Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting
Twelfth Legislature—Fourth Regular Session
2:00 P.M. October 24, 2014
Memorial Hall Mojave Room—Arizona State University, Tempe Campus

Present:
Daniel Burillo, Christian Sandoval, Marynia Kolak, Irfan Kula, Evelyn Baca, Peter Krehbiel, Bryson Jones, Stacy Porche, Pauline Venieris, Chun Tao, Emily McIvor, Andrew Waldron, Owen McKenna, David Barkardjiejev, Kerrie Wilkins, Yashwanth Kumar, Yanquin Liu, Sultan Kilinc, Jordan Hughes, Yashu Chen, Parth Nagarkar, Nedim Yel, Tara Salehpour

New Member Candidates:
Kerem Demirtas (Engineering), Rohan Shah (Engineering), Michael Bernstein (Sustainability)

By Proxy:
Mustafa Demir (proxied by Parth Nagarkar), Bobby Abdallah (proxied by Nedim Yel), Jillian Childress (proxied by Hilary Charles)

Absent:
Katherine Brown

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 2:05 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve by Jones; seconded by McKenna.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

Three guest speakers: Todd Halvorsen from the New York Times; Aaron Krasnow from the Counseling Center; and Rudy Bellavia about ASU’s LiveSafe app

IV. Call to the Audience
   a. Todd Halvorsen: thanked GPSA for its support of the initiative to purchase access for all students to the New York Times; now the challenge is to get the word out to students that it’s available for free; will send GPSA some links for useful resources for our website
   b. Aaron Krasnow, ASU Counseling Center: there are counseling centers on all four campuses, fairly centrally located; individual counseling, group counseling, consultations for faculty, staff, and students; service delivery for students (clinical) in the mental health arena

Wants to get beyond the walls of the counseling center—handling/addressing mental health issues on a larger, more visible level, working to empower students to help other students; viewing the counseling center as a resource depth, rather than a service center
Student movement emerging called “Sun Devils Care”—students and student organizations identifying needs in the ASU community ("emotional well-being space") and finding ways to meet those needs; working on making new connections among new and existing student groups to facilitate this

Goals: peer-led models; availability in non-standard format and hours; self-paced/self-guided help; example: 1-Minute Campaigns, 1 minute = 10% better success in class—signs don’t say anything about the counseling center, so helps avoid the negative stigma

Will be launching a website soon

c. Rudy Bellavia, ASU LiveSafe App:
Free safety app for smartphones launched this fall—ways to keep you safe while traveling on campus; access to emergency contacts, 911, virtual safe walk home connecting to your friends, etc.—spread the word to your constituents that it’s available

V. Executive Reports
a. Andrew Waldron, GPSA Assembly President:
Meeting locations are set for the Polytechnic and West campuses—see the Assembly President report; November’s meeting is at the Polytechnic Campus, starting at 2:30 to facilitate travel time

Homecoming Parade: at 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 1; we do have the trolley reserved; Andy will email early next week about those interested; we’ll meet about 3:30, have t-shirts, have a good time on the float, check out Devils on Mill, get some food, and perhaps even attend the football game

Two members resigned this week for personal reasons: Amelia Topper and Shikha Rawat; two spots now open in Engineering (3 total candidates; 1 absent from the meeting), and we will work to fill the Teachers College position in November; make sure to invite the one person who applied for Teachers College spots last month and wasn’t selected

CLAS members, talk to President Waldron about the CLAS student advisory board

Assembly Operations: working on reviewing/modifying the GSO funding application so it actually serves what we want and need; working to get some information about designing budgets should look like onto the website

Government Operations: worked through a review of the Constitution and Bylaws; any updates should be in place by January; thanks to Adam Monroe, who went through the documents on his own and gave some great feedback

Note the bill in the meeting packet from USG that’s a resolution about sexual violence on campus—an issue we should talk about—do we need something like this? What do we want it to look like? If you want to help with this, let President Waldron know

GSO Funding list: as was noted in last month’s meeting, included in this month’s packet is a list of all the organizations that have requested funding, how much, and for how many events

b. German Cadenas, GPSA President:
President Cadenas couldn’t attend today (at a conference), so please review his report
GradChallenge is now open: competition for ideas for graduate student programs to improve the campus/education experience for graduate students; application is open until November 10; write up the idea and outline how you’d implement it for the application; after applications are vetted, they will be voted on publicly, either through the website or social media, to pick a winner

See German’s statement about the blackface at the UCLA football game (“blackout game”); will be posted on the GPSA website

c. Pauline Venieris, Vice President-Professional Development:
   Plenty of people on the PD committee, have split into a PD team and an events team; planning to alternate focus each month to best utilize resources; November is a PD month

   Fall Social: great job! Successful event, lots of help from lots of people; about 250 people showed up total
   -Assembly’s role/responsibilities: spread the word! And then attend the events— if you don’t, why should any of your constituents? And when you come, you’re still a GPSA representative, so please make sure everyone is enjoying themselves—facilitate connections

   Mentorship Award: run by the PD committee; will review the protocols, develop a rubric for grading the nominations—awarded at the end of the semester

   Some type of international student event coming up, most likely right before Thanksgiving; also a campus-wide food drive coming up

   Travel: 131 applications this month (very busy month!); officially finished the last in-person training for the semester—video from first training is online; 115 reviewers in total; even this very busy month, every application was seen by at least 4 reviewers

d. Kerrie Wilkins, Vice President-Internal Affairs:
   We need reviewers!

