



## Vice President of External Affairs February Report

### State Legislation

#### • **Guns on campus**

- Sen. Gould (R-3) introduced SB1474, a revised version of last year's bill that passed but was vetoed by Gov. Brewer. The bill allows concealed carry permit holders to carry on campus. Universities would be able to restrict guns in buildings if they provide gun lockers. This will be a high cost to the Universities though. There is also currently no limit on the number of guns that a single individual could bring onto campus. Additionally, the language refers to "concealed weapons" which is undefined in the statute and could allow for additional, currently prohibited weapons, such as switchblade knives and stun guns, to be legally brought on campus. Read the full text of the bill at <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1474p.htm>
  - This bill now moves to Senate Rules where we will now focus our efforts to try to stop the bill.
- Representatives Harper (R-4) and Seel (R-6) introduced HB2254 to allow regular faculty with concealed carry permits (CCW) to bring fire-arms on the grounds of community college and University campus-es. This has not been assigned to a hearing yet which means that it will likely not be addressed. Read the full-text of the bill here: [http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=2254&Session\\_Id=107&image.x=0&image.y=0](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=2254&Session_Id=107&image.x=0&image.y=0).
- GPSA has been collaborating with coalition partners to monitor and advocate against this legislation. President Kelley Stewart participated in a press conference on this issue.

#### • **Textbook legislation**

- Rep. Forese (R-21) introduced HB2246 regarding transparency and reporting from faculty members regarding payment for peer review and "gifts" from publishers. It would have require faculty to disclose on a website how much money they received from publishing companies for choosing to use particular material. This would include payment for producing a textbook. After introducing this bill, Forese changed it to a strike everything bill on workforce development, however this bill was pulled from the HEIR committee agenda.

- **Vouchers**
  - House Higher Education, Innovation, and Reform (HEIR) had a good discussion on the Voucher bill (HB2181) on Wednesday, February 15 but it was not passed to the full floor.
    - [http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2181p.htm&Session\\_ID=107](http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2181p.htm&Session_ID=107)
- **HB2675 – Minimum Tuition Bill**
  - This bill was introduced by Rep. Kavanagh (R-8) and requires that all students, with the exception of student athletes and those on national, merit based, competitive scholarships, grants, or fellowships pay \$2000 in tuition.
  - This bill was originally scheduled to be heard in HEIR on Wednesday, February 15 but was pulled from the agenda after student governments and the Arizona Students' Association managed to convince a majority of members to vote against it, it was pulled from the agenda. Instead, the bill will now very likely be heard in House Appropriations. We will redirect our attention to these committee members.
  - Rumors are that amendments will be offered that will change this bill so that only need-based aid (e.g. Pell Grants, Federal Work Study) won't be able to be used to pay the minimum tuition. This however, is complicated because much aid, such as ASU's Obama Scholars program, are based both upon need and merit. Also, the minimum tuition amount may be lowered to \$500. Even with these amendments, we will remain opposed to this legislation.
- **SB1467 – FCC Compliance**
  - This bill was introduced and would require all classroom instructors, including those in community colleges and universities, to comply with FCC standards regarding obscenity, indecency, and profanity in speech or conduct. This speech or conduct is not limited to the classroom and there is no warning process. Read the bill at [http://azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=1467&Session\\_ID=107](http://azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=1467&Session_ID=107)
  - This bill will likely not be heard in committee but instead, is being replaced by the strike everything bill SB1205 which uses the same language but excludes community colleges and universities. This bill was passed out of Senate Government Reform on Wednesday, February 15. Read the amended bill at [http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/adopted/s.1205gr.doc.htm&Session\\_ID=107](http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/adopted/s.1205gr.doc.htm&Session_ID=107)
- **Budget**
  - The likelihood that disparity funding will be addressed in the budget seems low.

### **Tempe Mayoral and Council Elections**

- GPSA will be co-hosting a debate amongst the Tempe Mayoral candidates on Monday, March 5 at 6 PM in MU Pima. We are taking suggestions for questions in this debate.

### **National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS)**

- We are sending four representatives (Christian Vasquez, James Alling, Mohsin Bashir, and Xuan Zhong) to the NAGPS Legislative Action Days next week in Washington D.C. They will be lobbying our federal representatives on federal student loan reform, tax reform/rebates, NSF and Jacob J. Javits program funding, the DREAM Act, and international student issues.
- The Northern Arizona University Graduate Student Government is hosting the NAGPS Western Regional Conference April 13 & 14. The theme is Emergent Leadership. The cost is \$25 per person. If you are interested in attending, GPSA may be able to help subsidize the cost of travel and lodging as well as the registration cost. Additionally, each student organization attending is invited to facilitate a session so please let us know if you are interested in leading this.

### **Arizona Students' Association**

- **Lobby Con**
  - February 3-5, ASA hosted a lobby training event at ASU Downtown. This was a huge success with about 150 participants from across the state.
- **Lobby Day**
  - ASA's annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol was held on February 6. We held about 75 meetings with State legislators, lobbying primarily on HB2675 though also on guns on campus and the budget. This was the same day that the SB1474 was heard in Judiciary committee and many students went to this hearing to show their opposition.
- **Board Meetings**
  - On Saturday, January 28, we held a Board Retreat and Special Board Meeting to consider changes that ASU put forward to the organization. This was a productive meeting with great discussion and good compromises. Several issues passed and some others were sent back to committee.
  - On Wednesday, February 15, we held a regular Board meeting where we did a second reading of several bylaw changes as well as discussed further organizational changes.
- **D.C. Summit**
  - ASA will be sending representatives to Washington, D.C. March 10-13 to meet with federal representatives. GPSA Director of Advocacy German Cadenas will be traveling with this group.

### **ASU Day at the Capitol**

- On February 9, the ASU Alumni Association is hosted a Day at the Capitol. Thank you to Assembly Member Josie Burnley for coming and helping to represent GPSA at this event.

### **GPSA Town Halls**

- Director of Advocacy German Cadenas worked with the GPSA Executive Director to organize, plan, and present at the GPSA Town Halls, held on each campus over the past month. They are now putting together reports on the results of these meetings.

### **Weekly Advocacy Updates**

- We have been preparing weekly updates for the GradStu announcement that summarize the latest legislative developments, political events, and advocacy opportunities of relevance to graduate students. This appears to be a successful strategy.

### **Advocacy 101**

- Director of Advocacy, German Cadenas, is working to launch an Advocacy 101 service to help students with individual issues within the University.

### **Voter Registration Drives**

- We are starting a voter registration competition internal to the GPSA Assembly. More information about this competition will be distributed at the Assembly Meeting.
- We created a document outlining why students should change their registration to vote in Arizona. If you have suggestions to reasons to add to this document, please let us know.

Respectfully,

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Graduate and Professional Student Association  
Arizona State University