Mustafa Demir)

Absent:

Minutes

- I. Call to Order
Called to order at 2:09 pm.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
Will be done next month—minutes from December didn't make it into the meeting packet.
- III. Amendments to the Agenda
- IV. Call to the Audience
-Brett Seymour: Grad Challenge winner 2014-15: travel grants for people traveling to interviews (for jobs, post grad work, etc.)—excited to get this program started—many interviews don't cover the cost of traveling to that interview—idea is to be able to apply for reimbursement for traveling to them; application goes live next Friday (1/30), and an introduction is online today; app closes February 15, decisions made by March 2—needs to be fast so people can plan accordingly; funds are available for travel between February 15 and May 15, up to \$950—same eligibility as the other travel grants; please help by spreading the word to your constituents, listservs, meetings, other organizations, etc.; limit per applicant for total travel funding (across all travel grants) is increased from \$2000 to \$2950; paperwork requires a signature from the interviewer as proof that they did go to that interview
- V. Executive Reports
 - a. Andrew Waldron, GPSA Assembly President:
 - February 20 meeting will be on the Downtown campus in the Post Office building, and the March meeting will be on West campus (both will start at 2:30 to facilitate travel time); there will be a strong effort to carpool to West campus since it's a long distance

 - Committee assignments: Andy has everyone's feedback and will email everyone about their assignments for the semester

-Signup sheet for polos: this is the last day to sign up for a shirt, so double-check your order; we'll place it next week

-GSO funding: trying to make the discussion a little more defined—after the discussion at the December meeting, not much consensus; Andy will make a questionnaire about fundraising for groups' own scholarships, etc., and send it out to the Assembly to see how we all feel about the issues that have come up so we have it all in writing; 2 recommendations that will have questions too: limiting GSOs to \$3000/year total, enough to fully fund one large event (\$2000) and partially fund another (\$1000)—as a way to rein in any groups that are getting a lot of money; other recommendation is to limit requests by semester (rather than year-long) to make tracking receipts and total money spent easier

-Krehbiel suggests that there may be a way to address at least the receipt/money tracking via our accounting system, and will contact Andy about it separately

-GPSA Gnome: Daniel Burillo wins this month

b. German Cadenas, GPSA President:

-Thanks again to Brett Seymour, winner of the Grad Challenge—will be overseen by Kerrie as VP-Internal Affairs

-Graduate Student Leadership Conference, February 13—leaders of GSOs, GPSA, etc., together for lunch, networking, learn about GPSA, and build a shared vision for the graduate student experience at ASU

-Annette Jecker Outstanding Graduate Student Support Staff Award: way to recognize staff members who are great supporters of graduate student efforts—be looking for more information on this

-3 former Assembly members who are now directors: Mustafa, Marynia, and Jordan Hughes; contact information for all directors is included in German's report

-Working on report from last year's needs assessment

-German will be speaking before the Faculty Senate on Monday—they have been working on a new policy that clarifies that (romantic) relationships between faculty and students are not allowed, and he will be speaking in support of it

-New Governor Ducey has proposed a budget with \$75 million in cuts to education, a large portion of which will end up affecting universities and specifically ASU; GPSA will be working with the Office of Public Affairs, USGs, etc., to draft a response, work on strategy; to get involved, contact German and/or the External Affairs office—still in early planning stages

c. Kerrie Wilkins, Vice President-Internal Affairs:

-Please get the Spring 2015 Funding Opportunities document out to everyone you can—outlines all the current funding opportunities

-Three new things: Interview travel grant; group travel is now accepting applications for groups going to symposia, conferences, etc.—no longer must be a competitive event, so

hopefully widens the applicant pool and gets more applicants—also being run on a monthly cycle like the other travel programs (so the first deadline is soon, February 7);

-Last new thing is the Athletics Research Grant, funded through the new Athletics Fee—two levels of support, deadline of February 27

-Office of IA hired a new director, Taruni Kamchela, to manage the Group and Internship travel grants

-Funding page of the GPSA website has been updated/redesigned—check it out

-Grad Week is coming up—launching a research symposium that week as well, interdisciplinary; March 18, 3:00-5:30, poster session and paper presentations—Assembly members are eligible to present at this symposium

d. Pauline Venieris, Vice President-Professional Development:

-the Grad Research Symposium was going to be in February, but it made a lot of sense to move it during Grad Week in March (put on in conjunction with Graduate Education); there will be a google doc made available for preliminary volunteer signups for the picnic (Thursday, March 19) in one-hour slots

-Working on increasing marketing for all the travel grants, and also education around/about these programs

