



Vice President of External Affairs April Report

State Legislation - Budget, i.e. Disparity Funding

- The Legislature is still in budget negotiations. We still need to be asking our elected officials to ensure that the ASU/ABOR request for disparity funding is included in the budget.

Tempe Mayoral and Council Elections

- Run-off election will be held on May 15. Dick Foreman and Kolby Granville are the candidates for City Council. Mark Mitchell and Michael Monti are the candidates for mayor.

National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS)

- Along with Megan Fisk, Parth Nagarkar, and Erin Kube, I attended the NAGPS Western Regional Conference April 13-14 at NAU. Besides being snowed in on Saturday, the conference was a great experience. We were able to network with other graduate student leaders from the Western US and learn about their programs and issues through a variety of panel sessions.

Arizona Students' Association

- On Friday, April 20, the ASA Board unanimously voted to support the Quality Education and Jobs Act.
- There are summer employment opportunities to work with ASA as a Field Manager. Application information is available at <http://www.idealists.org/view/job/SpSWjJXNmPFP/>

Arizona Youth Town Hall

- The Arizona Students' Association, Arizona Town Hall, and the Maricopa Community Colleges, in conjunction with Teach for America, Arizona State University, Arizona PIRG, the Graduate and Professional Student Association, the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University, the ASU Undergraduate Student Government, and the O'Connor House, hosted a Youth Town Hall on Civic Engagement on April 11th.
- Over 150 students were in attendance and it incorporated speakers, art projects, music, videos, and an involvement fair into the town hall. Speakers included the Maricopa Community College Chancellor, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Senator Lewis, Rock the Vote speaker, Jayne Parrish, and representatives from the Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees.
- For more information on the Arizona Town Hall, a private, nonprofit civic organization created in 1962, go to <http://www.aztownhall.org/>

The DREAM: The Whole Story

- The DREAM: The Whole Story, held on April 19, was a collaboration between GPSA, the Emeritus College, Students United for Fair Rights and Greater Equality (SUFFRAGE), and half a dozen other departments/programs university wide. It was an unprecedented event that brought together students, staff, faculty, and administrators for the first time to talk about ways to support DREAMers' (undocumented youth) education. The event exceeded all expectations, with close to 200 people in attendance and an evening of powerful stories and invigorating discussion.
- Speakers included:
 - Keynote address by Dr. James Rund, Senior Vice President of Educational Outreach and Student Services.
 - Stories from Angelica Hernandez, 2011 valedictorian of the ASU Mechanical Engineering class; Ileana Salinas, ASU Psychology Alumna, and Daniel Rodriguez, ASU Law Student and president of Somos America Coalition.
 - Carlos Amador, Project Coordinator at the UCLA's DREAM Resource Center spoke about what universities can do to support DREAMers.
- <http://www.azcentral.com/video/1572242376001>
- <http://www.statepress.com/2012/04/19/graduate-students-faculty-discuss-dream-act/>

Arizona Board of Regents

- Dr. Ram Krishna and Greg Patterson were appointed by Governor Brewer to ABOR.
 - Dr. Krishna is an orthopedic surgeon who is currently in private practice in Yuma.
 - Mr. Patterson is a political blogger who has served as the director of the Arizona Competitive Power Alliance since 2001 and the Water Utilities Association of Arizona since 2004. He is a graduate of University of Arizona's Eller College of Management Accounting Program and Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.
- ABOR recently elected board officers for the 2013 fiscal year and selected Regent Rick Myers to serve as chair of the board. Regent LuAnn Leonard was reelected vice chair, Regent Dennis DeConcini was elected secretary, and Regent Mark Killian was reelected treasurer. Student Regent Tyler Bowyer was appointed assistant treasurer. The new officers will take their positions July 1, 2012.

Tuition

- ASU's tuition proposal passed unanimously. Thus, we will be holding ASU administration accountable for the following:
 - ASU's proposal stated that ASU was committed to
 - Improved training programs for teaching assistants

- Travel funding for related academic activities
- Increased levels of financial aid
- The following information was provided by ABOR staff:
 - The graduate student tuition proposals are estimated to produce \$12.9 million in gross revenue. Of this total \$9.1 million is generated from nonresident tuition and \$3.8 million from resident tuition.
 - The \$12.9 million in revenue is derived from both the proposed increase in tuition as well as the estimated increases in enrollment. The increased enrollment accounts for \$9 million. The remaining projected increase of \$3.9 million is related to the proposed rate increase.
 - This \$3.9 million from the rate increase is proposed to be spent in the following manner:
 - \$600,000 is attributed to online courses and will go to ASU Online and the partner with ASU Online
 - \$400,000 will be allocated for graduate fellowships in engineering
 - \$300,000 will be allocated for increased tuition remission support
 - \$200,000 will be allocated for increased RA/TA health benefit costs
 - \$2,400,000 will be allocated on faculty hiring and retention and academic, computing and administrative investments.

Financial Aid

- I addressed ABOR at the call to the audience of the March meeting. Based upon this and work I did as a member of the ABOR Financial Aid Reform Task Force, the chairwoman of this committee, Regent Leonard officially announced that Graduate Student Financial Aid would be added to the agenda of this task force as another action item.

Student Health Insurance

- The ABOR Council of Presidents approved a new contract with Aetna with most of students' requests addressed:
 - Removal of pre-existing conditions waiting period for voluntary students.
 - Increase of maximum coverage from \$300K lifetime to \$1 million annual.
 - Coverage of gender identity disorder, smoking cessation and obesity treatments.

- Coverage of all preventive medicine screenings/tests with no copays/coinsurance including oral contraceptive coverage through the health center.
 - All at no increase of premium
- The plan does not have a prescription plan, which was of interest to many students. This is because the independent pharmacy at ASU Tempe could not continue providing many of the discounted prescriptions that they currently provide. Regarding this, Dr. Allan Markus provided the following information:
 - Through March, our pharmacy through the prescription assistance programs and samples has distributed \$120,795 of free medications to patients. In addition, we have increased the pharmacy discount for those on the student insurance to 10% from 5%. Lastly, with the insurance plan next year students on the insurance plan will be able to get oral contraceptives, diabetic supplies, smoking cessation products, and obesity treatment medications at no cost through our pharmacy.

Voter Registration Drives

- Thank you to those Assembly Members who participated in our Voter Registration Drive competition. We will be announcing the winner of the competition at the Assembly meeting.

Respectfully,

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