

The GPSA Assembly Meeting

December 9, 2011

Location: Memorial Union, #236 (Mohave)

PRESENT: Teresa Minarsich, Jayson Morrison, Paris Masek, Hannah Reitzel Rivera, Kimberly Eversman, Lisa Lacy, Lacey Peters, Jingjing Zhou, Parth Nagarkar, Jeff Boyd, James Alling, Mohsin Bashir, Heidi Adams, Emily Reynolds, Flurije Salihu, Roger Carter, Josie Burnley, RC Thornton, Lindsay Megan, Eric Luster and Christian Vasquez

ABSENT: Christy Mercer, Rosalie Fisher, Xuan Zhong, Toby Faber, Brad Burns, Ryan Polansky, Christopher Reina and Joseph McCammon

BY PROXY: Benjamin Wiedmaier (for Matthew Savage), Robert Schmitz (for Adam Monroe) and Christian Wright (for Karla Moeller)

ATTENDING: Kelley Stewart, Erin Kube, Andre Denham, Tyler Barratt, Kendra Knight, Rhian Stotts, Dan Ashlock, Shalayne Pillar, Megan Fisk and Debra Crusoe

- . Call to Order : 2:17pm
- . Approval of Minutes: No Amendments: Minutes passed.
- . Amendments to the Agenda: None
- . Executive Reports
 - a. Matthew Savage, Assembly President- Please see the published report on the GPSA website located at: <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/assembly>. Hannah Reitzel Rivera reporting for Matthew Savage said “thank you” to all the GPSA assembly members who attended the pan campus meeting to discuss the constitution issues concerning the undergraduate student government’s attempt to change their constitutions. As the document changes currently stand, they are ambiguous for graduate students. Graduate students should take a mentoring roll in the negotiations.
 - b. Kelley Stewart, President: Please see the published report on the GPSA website located at: <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/assembly>. Ms. Stewart told the assembly that the ASASU Presidents Council met with Dr. Crow and was informed that there will be no new tuition changes. Undergraduates with a possible 0-5% tuition increase but there was no idea what, if any, increases graduate students would incur. Ms. Stewart reported no new program fees are expected. She also said that health insurance for students was at the point of looking at 4 competitive bids from companies interested in offering this service. Ms. Stewart also attended Maricopa County Association of Governments. More information will be forthcoming.
 - c. Tyler Barratt, VP of Internal Affairs: Please see the published report on the GPSA website located at: <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/assembly>.
 - d. Rhian Stotts., VP of External Affairs: Please see the published report on the GPSA website located at: <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/assembly>. Ms. Stotts let the assembly members know about the Arizona Higher Education student funds disparity between the 3 AZ universities and the 5 year plan that has been created. Further information will be discussed later in the meeting and through GradStu. Ms. Stotts asked assembly members to encourage their constituents to email the governor asking for approval of the disparity plan.
 - e. Kendra Knight, VP of Professional Development: Please see the published report on the GPSA website located at: <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/assembly>. Ms Knight said there were 11 funded travel applications for this travel cycle. She also mentioned a tech survey will be launched in January. Ms. Knight mentioned the Outstanding Mentor Award Program will begin in January and if anyone wanted to be a part of this new program, please get in touch with her.
- . Committee Reports
 - a. ASASU Conference Committee: None
 - b. Government Operations: None
 - c. International Students Committee: Parth Nagarkar reported meeting with the ISSO and discussing how international students can best be represented. Also, Mr. Nagarkar reported on a new legal services program that is available to individual students as needed.
 - d. IA meeting: Erin Kube said she will address the issue of a turnaround bus trip during student forum.
- . External Reports