-Mentorship Award—for grad students providing mentorship to their peers/students, it's nomination-based; application will go live in February

-Social events: “sports diplomacy”—learn to play football event is this evening (and then a SuperBowl viewing party), and there will be a cricket event in March prior to the world cricket championships; also an indoor soccer league for graduate students, starting on Friday, 1/30—information on the GPSA website

-There will be another large social event on February 27, probably in Tempe

-Note: if there are cool things that grad students are doing in your department/program, let Deborah Crusoe in Graduate Education know, and they will get those events on their calendar, especially during Grad Week (March 16-20)

-Two events addressing how to write a competitive travel grant application, first is February 2, 3-4 in the Graduate Writing Center; also, during Grad Week, March 18 at noon in the MU, talking about services and resources from GPSA; it is also possible to present these topics just to your departments, which a couple of Assembly members have already done; Kerrie and Pauline can help with the planning, and German may be able to pay for food to ensure an audience (contact him)

e. Jesus Cisneros, Vice President-External Affairs:

-Kimberly Roland was appointed Director of Legislative Affairs (Adam Monroe graduated)—she was formerly the communications director

-Legislative Action Days are coming up—be looking for more information on this, sending some GPSA members to DC to advocate on our behalf

-Awaken AZ director has been hired as well, Tara Swanholm

VI. External Reports

VII. USG Report

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Government Operations:

-Continuing investigating the Bylaws and the Constitution, updating them to align with current organizational behavior; still working on making sense of the Judicial Code; more substantive report coming in the spring

-Regarding external communications, we propose updating the bylaws that reference our advocacy agenda, so we have a precedent in place—will draft after that agenda has been passed; also needs more language for elections commissioner and assistant commissioners (to make sure it matches current practice)

-Generally recommend updating some language on responsibilities for the committee itself—maintaining the constitution/bylaws in general (amendments made, etc.)—so there will be a bill on this probably in February

b. Assembly Operations:

-Met again to make GSO funding recommendations; working on several of the issues that have come up in the last couple of funding cycles and how to propose changes to the GSO funding program in the future

c. Parth Nagarkar, Director-International Student Affairs:

-(from German, Parth was absent) Parth has been doing a great job; organized a social for the International Grad Student orientation in early January, represented GPSA, facilitated some breakout groups, etc.—small groups with a GPSA volunteer or representative in each group helping keep conversation flowing and talk up GPSA—well attended, very fun

-Working on possibly doing some of the same things at the Fall Orientations, but these events are so large that it may not be feasible

-Parth is now the chair of the university's International Student Concerns committee

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

-AB 18: AN ACT to Confirm New Members

-All the remaining open seats were converted to at-large positions for the remainder of the school year; several converted seats opened, and we have 2 left to fill for the assembly members who became directors, which will be filled at the February meeting; Marynia's spot was already an at-large position, so it was addressed for today's meeting

-Candidates Rajat Aggarwal, Jordan Hibbs, and Ashley Laverty are present

-Discussion: motion by Krehbiel to strike lines 30, 34, and 36 (removing the three applicants who are not present), voice vote passes, these lines are stricken from the bill

-Called to question by Bernstein, seconded by McKenna; roll call vote, bill is passed

-AB 19: AN ACT to Approve the GSO January Funding Cycle

-American Indian Graduate Student Association (AIGSA): made it known to the Assembly Operations Committee that it is more culturally acceptable that they give gifts as a means of thanking guest speakers/artists rather than monetary honoraria—the university’s funding policy currently prohibits us from paying for gifts, but we are looking for a way to be able to support AIGSA in giving culturally acceptable gifts

-Deborah Crusoe is the advisor, and really appreciates that we’re working on this

-No further discussion; call to question by Bernstein, seconded by Krehbiel; roll call vote, bill is passed

XI. Graduate Student Forum

XII. Announcements

-Kerrie Wilkins: opportunity coming up for female international graduate students, a Tea Time, a way to foster a supportive atmosphere—peer support group; begins next Thursday at 6:00 in the GSC, every week until the end of the semester—to get women together to share their concerns and just have a space to talk—Kerrie will send out the flyer

-Evelyn Baca: one of her peers is the president of the ASU Cycling Club, and they’re hosting a big race and looking for teams to participate, as well as volunteers to staff the event—contact her for more information

-David Bakardjiev: thanks to Pauline and Kerrie (VPs of Professional Development and Internal Affairs) for doing a great job with revamping the travel grants

-Emily: new conference coming up at the end of March called Balance-Unbalance, an interdisciplinary examination of sustainability issues dealing with water, climate, and place—will send out more information when it’s available

XIII. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.