

**Graduate and Professional Students Association**  
**Graduate Assembly Meeting**  
Eleventh Legislature – Sixth Regular Session  
2:00 P.M. February 21, 2014  
Wrigley Hall L1 – Arizona State University, Tempe Campus

Present:

Adrian Chavez, Katherine Brown, Jorge Mancillas, Heather Kropp, Jennifer Jermaine, Jillian Childress, Samantha Wildman, Deborah Ayodele, Andrew Waldron, Emily McIvor, Parth Nagarkar, Venu Garikapati, Amelia Topper, Nadem Yel, Kerrie-Anne Wilkins, Robert Schmitz, Megan Fisk, German Cadenas, Jason Striker, Kimberley Davidson, Brittney Hasselwood, Bobby Abdallah, Daniel Barusch, Rohan Shah, Yanqin Liu, Shika Rawat, Bryson Jones, Mustafa Demir

By Proxy:

None

Absent:

Lisa Lacy, Sharma Chhavi, Ayfer Golkap, Saint Ranson, Alexis Farley

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 2:04 PM.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approved.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

Wildman asked to add AB #31 to the agenda. Seconded by Nagakar.

Schmitz asked to add library lady Sherrie Schmidt from the ASU Libraries. and Dr. Alan Marcus – director of health services. Seconded by Garikapati.

IV. Call to the Audience

Sherrie Schmidt came to talk today to speak about several issues regarding the ASU Libraries. One issue was the removal of bound journals that were being removed from Hayden Library's lower levels. Faculty did not object to the removal as they don't mind using online versions despite student opposition. They did still make those older issues available. Speaking to students, the library realized that there are delivery problems for those journals and having the library resources available on hand works better. They identified issues and were able to help to start looking a ways to fix them. Sherrie requested that someone write up a note to the librarians as Megan told her that graduate students frequently express how much they appreciate their

help. The library is also in talks to buy a NY Times subscription; requested a student resolution supporting the library's efforts to buy one instead of buying our own.

Dr. Marcus came to talk about changes in student health services and insurance. Took a moment to support GPSA's bill opposing SB 1062 due to the larger implications which include pharmacists and healthcare providers could decline services (such as contraceptive, etc.) based on "religious grounds." Currently the plan is not ACA compatible due to lack of prescription coverage. We offer Aetna at ASU and it serves students, TAs, RAs, etc. To meet ACA standards, we have to raise insurance fees, increase deductibles, add prescription coverage, etc. The raising in fees is trying to balance the costs of international students, voluntary student members, and the costs of departments to pay for TAs and RAs. Discussed what our representatives feel are reasonable deductibles, out of pocket increases, etc. Cadenas asked about assisting students in recruitment right now for next year if they are been told to opt into Obamacare Marketplace programs instead of Aetna before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Rules suspended to allow Dr. Weber to speak. Spoke about a new, online resource called the versatile PhD which assists students explore career pathways that is available. The graduate college can sadly not fund summer research projects but they are working on helping students find alternatives.

## V. Executive Reports

### a. Robert Schmitz, Acting Assembly President

See report online.

Apologized for communication delays during the leadership transition. Thanked everyone for help in talking about the programming fee with their constituents and getting the word out. Wildman and Schmitz plan on sending out a Google Doc soon for everyone to add listserv email lists and other means to contact graduate students. Updates on GSO funding. Spoke about ramping up the importance of assembly sponsors and having them be the primary point of contact for GSO funding as well as having them attend some of the events they sponsor. Will be assigning constituencies to new members after this meeting. Also wants to meet with the chairs of all committees just to touch base and foster additional communication so committees can become more effective in addressing issues. The president pro tempore position is going to go up on Monday night or Tuesday morning and will be open for applications for four days. The delay has been due to HR requirements and hiring processes.

### b. Megan Fisk, President

See report online.

Fisk spoke about the importance of getting the funding bill passed and fostering communication with their constituents. The options provided are to vote today after a short period of discussion with students or hold a special session. A lot of discussion has happened already but if anyone felt they needed to open more dialogue with their constituents they were encouraged to call for a special session. Fisk then talked about tuition and fee setting processes for various programs. She met with the administration on ways to make the fee increases and fee uses more transparent.

She also encouraged writing legislation to call for specific recommended means of having the process be more transparent. These suggestions included open houses with program heads and detailed fee explanations. Next meeting the provost should be present and here to speak with the assembly. Also spoke about healthcare changes (which Dr. Marcus spoke about at greater length) and encouraged opposition to SB 1062 since it greatly affects recruitment of graduate students.

c. Lisa Lacy, Vice President of Internal Affairs

See report online.

No one from Internal Affairs was in attendance.

d. German Cadenas, Vice President of External Affairs

Cadenas spoke about the upcoming advocacy awards and promised to get people more information about helping out and getting the word out. They are currently working with several other advocacy groups and are looking into other events – such as a suicide prevention event. Spoke again about the importance of opposing SB 1062. Explained that the university and various programs follow codes of ethics that are not compatible with the bill and in the interest of best serving students and the community that relies on student services we should oppose it.

e. Jason Striker, Vice President of Professional Development

See report online.

The spring social was successful – 63 of 80 tickets were purchased. Working on grant writing workshops at the writing center and the feedback has been great. Updated people on the internship travel pilot program which has 78 applications already for our limited spots. Talked about upcoming programs and such. Representative Jermaine asked about having GPSA table at the upcoming graduate school fair. Striker spoke to the technology department to talk about SPSS and was able to get 25 SPSS licenses for the graduate school students so we will find a way to distribute those and see about getting more of them to students. This is for individual access on personal computers.

