

Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting
Twelfth Legislature—Fourth Regular Session
2:30 P.M. November 21, 2014
Cooley Ballroom—Arizona State University, Polytechnic Campus

Present:

Andrew Waldron, German Cadenas, Daniel Burillo, Kerem Demirtas, Irfan Kula, Jillian Childress, Katie Brown, Stacy Porche, Tara Salehpour, Owen McKenna, Emily McIvor, Christian Sandoval, Kerrie Wilkins, Pauline Venieris, Evelyn Baca, Mustafa Demir, Rohan Shah, Sultan Kilinc, Chun Tao, David Bakardjiev, Marynia Kolak

New Member Candidates:

Anna Montana Cirell, Hilary Charles

By Proxy:

Bobby Abdallah (Wilkins), Michael Bernstein (Venieris), Lusia Nurani (Cadenas)

Absent:

Yashwanth Nanda Kumar, Yashu Chen, Yanquin Liu, Jordan Hughes, Bryson Jones, Peter Krehbiel

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Will be approved at December meeting; meeting packets were misplaced by the printing office so assembly members couldn't review them.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

IV. Call to the Audience

V. Executive Reports

a. Andrew Waldron, GPSA Assembly President:

Please review his entire report. President Waldron is still working on setting meeting locations for the rest of the year on other campuses, and will be emailing about the December meeting to see who is available to attend. If enough people will be absent to make a quorum difficult to reach, there will be no meeting.

-Homecoming: the lack of turnout was a bit disappointing, but from feedback it's clear that everyone was just very busy; continue to work on better ways to coordinate who's going as well as reminding members about events. Also a reminder about the difference between a hard commitment and a soft one; using a Facebook event to get the word out and serve as a reminder; etc.

-ASU Garden Gnome: those who forwarded emails to their constituents this month are in a drawing for the Garden Gnome; he's a traveling trophy, so take him home for a month, add

something fun to him, and bring him back for the next meeting; winner today is Bobby Abdallah (here by proxy) so President Waldron will get it to him.

-Note the section in the report about traveling to Washington, DC for GPSA; VP Cisneros will be organizing this soon for Spring 2015, so interested parties should be alert for more information coming soon.

-Tomorrow is the last ASU home football game; for those interested, the game is at 11:00, and there will be at least a few there from GPSA; also a concert by the Fray Saturday night, and anyone who attends the game can stay for the concert

b. German Cadenas, GPSA President:

-There is a team working to redesign the tuition-setting process to include students along the way; one initiative to cap fees with different rates for undergraduates and graduates was proposed but not accepted—Cadenas wants the same rates for both classes of students.

-GradStu reach is pretty good—in a good week, reaches about 60% of graduate students; it's a resource available to everyone at the University so if someone has info to share with graduate students we can help get it out to a wide audience; spread the word.

-GradChallenge: 11 applicants; new programs committee has been meeting and is in the process of ranking the applications; by next week there will be 3-4 finalists on the GPSA website for a graduate student body vote, December 1-12; look to help create buzz on social media, spread the word to your departments.

-Stadium renovation: part of the athletic fee deal we agreed to last year; right now students are in both lower and upper bowls, and after the renovation they will all be in the lower bowl, and in both end zones (great way to intimidate opponents)

-Obama's announce of executive action to reform the immigration system: biggest immigration policy change in two decades, very good for DREAMers, undocumented students, etc., and something GPSA has been working on for a long time

-2 new Director positions that GPSA will be hiring in the spring semester: Director of Student Health/Wellness, and Director of Excellence (in IA)—just for spring as a pilot of sorts; Waldron will email out the job descriptions; if we decide to add them to the GPSA structure permanently, that will happen at the April meeting; Excellence position will focus on the award programs in IA (with the increase in funds means an increase in workload, so they need some help); Health/Wellness focuses on wellness programming on campus, also Sexual Violence Task Force, and helping disseminate all that info to grad students; \$2500 each for the spring semester; Adam Monroe, Director of Legislative Affairs, will be graduating in December, so that position will be hired for as well in spring; Assembly members can apply for these positions (means giving up your seat in the Assembly)

c. Kerrie Wilkins, Vice President-Internal Affairs:

-Note the Athletics Research Grant info—assembly members will be asked to help disseminate info about this grant as it rolls out; also, please review the current structure of the grant process as laid out in the report—clear enough that undergrads will understand/apply too? Similar to a combo of the GRSP and JumpStart grants—two

funding cycles, two levels of funding; GPSA is helping administer the grant, but the money comes from the Athletics Fee deal (\$50,000)

-Conference travel reimbursement: not allowable for this grant program for grads only b/c they can apply for travel money through GPSA, their departments, etc., whereas undergrads can't—point is to target the grant toward research

-Centennial Professorship Award committee: ASASU makes committee of undergrads and grads; pick assistant professors and reward them for their work at ASU but also in the community; money comes from ASU's endowment interest, \$10,000 awards (\$5,000 award, \$5,000 for reinvestment into their departments); as currently stands, this program only runs in the spring; currently working to get the committee formed to review the nominated professors, has to have representation from all 4 campuses; if you're interested, let Kerrie know; great professional development opportunity; also let your constituents know; GPSA will be coordinating the committee from now on (rather than trading off with USG)

d. Pauline Venieris, Vice President-Professional Development:

