

Office of the President

October 25, 2013 Report

**1) Athletic Fee Proposal**

I strongly urge the assembly to vote in favor of the athletic fee proposal to ensure that graduate and professional students receive the many benefits of the tuition reinvestment including more RA and TAs, increased pay for RA and TAs, increased career services, and financial aid.

**2) Boards and committees**

I have appointed more than half of the open board and committee seats but continue to need the following boards filled:

Technology (2)

Student Health (1)

Public Safety (3- D, P, W)

Parking Citations Appeals (2)

Parking and Transit Board (1)

MLK Planning (3- D, P, W)

Facilities Fee (1)

Campus Inclusion (1-P)

Status of Women (2- P, W)

**3) Needs Assessment**

We have about 1300 responses. The survey will be open for another week to ensure maximum participation. We will send it out in GradStu again, as well as have the Graduate Education office send it out.

**4) Provost Search Committee**

I am on the committee conducting the internal search for a new provost. The total time commitment will be over 20 hours after our last interview and debrief.

**5) Tri-University Graduate and Professional Student Meeting**

I continue to work closely with my colleagues at University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University on joint issues, particularly health insurance. I traveled to U of A on the 15<sup>th</sup> and met with their GPSA's executive staff to help strategize how to break away from their undergraduate student government. I will be meeting with ABOR's President Klein in November with NAU and U of A to discuss health insurance and graduate student financial aid.

**6) Homecoming and Decennial Wrap-up**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our homecoming events. I think that retaining institutional knowledge should be one of our chief concerns and the Decennial Panel was a great way to do this. I will be posting the video of the discussion to launch our strategic plan in the coming weeks.

**7) Academic Bowl**

I served as the co-host to the academic bowl championship on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Engineering won, it was exciting.

**8) Dean meetings**

I have met with the Tempe, Polytechnic and West campus deans in the month of October to discuss student concerns. At the Downtown, Polytechnic and West campuses I would like to set-up campus councils to meet regularly with the campus deans.

**9) Budget Report** prepared by Chief of Staff Alyssa Wolfe is attached

**10) Downtown Campus Outreach Director Report**

#### Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

Everything is going well at the Graduate Student Center. I'm still looking into whether one of the offices is willing to take on the responsibility of checking out the bathroom key for GSC students. No other issues have come up this week, so things have settled and students seem to have gotten the hang of everything.

#### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

I received an email from Pauline about tabling at the downtown campus for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Pauline asked if I could handle the setup, cleanup and GPSA materials; so I will be handling that and also covering a shift depending on the schedule. I'm still waiting for her to give me dates to see how it matches up with my work schedule, but I think everything will work out fine. Once I know the dates, I will reach out to Adrian Chavez to see when and if he's volunteering for the tabling. Pauline already reached out to him about it, so I'll reach out just to confirm. Also, I'll speak to Pauline and ask if it would be okay for me to have a few of the small flyers I made for people to also pick up while they're there.

#### Outreach Flyer

Last week I put out the flyers at the Cronkite First Amendment Forum, which is essentially the meeting place /workspace for all graduate Cronkite students. All the flyers were taken, which is a good sign, so I put out more this week. No one has contacted me yet, but I'm hoping they're at least getting information from our website.

#### Outreach E-mails

I also sent outreach emails to various Cronkite professors with information on GPSA, in the hopes that they would forward the information on to their students. In the emails I included the flyer I made. I only sent emails to professors who are currently teaching graduate courses. Below is the message I sent. Next week I'll be focusing on Nursing. I still need to get a good picture of their buildings that I can use on the flyer. If I can't get one, I'll just use the current one as is.

#### Office Hours at the Graduate Student Center

I didn't expect that any students would be at the GSC in the beginning of this week due to fall break, but there were two people there when I visited. There is some bits of paper on the floor that need to be vacuumed, but I didn't want to wait for that to happen so I picked up the pieces myself. I checked the printer and it says that "the life of the toner will soon reach capacity" so I'll be replacing it soon. The tables and chairs were out of place, so I fixed them. Other than all this, everything else is going well. The sink is still waiting to be fixed.

I spoke to Tania Mendez about what our options are for the women's bathroom key and she said that her office would be able to check out the key. Since the key belongs to me, I would be responsible for it if it were lost. Though she did mention that it hasn't really been a problem in the past. I'm also thinking about the possibility of just having it at the GSC with a sign

reminding them to bring it back. I'll have to think about what the best options would be. Tania's office is down a long hallway from the GSC and I'm worried that students would forget to walk back to her to return the key. Plus, I don't want her to have students coming in and out bothering her throughout the day.