VI. External Reports

VII. USG Report

VIII. Committee Reports

IX. Old Business

a. AB #27: AN ACT to Purchase Subscriptions to the New York Times Digital Archives

Schmitz introduced the bill again and recommended we vote it down in favor of allowing the library to handle the New York Times subscription. Garkapati called to question. Seconded by Wildman. Did not pass.

X. New Business

a. AB #28: AN ACT Confirming New Members in February

Names were changed by motion of Assembly President Schmitz due to absence of the members in the bill. Two other members were added to the bill and the bill altered to reflect those changes. Representative Mancillas seconded. Both Liu and Shah spoke on their own behalf and then were asked to step out for a vote. Jermaine called to question, seconded by Hasselwood.

b. AB #29: AN ACT to Approve the GSO March Funding Cycle

Discussion about cost of t-shirts and funding t-shirts. Benefits of funding t-shirts and putting caps on funding. Tabled conversation to graduate student forum since it is not pertinent to the bill – two groups who requested money for t-shirts rescinded their requests after t-shirts were denied. Waldron asked about how much money we have still for GSOs. Schmitz did not have numbers but had been told by Annette Jecker we are “on the right track.” Called to question by Ayodele, seconded Garkapati.

c. AB #30: AN ACT to Approve the Program Fee Increase

McIvor introduced the bill. Davidson recommended that we table the bill. Waldron said that his own students were positive towards the \$10. Their largest concern was half-time students being able to get full funding while paying less, etc. Disparity was a concern. Wildman spoke about the issues around the law school. Namely marketability is an issue and people do not know what’s going on, how many people in their program get funded, how decisions are made, etc. Similarly representative Topper spoke on behalf of herself and Yel regarding the issues with the teachers’ college. Jermaine explained that an issue that their students largely go to class at night and can’t do volunteer work to help their travel grant applications get accepted. Rawat spoke on behalf of online students and how if they are open to travel grants and everything else then they should be paying the full student fees. Also spoke about inflation and the needs for additional money. Motion to suspend the rules from Schmitz, seconded by Nagarkar. GPSA advisor spoke to clarify that solely online students do not pay the fee. Hasselwood brought up the issue again of marketability and how people find out about GPSA, what they fund, etc. Schmitz agreed and reiterated this is why he thinks it’s important for sponsors to attend events. Mancillas spoke on behalf of his students saying that they were almost entirely positive. Striker came forward with numbers of how much money was spent on travel grants, how many students were funded, and more. The \$10 will increase funding; only funded 46% of all applicants this year. Additional fees mean more travel funding, more GSO funding, more students being able to be funded. Heavy yield months are September, October, February, and March. Nagarkar called to question, Jermaine and Waldron seconded.

d. AB #31: A RESOLUTION to Oppose SB 1062 and HB 2153

Introduced by McIvor. Wildman made a friendly amendment to change the number of the bill, seconded by McIvor. Waldron made a motion to include HB 2153 which is the House version of the bill, seconded by McIvor. Davidson spoke passionately against SB 1062 and urged GPSA to vote yes on AB #31. Wilkins explained how this affects graduate students: it effects recruitment of students who are opposed to

such a discriminatory bill and the implications of further potential discrimination. People currently in program interviews are expressing unwillingness to come to ASU. Waldron also said that the ATHE conference in Scottsdale coming up in the near future has already considered moving to another state due to the potential discrimination. Wildman spoke about the effect on students already at ASU who will be negatively affected for being of for differences that may exist or merely be perceived. She also spoke about how the bill would cause issues for students who already live in Arizona who may be forced to choose between their sense of security and their academic careers. Garikapati asked if we could write up a press release or letter to the Governor about this issue as well once we passed the bill and Fisk confirmed that we can. Nagarkar called to question. Waldron seconded.

#### XI. Graduate Student Forum

Davidson brought up the issue of clothing funding and funding. Funding needs to be consistent, she feels, and should not be enforced until next year. Nagarkar said there are many issues that need to be addressed regarding GSO funding that we need to address this session before the new assembly. Mancillas recommended capping the totally funds used towards t-shirts from Anton's Sports and how often t-shirts can be requested. Hasselwood asked about a greater issue of just more transparency about what the funding actually goes towards – not just t-shirts but any sort of

Wilkins spoke about an interest in setting up an International Student forum. They want to do something to help international students talk about issues that are affecting them that GPSA needs to be aware of or can address. Wilkins also had questions about the student health fee from an international student standpoint: felt that out of pocket costs going up is understandable and reasonable especially as keeping the costs of student insurance down helps keep the departments from cutting assistantships. International students need the assistantships and paychecks; they can do payment plans with the hospitals as necessary if the out of pocket costs go up but the assistantships are absolutely necessary. Ayodele asked for clarification on deductible, premium, etc. Davidson spoke highly of the student health insurance and it's partnership with Mayo. Wilkins is representing a population that has to buy student insurance. Wildman, speaking on behalf of students who are not in assistantships, questioned the rise in fees by 25%.

#### XII. Announcements

Jermaine is speaking at a Brain Injury Awareness event at the Science Center and invites people to attend.

Fisk wants to do a press release on SB 1062 and asked for anyone who may want to be quoted to speak on behalf of AB #31 to contact her. She also gave an update on what positions for the election were open and what they do.

#### XIII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:24 PM.