-Some great Professional Development events happened this month, organized by different members of the PD committee; committee is doing a great job

-Individual Travel: down to 107 reviewers after weeding out some non-productive ones; see report for more information

-Wilkins and Venieris have been trying to gauge interest for the group travel award, and to potentially include symposia/conferences for group travel (where it's not essential that every member be present for the thing to happen)—so every person could technically apply for individual travel as well as group; probably more info coming at the next assembly meeting

-Upcoming events (social): Finals Support—each GSC expanding their regular weekly outreach for finals week

-Zoo Lights—info will be coming from Waldron shortly; social at the Phoenix Zoo during the Zoo Lights Festival—GPSA will sponsor one ticket per graduate student that can show they've already bought one ticket—so, buy a ticket, fill out a google form, and then after you show confirmation of ticket purchase you'll get the second from Stacy; first ticket must be bought by December 1, 5:00; event is December 5, 6:30 (only that day); tickets are \$10 online

-Spring: more events in the planning stages; will work to get information out to assembly members more promptly so they can notify their constituents

e. Jesus Cisneros, Vice President-External Affairs: absent

-Awaken AZ director was hired; Adam Monroe, Director of Legislative Affairs, passed his doctoral defense and will be graduating in December, so GPSA will be hiring for his position in the spring (congratulations Adam!)

VI. External Reports

VII. USG Report

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Parth Nagarkar, Director-International Student Affairs:

-Note: this Director position is another pilot position this year; for the first time, there's a university-wide International Students committee, looking at "optional practical training" (internships) for international students and how they're organized in each department; this committee has organized an International Student Thanksgiving potluck, next Wed night

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- a. AB 13: AN ACT Confirming New Members
 - 2 prospective members: Hilary Charles, College of Public Programs, and Anna Montana Cirell, Teachers' College
 - Hilary Charles, MSW student, looking at macro-level issues within social work, interested in GPSA to use her leadership skills and service background
 - Anna Cirell, PhD in Education, works as a reviewer for Internal Affairs—already active in service to GPSA and wants to do more
 - COPP has 2 open seats (3 total), so Charles would fill the 2nd of 3 total seats; Cirell would fill the vacancy left by Representative Topper's resignation in October
 - Motion to vote by Burillo, seconded by McKenna; bill is passed
- b. AB 14: AN ACT to Approve the GSO November Funding Cycle:
 - Some discussion of specific events listed (the \$2000 funding recommendations); no changes to bill suggested
 - Motion to vote by McKenna; seconded by Childress; bill is passed; President Pro Tem McIvor will follow up with the GSOs about their approved funding
- c. AB 15: AN ACT to Approve the 2014-15 Advocacy Agenda
 - Motion to table the bill by Representative Waldron until December when VP Cisneros or one of his directors can be present to inform the Assembly discussion of its contents; seconded by McKenna; motion to table is passed
 - AB 15 will be placed on the December meeting's agenda; President Waldron will ensure an External Affairs representative will be available

XI. Graduate Student Forum

- a. Mustafa Demir, presented information on Polytechnic Campus
 - i. GSC on Poly campus used to be in a tiny office in the Administration building; recently moved to a new hall, second floor, same suite as the Dean of Students, great for collaboration; much more space
- b. Katie Brown: issue of whether teaching assistants are actually working the hours they're supposed to be working: specifically being asked to do more than what they're paid for (in actuality—has to do with how work is perceived too); this is something the AZ Students Association is working on—nonprofit that has a grad student concerns committee (statewide, all 3 universities) that has a survey about this going out
- c. Elections for positions in GPSA/ASASU will be coming up soon, usually March, results in April; deadlines to apply for election in February; we will be talking about our positions in January so assembly members can think about applying for them (Assembly President, Pro Tem, Parliamentarian/Secretary, etc.)
- d. Venieris: notes from Sun Devil Fitness Complex Board: looking for ways to make intramural sports more attractive for grad and international students; some discussion of terminology ("intramural" doesn't mean anything to most international students); 4 wks. of indoor soccer happening in February, designed specifically for grad students to form their own teams, funneling into actual intramural leagues in March; about getting more students involved, not profit; several students looking for more cross-cultural events

around sports—open dialogue thru sports that are popular in different places: so there will be a viewing party for the Super Bowl and for Cricket in March; also upping number of grad students employed across the campus fitness complexes—current specific employment numbers have been requested

- e. Kolak: from geography/urban planning—huge subset of students in her department who have mixed feelings about GPSA b/c they've been repeatedly rejected for travel grants, and another smaller subset who have repeatedly been awarded grants; they're hosting a workshop in January about how to sell themselves/their research
- f. Cadenas: lots of new programming happening around international students, and GPSA has had a big role in that, repeatedly bringing it up at high-level meetings; also, the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force recommendations have just been accepted/approved by President Crow

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.