

**Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting**

Twelfth Legislature—Fifth Regular Session
2:00 P.M. December 12, 2014

Cochise Room, Memorial Union—Arizona State University, Tempe Campus

Present:

Andrew Waldron, Daniel Burillo, Emily McIvor, Anna Cirell, Katie Brown, Michael Bernstein, Dan Ashlock, Pauline Venieris, Parth Nagarkar, Shane Moffet, Tara Salehpour, Evelyn Baca, Sultan Kilinc, Yashu Chen, bobby Abdallah, Jesus Cisneros, German Cadenas, Stacy Porche, Kerem Demirtas, Yanquin Liu, Jordan Hughes, Mustafa Demir, Kerrie Wilkins, Irfan Kula, Lusia Nurani, Christian Sandoval

New Member Candidates:

By Proxy:

Marynia Kolak (Taylor O'Shen), Bryson Jones (Arturo Gonzalez), Peter Krehbiel (Enrique Gonzalez), David Bakardjiev (Marcos Tapia), Rohan Shah (German Cadenas), Chun Tao (Pauline Venieris), Yashwanth Kumar (Parth Nagarkar)

Absent:

Owen McKenna, Jillian Childress, Hilary Charles

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 2:09 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Katie Brown; seconded by Yanquin Liu; minutes are approved.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

IV. Call to the Audience

V. Executive Reports

a. Andrew Waldron, GPSA Assembly President:

-The January meeting is in Wrigley Hall on the Tempe campus; February's meeting on the Downtown campus (at 2:30); West campus in March (at 2:30); then Wrigley Hall again in April; note the later starts for travel time for the non-Tempe campus meetings

-Conversion of empty seats to at-large positions: there will be an email next week to send out to constituents for open positions, as well as director positions for next semester

-Committee assignment email: A google form about your committee assignments to check on how they're going

-Social media: use the #ourgpsa hashtag on all these platforms, especially for events and photos

b. German Cadenas, GPSA President:

-Grad Challenge: voting ends today; about 200 so far; may end up being some kind of extension to the travel grant program; be looking for announcements about the winner and the program itself;

-Some open director positions: new director of wellness position; director of legislative affairs; director of communications; outreach director (to other three campuses); also a new director of travel (covered by VP-Internal Affairs); working on communication strategy, looking to improve on it—someone with good experience in this area would be great

-The executive team met several times, working on the budget, making sure we're on track with spending

-Working on changes to the ASU 101 course to include health/wellness information, etc.

-ASASU elections commissioner has been hired, so we can have elections in the spring, coordinated by this position; now we need an assistant elections commissioner from each of the 5 student governments—if you know anyone who's interested, let them know [President and VPs are elected from the general student body; directors are appointed; the Assembly President is elected from the assembly members; and Assembly seats are elected from the general student body]

-Planning a Graduate Student Leadership Summit in February, probably a lunch; some kind of commendation we want to work on together (across all campuses)

-Also a Master's student town-hall meeting sometime in the spring to better understand their wants/needs (GPSA has been more PhD-oriented)—part of the Assembly meeting in March or April, perhaps

-Merger between ASU and the Thunderbird School of Business (internationally known, highly ranked graduate school of business, MBA program—had financial issues, so ASU is essentially absorbing their program); dynamic student government that seems to want to be involved—working with them on this

-Online students: not currently specifically represented in the assembly—but we do represent them as part of the entire grad student body—so, how to have their presence/voice in the assembly too—ongoing discussion with executives and other student governments

c. Kerrie Wilkins, Vice President-Internal Affairs:

-Thanks for everyone's help—travel and other grant programs have grown quite a lot, huge pool of volunteers, etc.

-Director of Travel position open for spring to oversee the travel programs—also the Internship Travel grant—open to assembly members as well as graduate students; more awards coming for Internship Travel in the spring

-IA Committee has been restructuring the funding section of the website—more dynamic moving forward—who has received our awards, blurbs from them about how the money

helped them travel/complete research etc.; also a globe/map on the site with marks where people are traveling with our support

d. Pauline Venieris, Vice President-Professional Development:

-Very successful semester—thanks for spreading the word about events, and also thanks to the PD committee for all their hard work; no committee meeting in December but have been working via email

-Biggest lesson this semester was to plan things more in advance, which means they're already working on the big events for the spring: Research Symposium and Grad Student Appreciation Week in February and March

-Asked for evaluations, looking for ways for the committee to work more cohesively

-Work beginning on the Mentorship Award for the spring (nomination award for grad students, similar to the junior faculty award—cash award)—takes some creativity to spread the word to undergraduate populations so we get a good number of nominations

-Individual Travel, 107 eligible reviewers, applications just assigned (53 for December); consistent with last year's numbers

-Proposed changes: funding for interview travel when you're reaching the end of your program (came up as an idea in Grad Challenge)—so we can consider adding this as part of the travel package even if it doesn't win the competition

-Training was the focus this fall; spring will transition to advertising/marketing and education about our available programs; increase the number of applications, but also knowledge about the programs we offer

-Group Travel, now available for symposia and non-competitive conferences/events—hopefully will garner more applications

-Worked with outreach directors for finals coffee sessions—varying amounts of foot traffic but a good turnout overall

-ZooLights: kind of a different type of event for us—seemed to work decently

e. Jesus Cisneros, Vice President-External Affairs:

-Not much new since the previous assembly meeting—the External Affairs report recaps what happened in October and November; lots of programming and partnerships with other organizations with varying amounts of attendance; partnerships are a great way to get our influence and our name known across campus

-Awaken AZ director has been hired; will be hiring for the Director of Legislative Affairs position since Adam Monroe is graduating; if you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know about it

VI. External Reports

-Jennifer Luke, Graduate Education: works with Deborah Crusoe in GradEd; Chancellor's doctoral incentive program, thru CA State Universities—forgivable loans/fellowships to fund doctoral study at any institution across the country with the stipulation that the student then

teach at a California state institution; information available about Preparing Future Faculty/Preparing Future Scholars seminar courses—info sessions in January and February; Jennifer is new to her position since September—oversees the Community of Scholars, helping with Grad Week (in March), trying to get all of GPSA's events on the GradEd calendar

-Anna Cirell: seeing any duplicated services, or gaps in service, between GPSA and GradEd? Making sure everything is on the general ASU calendar; but some things GradEd has been considering are already happening in GPSA—so maybe more collaboration between both camps

-The Polytechnic Campus GSC is all moved and settled into their new location

-Grad Week is the week after spring break, March 16-20; last year the picnic was on Thursday during the middle of the day, and it went really well (this year, March 19); tentative volunteer times should go out in advance so people can plan for it

-President Cadenas: currently no place for grad students to go who are looking for on-campus jobs; working with GradEd, EOSS, and HR to create a new hub for grad student employment on campus—hurts Master's students in particular because they don't have access to dedicated funding like many of the PhD students do (TAs/RAs in particular)

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 in January or February

b. Assembly Operations:

-Met again to make GSO funding recommendations; working on ideas for capping levels of GSO funding per organization each year to alleviate spending concerns

-Wrestling with the issue of whether GSO funding can/should be used to support groups who are hosting events designed to raise funds, either for their own use or on behalf of another organization

c. Parth Nagarkar, Director-International Student Affairs:

-Thanksgiving Dinner for graduate international students—thanks for advertising help and those who helped put on the event; about 100 students came

-ASASU committee on international students that met for the first time last month, meeting again next week

-Also hosting a social at the grad international student orientation in January—will be a sign-up sheet for volunteering; event for about 300-400 students, all hosted by us; January 9, 3-6

IX. Old Business

-AB 15: 2014-15 Advocacy Agenda

-Structured a bit differently from last year's agenda; reorganized around 3 central themes—financial aid, access/opportunities, and campus/community engagement; way to lay out our position as an organization, so we can say “based on this agenda, this is our stance on this issue”; generally, broadly worded to avoid being trapped by specifics

-Leeway with some of the language could be concerning; but can be amended with a new bill, too; and should be kept in mind that it's a guideline, not a binding document or contract (not that rigid)

-Some adjustments made to the language; motion to approve modified language by Sandoval, seconded by Salehpour; changes are approved by voice vote

-Motion to approve changes made to the agenda after the November meeting by Bernstein, seconded by Salehpour

-Some language borrowed from the previous year's advocacy agenda stating that as a GPSA rep, each one must hold this agreed-upon position, but when speaking as an individual each person's own opinion is fine—just be clear about your role when you're speaking

-Any sanctions for not abiding by the advocacy agenda in an official capacity?—assembly members could be reprimanded or impeached, depending on how egregious was the offense—censure, etc.; guidelines for this are included in our Bylaws

-Called to question by Brown, seconded by McIvor; AB 15 is approved

X. New Business

-AB 16: we passed a bill last year that says any vacant seats left in December are converted to at-large seats for the remainder of the academic year (through May 1, 2015); this bill, AB 16, does that; 1 vacancy in Nursing, 1 in College of Public Programs, Interdisciplinary Arts/Science, 2 in WP Carey, and 1 in Journalism; note that no one program can exceed 6 seats in the Assembly; also, several director positions open right now, and executives will be working to have those positions filled by the January Assembly meeting, so we may have more Assembly seats to fill

-Is it worth opening them just to that college/program when there's really only a couple of months of the school year left? Might be easier to have them be at-large seats because that would be easier to advertise; at-large assembly members are tasked with intentional communication toward the groups whose seats they are filling; could solicit faculty recommendations for possible grad students for those seats, contact those students; and also using LinkedIn, other social media outlets as a way to get the word out about the open seats

-Called to question by Sandoval, seconded by Hughes; bill is passed; Assembly President Waldron will send out announcements advertising the director positions and the at-large seats to spread to all constituents

-AB 17: An ACT to approve GSO Funding, December

-Discussion about funding methods/structures—idea of profit, fundraising, etc.—do we/should we support events like this? On a case-by-case basis; perhaps instituting of a cap;

definition of profit is difficult, and also difficult for us to track; are there better ways of ensuring accountability and transparency in the GSO funding process; ongoing issues that Assembly Operations, as well as the Assembly, will continue to address

-Called to question by Sandoval; seconded by Hughes; bill is passed

XI. Graduate Student Forum

XII. Announcements

-Have a great break!

-Drawings: GPSA gnome, Emily McIvor; winners for wearing maroon/gold: Anna Cirell, Tara Salehpour, Mustafa Demir

XIII. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.