### Outreach Flyer

I went out and took a photograph of the NHI building this week, but I'm still deciding whether the other picture I have works better. It certainly looks better, but the other one has a recognizable building that corresponds to those students' program. The first picture isn't just of the Cronkite building, so it would work and it's also recognizable. I am just going back and forth because they might prefer to have their own building on there.

### Health Solutions

I have emailed Adrian Chavez asking if he was able to get any response from James in regards to the assembly seat. Hopefully, he was able to fill that position and perhaps he has someone he can recommend for the nursing seat.

### Homecoming

I volunteered at the Staff Council booth during the downtown homecoming "festivities," so I was able to meet some graduate students and tell them a bit about GPSA. I didn't encounter any that were both staff and GPSA. They were mostly all undergraduates, but a few were graduate students. I wish I knew about the event sooner so I could have set up my own booth representing GPSA. I plan to email the person handling that, Keith, to ask about any upcoming opportunities for that. The difficult part is that I don't think that area gets much foot traffic from nursing students.

### Grant Reviewing

I finally received grants to review on nimble.net. Some of the applications were tough to follow, since some of their research was so technical; but I was still able to grasp the concept and judge the feasibility of it all. I didn't see a category for service, so I'm now assuming that only applies to travel grants.

## **11) Polytechnic Campus Outreach Director Report**

The polytechnic GSC is expanding and moving in the coming months. More information soon. Kylie has not been sending weekly reports and I sent her a warning

## **12) Tempe Campus Outreach Director Report**

- Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 9:30am I went to the Memorial Union Advisory Board (MUAB) meeting. I introduce myself as a graduate student as the GPSA's outreach director for the Tempe campus. Among the issues being discussed in the meeting were the planning of a photography contest for October/November and homecoming week events like window painting contest. I was ready and expecting to have conversations about the role of an Advisory Board on giving advice to the general management of the MU, generating documents, implementing our constituencies' voices, etc; however, as I was explained, MUAB is still in the process of defining its principles, scopes and influences within the decisions affecting the MU and the student community.

In the meeting I expressed GPSA's intention of generating more spaces for the graduate student community in the MU and the willingness of the outreach director's duties in working proactively in order to engage the graduate student population in MUAB's activities as long as those are in line with the GPSA spirit.

- While working on the inventory, I received the visit of three graduate students in the electrical engineering program from China who wanted black t-shirts. So I took the opportunity to give them magnets and gave a tour of the GSC.
  - Since I missed GISER's Meet & Greet event last week, I reached out to Jennifer Fuller, a doctoral student at SHESC to be invited to their next collaborative meeting so I can talk about GPSA, the GSC and the Assembly. GISER is the Integrative Society and Environmental Research group of graduate students who normally host meetings and workshops with +30 attendees from a wide spectrum of graduate programs.
  - I finally did the nationbuilder training.
  - I attended the monthly Assembly meeting on Friday from 2 – 5pm.
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- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, from 1-2pm. Andra Williams, program coordinator for the PSM program (Master in Science Policy) invited me to talk to the new students about GPSA opportunities in regards with funding for conferences. I gave away magnets, walk them through the website and emphasize the relevance of having a GSC in the Tempe campus. There were 6 attendees.
  - Jeff McMahan, professor in the School of Film, Dance and Theater, contacted me in regards with some student's complain that GPSA didn't award funding to one of his students attending an artistic event. He didn't mention the name of the student so I cannot follow the case but I cleared his doubts about awards policies that were actually inclusive of any kind of event dealing with the grad student's professional and academic preparation so the student might not have fulfilled all the requirements. He had the wrong idea that art students don't receive as much funding as science or engineering. I took the opportunity to invite myself to one of his classes to clear these questions among his student. We are still coordinating the best time possible, most likely early next week.
  - Memorial Union Advisory Board asked for ideas for the photography writing contest to be discussed in the meeting for next week and my proposals are: *Culture in Action at the MU* and *Place & Identity*. I want it to be challenging enough to grab the attention of the grad community. I said GPSA might be able to help spreading out the call with our community.

### **13) West Campus Outreach Director Report**

Office hours Thursday, 10/10/13

- Basic Outreach and Networking in GSC
- Response to Grad Students Questions and Emails
- GSC Sign-In Sheets Checked
- Meeting with Jan Lacey about Graduate Outreach on 10/10/13
  - She can send out emails to all New College Grad students
- Awaiting office supplies ordered from Annette
  
- Worked on recruiting for GPSA West Campus boards & commissions

- Office hours Tuesday, 10/1/13
- Basic Outreach and Networking in GSC
- Response to Grad Students Questions and Emails
- GSC Sign-In Sheets Checked
- Emails sent to Jan Lacey, administrator at West
- Meeting scheduled for week of 10/7/13
- Contact made with Jason regarding IT updates/needs
- Office supplies ordered from Annette
  
- GPSA Executive Meeting/Call 10/4/2013