   Working hard on getting out the word about all of the funding programs; TEA award has the highest number of nominations ever (over 100); 103 applications for the GRSP; JumpStart application just closed; but to process all these applications, we need more people to review them; hoping for an average of 4 reviewers for each application; PLEASE ask your constituents to volunteer, as well as you as assembly members; without enough reviewers, our programs lose their peer-reviewed integrity

   Training sessions have all been recorded, and the videos will be used to keep training new volunteers

e. Jesus Cisneros, Vice President-External Affairs: also absent (at a conference)
   Voter website information: sundevilsvote.com; VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4

   Working on the development of Awaken Arizona, to raise awareness of education policies in the state
Advocacy agenda is still in development (should be done next month); Bryson (on EA committee) asks for you to email a committee member or Jesus if you have something you think should be included in the advocacy agenda; be looking for a draft of it in the next couple of weeks

VI. External Reports

VII. USG Report

VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Parth Nagarkar, Director-International Student Affairs:
      Held their first forum/discussion this week, about 25 students came; one big complain was not enough social events for graduate international students at ASU—hence the probable event right before Thanksgiving—coordinating with Pauline

      Orientation meeting for spring’s incoming international students: Kerrie and Parth have been working for some time to get a separate social event for the international students—finally, this spring, there will be one piloted; still in discussion, nothing finalized; scheduled for January 9; wait for more word from Parth

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
   a. AB 11: AN ACT Confirming New Members
      4 candidates total: 3 for Engineering (2 available seats), 1 for 1 seat in Sustainability
      -Kerem Demirtas, candidate, Engineering: PhD, Industrial Engineering, focusing on real-time traffic management; works well with complex systems, data, computing, and human factors
      -Rajat Aggarwal is absent; his application is tabled
      -Rohan Shah, candidate, Engineering: masters student; worked with GPSA previous in the EA committee; has a technical background and great people skills; has worked with students from about 30 different countries through various organizations; wants to bridge the gap, get the word out about our resources for students and GSOs
      -Michael Bernstein, candidate, Sustainability: has worked with the School of Sustainability in various student leadership positions for the last 3 years, generally as a bridge between student and faculty interests; noticed that the School is focused inwardly, shoring itself up, and believes it’s time for it to begin to focus outward and make more connections across campus—due to his past work, he feels he’s in a good position to be useful to GPSA

      Discussion: VP Venieris notes that Rajat Aggarwal is part of the PD committee, active and punctual, and unlike him to miss the meeting, so please hold on to his application for the future; Kumar speaks on Rohan Shah’s behalf;

      Burillo moves that Rajat Aggarwal is removed from the bill (strike lines 27-28); seconded by Nagarkar as proxy for Demir; ayes have it, lines are struck

      Motion for Divison by Krehbiel; bill is passed

   b. AB 12: AN ACT to Approve the GSO October Funding Cycle:
Waldron notes that line 16 in the bill shows the wrong date; motion to amend the date to October 21, seconded by Burillo

Discussion about one applicant, Indian Student Association: sounds like the event is ticketed, and we don’t have a great way of getting ticket sales numbers; Burillo reminds the assembly that we have to work within the limitations of our processes, expecting and trusting a certain level of integrity in self-reporting from GSOs; Bakardjiev mentions the idea of having the group provide food for sale at the event, rather than for free—but Dan Ashlock cautions that doing so means complying with a rather stringent set of health code laws

Generally speaking, make sure the Assembly Operations Committee is getting reports of actual graduate student attendance at events we are funding

Salehpour: are these events all supposed to be open to all graduate students? Yes

Nagarkar: the requirement to advertise thru our listserv/website is to guard against groups who don’t really want to publicize their events for fear of getting too many people showing up (more than they’re prepared for)

Waldron suggests that the Indian Student Association get funded contingent upon the availability of the event to ALL graduate students (not just the group members); Kumar adds that maybe they must show advertising proof that they’re publicizing the event as open to all; Burillo notes that, per President Crow, non-exclusion is an important value at ASU (among others); Kolak: make sure funding information states that all fiscal interactions must follow ASU policy, and if not, groups are subject to non-reimbursement, prohibition from future application, even prosecution/legal threat, etc.; Kumar: stress the advertising on GradStu, make sure Assembly Operations is following up

Vote: motion by McKenna, seconded by Kumar; bill is passed

XI. Graduate Student Forum
   a. Jordan Hughes: works on campus for Changemaker Central, which is facilitating a grant from Woodside group in Scottsdale open to all students on campus, up to $1500 to fund a sustainable community initiative—specifically, an event or program, rather than funding for food; also, the event IgNite is coming up, similar to TED Talks, and they’re still looking for more speakers; deadline was October 19, but has been extended; event itself is November 20

   b. Yashwanth Kumar: issue from USG, how to approach the media/represent GPSA, where is the line between personal opinion and organizational position; do we have any policies in place? See article in the State Press

   We don’t sign any agreements like the USG members do; Waldron tasks Government Operations to review our Bylaws/Constitution for any language and Assembly Operations to discuss it, perhaps frame some language; if you want to work on this, email President Waldron, Secretary/Parliamentarian Burillo, and/or President Pro Tem McIvor; chance to learn from USG and protect ourselves—also, see advocacy agenda
c. USG invites many student orgs to its meetings; does GPSA do this? (specifically after the blackout game “blackface” incident)—yes, groups are welcome to attend our meetings and speak with us; a good point of contact is Jesus as VP of External Affairs—the connections/contacts

XII. Announcements
a. International Night coming up next month; Kumar will pass the information on to President Waldron, who will disseminate it to the Assembly

XIII. Adjournment
a. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.