

# Executive Report

From the Office of the Vice President of Professional Development

Date: August 28, 2015



## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Family Weekend, September 25-26:** GPSA will be partnering with ASU Parent and Family Resources to create some great programming, arts and crafts, and activities for families. This is a perfect time for graduate students to bring their families, including little ones, to campus. GPSA is contributing financially and will also provide volunteers to help staff the event.
- **First TA Chat Event: September 17, 10:00 to 11:00** - The First Semester: Starting as a TA
- **West Campus Social:** Date is being determined but will probably be in early September, in the early evening, during the week, and nestled between student class times.

## Action Items for Assembly Members

- If you haven't already done so, please contact your committee chairs about your schedule.
- If your College/School/Institute has online degrees and think there is interest for the Online Professional Development program, please contact Andy with program names and potential contacts.

## Accomplishments since previous meeting

- **TA Chats:** We've partnered with the Teaching Assistant Development (TAD) program to have experienced TA's come to Coffee Thursday events once a month. We've assigned each month a theme, which will be talked about at those events. Each event is from 10:00-11:00 and the schedule is:
  - September 17 - The First Semester: Starting as a TA
  - October 15 - Classroom Management & Academic Integrity
  - November 19 - Creating & Administering Assessments
  - January 21 - Breaking Boredom: Spicing up the Classroom
  - February 18 - Writing Statements of Teaching Philosophy
  - March 17 - Technology in the Classroom
  - April 21 - Syllabus Creation & Lesson Planning"
- **Orientations:** Thank you for all your help on the departmental orientations. It is one of the few outside-generated chances for GPSA to really engage with a wide variety of audiences and to sell ourselves to the graduate student population in a condensed time frame. As we progress through the year, if you or your department would like a GPSA Exec/Director to speak about GPSA awards, grants, events, advocacy, etc., please feel free to contact us.
- **Welcomes (Tabling) & Socials (w/ Food):** We have had all our welcomes on Poly, Downtown, West, and Tempe campuses. We ended up basically combining Downtown and Tempe Welcomes into the socials. This allowed us to use fewer people-resources to run both events.

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- It flowed quite well at Downtown campus, as students came in a small wave during the social and then trickled in during the welcome.
- West campus, we are learning, needs a different set of engagements compared to the other campuses. We set-up outside for the Welcome event and did not meet any graduate students. We need to discover when students have classes and structure events around those, as West have a unique population.
- Note: at the writing of this report, we had not had the Poly events yet.

## Planned accomplishments by next meeting

- We will be setting our regular meeting time for the Professional Development Committee and begin the planning process

## Open Issues

- I met with Grad Ed over the summer about the Online Professional Development opportunities we learned about at the last Assembly meeting. We decided to focus our attention on online programs not through ASU Online. Now that we've gotten through the first week of classes, we will be returning to that discussion and partnering with 2 programs in the fall and 2 programs in the spring.
- Currently, we recovering from a busy couple of weeks of orientations, welcomes, and socials. Now, we are just gearing up for the fall semester...so this report reads rather empty for the time.
  - We will be planning a social in early September for West campus that really connects with West Campus student schedules and that meets their particular needs
  - We are working to set up public speaking and teaching workshops during the Fall semester and will be discussing the logistics with the PD committee
  - We are working to set up the socials and PD events for the year
- TEA Awards
  - Katie Barros (VP of Awards) and I will be creating the unified application system for our awards. The fall only has the TEA award, so we will get that on its feet first.
    - We will be reviewing the application deadlines and updating the website
    - Expect that the Fall questions *might be* different from the spring questions, based on if we are getting the desired information to make educated decisions. Since the Fall applicants are not in direct competition with the spring applicants, this should not be a problem.
    - We will be having TEA reviewer trainings in early October and then get our reviewers out into the campus community

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- Research Awards
  - We have been talking about adding a research award to the mix. We already have some for mentorship, teaching, and advocacy. The problem is that those 3 award areas already have some commonality to them, while Research may not. An advocate in the arts is doing similar communication and engagement practices to an advocate in the sciences or law or the liberal arts. This makes comparison easier. Similarly, a good teacher and a good mentor have qualities that are transferable between disciplines. We are worried that what makes good research in one field may be difficult to determine by reviewers in another field.
  - We are considering having the award be focused on a theme, like “Research that Benefits Arizona”. This way, the applicants are selling the reviewers on how their research benefits the community. We evaluate, then, based on the connection to community and clarity of statement and perceived impacts.
  - If you have ideas about this, we seriously would love to hear them. We want to honor the work of graduate students and this seems to be a hole in our system.

## Other Notes

- Committee meetings will start up in September and we will report our progress at the September Assembly meeting