

**Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting**

Twelfth Legislature—Seventh Regular Session
2:30 P.M. February 20, 2015

Post Office San Carlo Room—Arizona State University, Downtown Campus

Present:

Emily McIvor, Andy Waldron, Rohan Shah, Jillian Childress, Hilary Charles, Owen McKenna, Michael Bernstein, Tara Salehpour, Tara Swanholm, Stacy Porche, Dan Ashlock, Deborah Crusoe, Pauline Venieris, German Cadenas, Jesus Cisneros, Katie Brown, Carlo Altamirano, David Bakardjiev, Chris Reina, Yanquin Liu, Yashu Chen, Rajat Aggarwal, Jordan Hughes, Jordan Hibbs, Kerem Demirtas, Bobby Abdallah, Nedim Yel

New Member Candidates:

Gregory May, Jessie Green

By Proxy:

Bryson Jones (John Webster), Anna Cirell (Pauline Venieris), Chun Tao (German Cadenas), Peter Krehbiel (Jenna Verity), Evelyn Baca (Jesus Cisneros)

Absent:

Daniel Burillo, Yashwanth Kumar, Irfan Kula, Lusia Nurani, Sultan Kilinc, Ashley Laverty

Minutes

- I. Call to Order
Called to order at 2:59 pm.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
-January minutes motion to approve by McKenna; seconded by Bakardjiev; motion was approved
- III. Amendments to the Agenda
-Most of the directors are present to speak about their roles as Assembly members consider running for election or pursuing other work with GPSA; they will speak before the Executive Reports
-Add item E under Committee Reports; Tara Swanholm, Director of Awaken AZ, will update the Assembly on Awaken AZ's work
-Chris Reina, Director of Events and Awards (office of VP, Professional Development): mostly a social position, lots of event planning; requires great attention to detail, interfacing with multiple groups within GPSA and on campus; marketing, logistics with sites, negotiation skills are a big plus; social events, logistical parts of awards event at the end of the year; also helping other groups with their logistics, getting venues, negotiating prices, etc.; one of the biggest events is the GradWeek picnic each year (still needs volunteers!); time commitment varies event-to-event—one week can be only 5 hours of work while the next could be 30
-Carlo Altamirano, Tempe Outreach Director (office of GPSA President): outreach!—connect with other orgs, letting people know about GPSA's programs and events, work closely w/GPSA president, director of communications, and with Office of Graduate Education; host events at the GSCs, weekly or monthly, to get people in the door and using

our facilities—meeting lots of students, which is fun; also helped with the Graduate Leadership Summit (February 13); helps manage volunteer list (total, 500)

-Mustafa Demir is the Outreach Director for the other 3 campuses (Downtown, Polytechnic, and West)—absent today; his job is very much like Carlo's

-Jordan Hughes, Director of Communication (Office of GPSA President): outreach, working to make sure internal and external communications match—streamlining; working w/Office of Assessment on end-of-year Assessment report—fellow grad students rating us on our service, filtered by college; meeting minutes/agendas for committees; working on a social media campaign; Graduate Leadership Summit (February 13), planned with the outreach directors and executives; we need to work on letting people know that every graduate student is de facto a member of GPSA—not this high or elite group; new social media campaign, assembly members can still participate (email her with answers to a few questions); top priority for the role is great organization, and willingness to be on call electronically, etc.

-Shane Moffet, IT Director (Office of GPSA President): oversees the website and the GRADSTU listserv/newsletter, which goes to the entire grad student body twice a month via email—web design, managing large email distribution list

-Director of Wellness (Office of GPSA President): new position in January—liaison between GPSA and various units on campus—Health Services, ASU Counseling, ASU Wellness, as well as various student organizations and the USGs—working on wellness initiatives, focusing this semester on sexual violence prevention—German is hoping to have the position added to the Bylaws at the end of the school year

-Another new position this year is the Director of International Student Concerns (Parth Nagarkar): basically a liaison between GPSA and the rest of the university to help voice the concerns of international graduate students; works with the Office of Graduate Education, many other units on campus, helped with the international grad student welcomes; created the first-ever university-wide International Student Concerns Committee, which Parth currently chairs

-Nedim Yel, Director of Research (Office of VP, Internal Affairs): overseeing the grant programs, minus the travel program—JumpStart, GRSP, and the new Athletics research grant—managing these programs, communicating with volunteers and applicants, reviewing applications, eligibility for funding, etc.; also oversees the Teaching Excellence Award

-Director of Student Travel (Office of VP, Internal Affairs)—new position this semester to help with the new/expanded programming; expansion of group travel and internship travel—overseeing the travel package—from marketing all the way to reviewer assignment stage, fielding questions from applicants, etc.; when application cycle closes, reviewing segment, and then selection process; also has a big part in training volunteers as reviewers; this director will probably oversee the new Interview Travel Grant (from the GradChallenge), which is being piloted this semester (this director should be added to Bylaws at year end as well)

-External Affairs Office: Director of Legislative Affairs, focusing on the national and state levels of advocacy, issues directly related to graduate students specifically at ASU—policy in particular; Director of Advocacy focuses on campus, beyond just awareness—programming, events, institutional policies we should be aware of; Director for Awaken AZ—community outreach we can do both on campus and in the community surrounding ASU—future plans for creating community partnerships, and bringing in outside members/groups to align with our efforts

IV. Call to the Audience

-Assembly member Jillian Childress talked about being a student on the Downtown campus; houses many of the COPP programs/courses, Nursing, the Walter Cronkite journalism building is downtown, and the law school will be moving downtown; Post Office building is the “student center”; her experience is that most students commute into the Downtown

campus, especially graduate students—some undergrad housing available but not a lot; there are many interesting things to do in downtown Phoenix, but they're not necessarily well advertised, takes some exploring; Public Market is really cool; no childcare available on the Downtown campus; grad student orgs at Downtown?—some, mostly college-affiliated, i.e. social work, criminology, etc.

-The Elections information deadline is at the end of this month—see the Assembly President's report; note, assembly positions and President and Vice Presidents are elected director jobs are applied for, then appointed (they start in July; applications taken after the VPs are hired)

V. Executive Reports

a. Andrew Waldron, GPSA Assembly President:

- 5 emails from Assembly members in the last 24 hours saying they would be absent; if you're going to miss a meeting, try your best to give us more notice/work to find a proxy!
- March 20 meeting will be shifted back to the Tempe campus—many absences were due to travel difficulties, combined with a very busy time of the semester
- Please review the Assembly President report
- Leadership Summit, Feb. 13—grad students who are not receiving any of our emails; seems like they go to specific pockets, but not to a larger program/college/school—so, try to figure out where your reach goes, and then expand it to areas you might be missing
- GradWeek Picnic: 17 assembly members volunteering so far; Andy will re-send the volunteer signup list
- Listserv access: with the volume of emails/announcements we have, and indirect access to college-wide lists, sometimes difficult to expect everything to be put out, and in a timely fashion is also difficult; Andy will work to keep announcements to the most important info so requests are fewer (condensed); Jordan recommends making nice with the person who oversees listservs in each college, because it is an annoying process, and having a good relationship will make it go a little smoother; program-specific concerns, speak with Andy and Jordan

b. German Cadenas, GPSA President:

- Working on advocacy related to education spending (and cuts) in AZ
- Grad Student Leadership Summit last week, great connections forged with many grad student groups—wants to continue this in the future
- Faculty Senate passed a policy to limit amorous relationships between faculty and students, which we supported as GPSA and the Council of Presidents—now there is a legal barrier there to be aware of
- Annette Jecker award—now accepting nominations for support staff; it's a short application, and the staff member can win up to \$500 added directly to their paycheck
- Merger between ASU and Thunderbird School of Management: nearly 300 students there, they'll be their own school in ASU; they have their own student gov't, and want to be part of the Assembly; sending delegates to next month's meeting—there will be a bill to add spots to the Assembly for them
- Tara Salehpour: serious lack of childcare for students' families at ASU; met with Family Services—in discussion to create a new program providing financial support for grad students needing childcare—whatever funds we have left over at year-end will be put toward this program; hopefully matched by Student Services, who has committed \$10,000

c. Kerrie Wilkins, Vice President-Internal Affairs:

- Centennial Professorship Award reviewers are desperately needed; many nominees, but not enough reviewers (administered thru GPSA, money comes from an endowment for this purpose); 144 nominations! And committee is about 15 people, need to bulk up that number; 3 profs will get the award for the upcoming year
- Athletics Research Grant is now up and running, deadline February 27—make sure your constituents know about it, know its broad reach (anything to do w/athletics, movement, etc.)
- April 24: Awards Ceremony for GPSA; will be on the ASU Museum patio, in the afternoon, about 5:30; more details to come as they are finalized

d. Pauline Venieris, Vice President-Professional Development:

- Mentorship awards are open for nominations (grad student mentors)—due February 23
- Spring Shindig, February 27, 5:30-7:30 at the Handlebar; unlimited free food and nonalcoholic drinks, happy-hour drinks available for purchase
- Grad Appreciation Week, March 16-20—page is up, Grad Education is pushing it; master's student town hall, GPSA interdisciplinary research symposium on the 19th, picnic; still needs volunteers
- 125 active reviewers for travel program now, and also busiest month for applications
- Rajat Aggarwal: indoor soccer league: great turnout, started with 2 games every week and had to bump it to 3—lots of GPSA support, tremendous turnout; invited Assmely to last week of games February 20, with a little social at the end
 - Cricket viewing event: 600 people total, cohosted with some other organizations, included “Cricket 101” (how to play); working on similar events for various other sports

e. Jesus Cisneros, Vice President-External Affairs:

- Working to get students mobilized for state senate meetings about cuts to education budget—can still call your representatives and let them know how you feel about it (link to contact info in his report)
- Advocacy awards: application goes live March 1, deadline is April 1, so they are ready to be announced at the Awards Ceremony
- Legislative Actions Days, March 20-24 (going to Congress): you can apply to go along; more info will be coming out soon; want to take as big a delegation as possible
- Also working on increasing the minimum wage in AZ, in April specifically
- GPSA capitol days (like the one emailed about this past Tuesday)
- Note the hashtags! Use them on social media

VI. External Reports

- Deborah Crusoe, Office of Graduate Education:
 - Preparing Future Faculty/Preparing Future Scholars info session, next Wednesday, 1:30-3:00 in the MU
 - GradEd webpage for degree completion fellowships—money and resources are still available for grad students
 - Stop by the GSC on your campus (and every campus)
 - GradWeek website is up; many thanks to GPSA IT guy Shane
 - Week starts with the master's student town hall on March 16—probably the first of its kind at ASU
 - Is the election information up on the GPSA website? Will be soon
 - Diversity/inclusion awards: any grad students with a demonstrated commitment to these values—self-nominations and nominations of others; deadline is March 13

VII. USG Report: none

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Government Operations:

(David Bakardhiev spoke since Assembly Secretary/Parliamentarian Daniel Burillo was absent)

-Peter Krehbiel joined the committee this semester

-Working on updating the Supreme Court documents—judiciary rules/procedures, language on how it works within the constitution; it's a bit outdated, hasn't been used, and no one is very clear on how it works—should be finished by the end of the year

-Need 3 graduate students to sit as supreme court justices (should've been selected in October, but we can still do it now); non-assembly, non-director, non-executive members of GPSA (can be from volunteer pool)—apply with resume and cover letter; will get a blurb up on the GPSA website

-Created AB 23, a bill amending the role of Assembly Secretary/Parliamentarian as it appears in the Constitution/Bylaws

b. Assembly Operations:

-Committee met on February 10 to meet with GSO funding applicants and prepare funding recommendations; we are for the first time dealing with having allocated most of the year's budget, with 2 funding cycles left, so we are working on procedures to handle applications in these conditions

-About 20 applications this cycle, which is a very high number; GSO funding has been very popular this year and we are excited to think about perhaps allocating more money to it in next year's budget

c. Parth Nagarkar, Director-International Student Affairs: absent today; any ideas about programming or concerns, please contact him

d. CLAS Committee Report, Owen McKenna and Bobby Abdallah:

-CLAS Assembly members have re-started this committee, laying the groundwork to meet with the Dean of Grad Programs in CLAS (when he returns from sabbatical); CLAS isn't necessarily the biggest college, but is the most diverse in terms of majors (138 in all programs/departments); currently working with others in CLAS to generate ideas and concerns for discussion with dean

e. Awaken AZ, Tara Swanholm:

-Arizonans Working to Align Knowledge Everyone Needs in Arizona; Anton Sports just completed their logo this week, and are working on marketing materials; also working on a Twitter feed and a Facebook page; suggestion that LinkedIn would also be a good option for social media platform

IX. Old Business

-AB 20: AN ACT Confirming Elections Commissioner

-This act was voted on electronically (via email) not long after the January Assembly meeting, and was passed, so the Elections Commissioner is confirmed

X. New Business

-AB 21: AN ACT Confirming New Members

-Proposed changes: line 28, change “Prajwal Paudyal” to “Jessie Green”; strike line 32 completely; motion by Waldron, seconded by Bernstein, motion passed; amended bill passed

-AB 22: AN ACT to Approve the GSO February Funding Cycle

-First year we’ve had this many applications, and the problem of reaching the end of our budget before the end of the year; hard to penalize the applicants because we don’t have the money (i.e., not fully funding)—definitely a learning experience for Assembly Operations

-Data from last year shows that the number of March apps is pretty comparable to February’s, and we wouldn’t have the funds to support everything completely

-Called to question by Bernstein; seconded by Krehbiel (proxy Jenna Verity); passed at full funding for those applicants listed in the bill

-AB 23: AN ACT to Amend the Bylaws to Adjust Responsibilities of the Assembly Secretary/Parliamentarian

-Motion to a vote, Cirell (proxy Jordan Hughes); seconded by Baca (proxy Jesus Cisneros); bill is passed

XI. Graduate Student Forum:

-Send photos and answers to social media questions to Jordan Hughes by Sunday night; drawing for \$10 Starbucks gift card goes to Pauline (first 10 who responded)

XII. Announcements: none

XIII. Adjournment: 5:20 pm