Academic Senate: None

- ß. Graduate College: Debra Crusoe said there are no major announcements at this time, but to be aware that the Graduate College will not have representation at the Graduate Student Centers on the Downtown, Poly and West campuses during the winter break.
 - c. Undergraduate Student Government: None
 - d. Arizona Students Association: Shalayne Pillar, ASU Tempe Campus Organizer, discussed issues such as budget reform and advocating for no new costs to higher education. For more information, please go to the ASA website. <http://azstudents.org>
- . Old Business: AB #10: Adopting the Code of Discipline is to continue to be tabled until such a time when the government operations committee will submit updated changes.
- . New Business
- a. Confirmation of New Assembly Members: Assembly President Pro Tempore, Hannah Reitzel Rivera introduced Nicholas Butler, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences and Chris Deaton, CLAS Humanities. The new assembly members were confirmed.
 - b. AB#16 – GSO Funding Approval for December: 1st Hannah Reitzel Rivera, 2nd Lacy Peters: Ms. Reitzel Rivera motioned for an amendment to AB #16 where funding recommendation amounts were written into the bill. Amended bill passed.
 - c. AB#17 – External Affairs Committee Bylaws Change: 1st Rhian Stotts, 2nd Hannah Reitzel Rivera: Ms. Reitzel Rivera suspended rules of order to give the assembly time to carefully read AB#17's bylaw changes. After no discussion, the bill passed.

IX. Graduate Student Forum

- a. Assembly member and Dean Meetings: VP of External Affairs, Rhian Stotts suggested a routine meeting with each GPSA assembly member and his/her department dean. She said this would build better advocacy for student issues to be addressed. For example, Kelley Stewart, GPSA President, outlined the process of establishing program fees. (By Sept/Oct, Deans submit fee proposals. Asking admins for copies and ensuring student needs that are outlined in the proposal has been difficult.) If more open communication was created between the assembly and his/her dean, proposals, future plans etc. could be made clear and the assembly would be able to advocate on behalf of graduate students in a timelier manner. This benefits the assembly member's constituents, as well as, the assembly member. Questions were raised as to how many dean meetings should be considered. The consensus was about twice a semester was realistic. Hannah Reitzel Rivera, Assembly President, Pro Tempore, asked how assembly members communicated with his/her constituents. Several methods were explored from emailing, joining department clubs for grad students, GradStu and Ms. Reitzel Rivera suggested getting in touch with her to make sure departments are still divided along the same lines as GPSA.
- b. Discussion of At-Large Assembly Seats: Rhian Stotts, VP of External Affairs, reported that the GPSA Campus Directors on all campuses suggested converting the 4 At-Large Assembly Seats to be seats that are campus specific. Mr. Wiedmaier, Campus Director for Downtown, said this was important because of the diverse needs of students on each campus and this would provide a voice for these specific concerns. Current At-Large assembly members will remain.
- c. Pan Campus Constitution Committee: Rhian Stotts, VP of External Affairs, called for 2 GPSA members to join the 5 student government committee to talk about proposed changes to the constitutions. Nominees were James Alling and Emily Reynolds. They agreed to be a part of the committee meetings. Kelley Stewart, GPSA President, made a plea for an Ad Hoc committee to be sit up to assist Mr. Alling and Ms. Reynolds with the extensive research and reports connected to the pan campus committee. Assembly members agreeing to be a part of the Ad Hoc committee to assist Mr. Alling and Ms. Reynolds are: Christian Vasquez, Lisa Lacy and Nicholas Butler.
- d. Student Legal Services: Dan Ashlock gave a brief overview of the former Student Legal Services and that it has been discontinued. He suggested that GPSA be very clear that this service is on an individual student basis only. GPSA is only providing an information session. Mr. Nagarkar let the assembly know that all students have access to legal services personnel for a fee. The contact information is cfo.asu.edu/hr/legal.

X. Announcements

- a. Megan Fisk, Executive Director of Communication and Campus Relations, announced the campus Town Halls will be hosted by each GPSA graduate student center and the results of the GPSA graduate student survey will be discussed. The dates are as follows:
Tempe Campus – January 13, 2011 – time TBD
West Campus – January 20, 2011 – time TBD

Downtown Campus – January 20, 2011 - in the PM

Polytechnic Campus – January 27, 2011 – in the PM

- b. Erin Kube, Director of Graduate Research, introduced the idea of a turnaround bus trip on December 22, 2011 to Las Vegas for the MAACO Bowl game. She said the current turnaround bus was sponsored by ASU for all students at a cost of \$20.00 for bus and ticket to the game. There is a pre meeting on December 20, 2011. Ms. Kube asked if there was an interest in a graduate student only bus. There would need to be a minimum of 50 people. It was stated that only students could ride on the bus and any other persons attending the game with the grad student would have to pay the full \$55.00 ticket fee and find own transportation. She took a straw vote on how much interest there is among assembly members and didn't get an encouraging response. This brought up the discussion of how the needs of graduate students differ from those of undergraduates.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm