



## Vice President of External Affairs October Report

### Legislative Update

- **Republican Presidential Primary Debate**
  - Arizona Republicans are working with CNN to host a Republican Presidential Primary vote on Dec. 1.
- **Disparity Funding**
  - On Oct. 1, ABOR sent the Fiscal Year 2013 budget requests to the State Legislature. This included the proposed plan to fix disparity funding (find out more in proposed Advocacy Agenda) as well as requests for one-time funding for building projects.
- **Joint Committee on Capitol Review (JCCR)**
  - The JCCR reviews all state capitol projects, including Arizona University System (AUS) projects. JCCR doesn't have any sort of approval for the projects and can't make changes, but if they refuse to add projects to their agenda and don't review them, then the project can't move forward. At the October meeting, JCCR did not put the ASU West and ASU Polytechnic Student Recreation Center projects on the agenda. These projects are being funded by students via the Facilities Fee which was approved by GPSA. Drs. Crow and Rund asked student leaders to outreach to committee members to get the projects on the agenda at the next meeting. Kelley and I worked with ASA staff to draft a uniform message for student leaders to use. This message highlighted student initiation of and involvement in these projects and the economic benefits (c. 3,000 construction jobs and additional student worker positions).
- **Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission**
  - Tasked with determining Arizona's nine Congressional and 30 state legislative districts based upon the 2010 Census.
  - In formerly proposed maps, there was a legislative line between Mill and Farmer in Tempe. ASA Chair Dan Fitzgibbon wrote a letter to the Commission asking that they respect Universities as communities of interest. The line we suggested was accepted in the most recently proposed maps.
  - On Monday, October 3 – AIRC voted 3-1 to approve a draft of the Congressional District Map. On Monday, October 11 – AIRC voted 4-1 to approve a draft of the Legislative District Map. The maps can be viewed at <http://www.AZRedistricting.org/Maps/Draft-Maps.asp>
- **Phoenix Mayoral/City Council Elections**
  - These elections will occur on Tuesday, November 8. We have encouraged voter registration and voter engagement in this election. Find out more at <http://www.phoenix.gov/election/elect.html>
  - ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability is hosting a Mayoral debate on

Tuesday, October 25 at 5:00 PM at the A.E. England Building in downtown Phoenix. Find out more and RSVP at <http://sustainability.asu.edu/events/rsvp/phoenix-mayoral-debate>

- **Legislative District 18 Election**

- These elections will occur on Tuesday, November 8. We have encouraged voter registration and voter engagement in this election. The two candidates are Jerry Lewis (R) and Russell Pearce (R). More information is available at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/>

## **University Updates**

- **Forum with President Crow**

- On Monday, October 10, the ASASU Presidents Council sponsored an open forum with Dr. Crow. Representatives from the College of Law were present and asked about the privatization plans. Dr. Crow stated that the five year plan to move the program to economic self-sufficiency that was proposed last year is still in effect. Additionally, I asked about proposed tuition and financial aid opportunities for graduate students. Dr. Crow stated that the tuition proposals will be between 0 and 3%.

- **University Boards and Committees**

- Volunteers for numerous University boards and committees were sought via GradStu and social media. We have filled all positions except for two seats on the Facilities Fee board, one representing ASU West and one representing ASU Polytechnic.

- **Voter Engagement**

- Throughout the next year, we will be working with the undergraduate student governments, ASU administration and staff, and the Sandra Day O'Connor House to develop innovative ways to increase voter participation, particularly in the primaries.

- **University Senate Student-Faculty Policy Committee**

- I served as GPSA's representative to this committee on Monday, October 11. Dr. Joan Brett from the Graduate College presented on Academic Integrity. We discussed ways to improve reporting for faculty and education of the issues for faculty and students.

## **Arizona Students' Association (ASA)**

- **Legislative Affairs Committee**

- Meetings with State Legislator have begun to introduce the Legislative Affairs agenda and build relationships. We are also working on a statewide position on the disparity funding issue. Additionally, we are outreaching to coalition partners about possible legislation for the upcoming session.

- **Graduate Student Committee**

- GPSA has proposed that this committee take on the issue of looking at whether TA and RA stipends are comparable to our ABOR-approved

peer institutions. German Cadenas, Kelley Stewart, and I began conversations with ABOR staff about this issue prior to the ABOR Orientation.

- Johan Bodaski, NAU GSG President and Graduate Student Committee Chair is interested in bring the NAGPS Conference to Arizona (specifically ASU) next year.
- **Conference of Arizona Student Leaders**
  - This annual conferences serves as both leadership training and a leadership summit for community college and University students. It was held October 14-16 at NAU. GPSA Executive Matt Savage led a session on Public Speaking, Hannah Reitzel Rivera and I led a session on Professionalism, Megan Fisk ran a session on Resumes, Interviews, and Applying to Graduate School, German Cadenas co-led a training on Coalition Building and an open space session on the DREAM Act, and I co-facilitated a session on Lobbying with ASA Government Affairs Director Kirby Weatherford.

### **Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR)**

- **ABOR Orientation**
  - On Thursday, October 6, Kelley Stewart, German Cadenas, and I attended an Orientation with ABOR Staff, organized by ASA. Prior to this orientation, we also met with Mark Denke, ABOR Director of Academic and Student Affairs to discuss financial aid for graduate students.
- **Financial Aid Reform Task Force**
  - The second meeting of the Task Force will be Friday, October 21 at 2:00 PM. The topic of this meeting will be on developing a policy on in-state merit aid limits and making recommendations regarding a state-wide communication strategy that includes financial aid information that is readable and understandable to Arizona students and their families as well as a user-friendly financial aid report. These will be submitted to the ABOR Academic Affairs committee by Nov. 2.

### **Gravocacy SUN**

- German Cadenas followed up with graduate students interested in being part of this advocacy group and formed a virtual group on Wiggio. This group was promoted through the Gradstu and Gradad listservs and recruited members through social media and correspondence. We currently have 39 members. If you are interested in joining, please contact German.

### **External Affairs Committee**

- The External Affairs Committee has been hard at work on drafting our advocacy agenda.

- ASA Government Affairs Director Kirby Weatherford led an informational session for the committee regarding the current political climate and background information in regards to students' issues in Arizona.

### **Staffing**

- Boris Lezaic, a PhD student in Political Science was hired as a new director in the Office of External Affairs. Boris has undergraduate student government experience as well as experience working in the office of Senator Durbin.

### **Grads Go Gold: Service in the Community**

- We are continuing to encourage students to do community service in ASU apparel and then post pictures to our Facebook page. So far, we don't have any entries. PLEASE get your constituents and friends to participate.

### **The PhD Movie**

- We are hosting a viewing of the PhD movie on Friday, October 21 at 5 PM in Neeb Hall. Seating is first come, first serve. Please RSVP on our Facebook event page (<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=260375530662377>) and pass along the news to your friends!

Respectfully,

Rhian Stotts  
Vice President of External Affairs  
Graduate and Professional Student Association  
Arizona State University