



Executive Report

From the Office of the President

Date: February 19, 2016

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- Weekly All-Campus events:
 - Polytechnic Campus: Coffee Tuesdays, 9am -11am
 - Tempe Campus: Coffee Thursdays, 9am-11am
 - Outreach Directors visit departments on all 4 campuses on a weekly basis
- Free Weekly Yoga: Thursdays from 6-7:15pm in Tempe SDFC, Small Gym
 - Join us for free weekly yoga practice to help bring better balance & focus in your life. With our community partner, Bridging Stars, we are building a community of students interested in wellness and dedicated to positive growth. We hope to see you there! (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)
- Weekly Tea Time groups: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6-7:30pm in Tempe GSC, First-floor meeting room
 - Join us at *Tea Time*, a gathering place for ASU international graduate students to connect, support, and discuss issues of common concern (e.g. balancing personal life with work, cross-cultural communication difficulties, academic and career issues, family pressures and expectations), starting on January 25th, 2016! (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)
- Puppies on Campus: Monday, February 29th, from 1-3pm at the Hayden Lawn on the Tempe Campus
 - Mid-terms can be stressful. What relieves stress better than puppies? Join the GPSA International Students Concerns Committee for an afternoon of fun and frolicking.
- Grad Appreciation Week: Wellness Fair: Mon, Mar 14, 10am-2pm, Tempe SDFC, Wellness Suite
 - Interactive and de-stressing wellness activities: complimentary mini-acupuncture sessions, chair massages, life mapping activities, yoga, meditation, and free food! Email nmovahed@asu.edu with any questions. (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder – also advertised in Grad Week flyer)

Action Items for Assembly Members

- Promote the Weekly Coffee Events on the Tempe and Poly campuses
- Promote the Weekly yoga events (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)
- Promote the Wellness Fair and other Grad Week events (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)
- Promote Tea Time group for international graduate students (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)
- Promote Puppies on Campus for everyone! (See email blurb and flyer in Outreach Materials folder)



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Accomplishments since previous meeting

President

- Continued efforts on the GPSA Needs Assessment survey
 - Administration: Thanks! We had 5,077 responses (roughly 35% participation!)
 - Incentives: 5 people were chosen at random to win \$50 cards. They have been contacted and are claiming prizes this week
 - Reports will be ready through the Office of E&EE in about two weeks
- Attended Attended Student-Faculty Policy Committee of the University Faculty Senate in order to present graduate student concerns (see the concerns presented at the end of this report)
- Met with Programming Activities Board (Tempe) President and Advisor in order to discuss ways that events are being marketed to and inclusive of graduate students. Discussed ways to increase lines of communication between us
- Attended monthly meeting with Dr. Rund, Safali Evans, Dean Webber, and Jennifer Cason to provide updates on all GPSA activities
- Met with Law School Dean, the IA team, Office Manager, and student representative to discuss law school's internal process as it relates to travel and discuss ways to proceed collaboratively
- Met individually with each VP to discuss their semester plans and strategize ways to achieve goals set
- Met weekly with ASU Lobbyists and representatives of each USG to discuss legislative plans for the spring and the ASU Day at the Capitol
- Weekly meetings with with Council of Presidents (COP - comprised GPSA + 4 USG Presidents) and Dan Ashlock, GSPSA Advisor. Additional presenters and meetings included:
 - Michelle Stelter, University Public Relations Officer
 - Teri Pipe, Chief Wellbeing Officer
 - Programming and Activities Board
 - Sports Clubs
 - Cultural Coalitions
- Met regularly with office manager and student worker to ensure efficient operation of GSC
- Managed the activities of all 6 Directors in the Office of the President

Directors of Outreach

- Continued weekly coffee events at Polytechnic and Tempe campus GSC locations. During these weekly events, GPSA socials/events/programs were advertised to attending graduate students.
- Tempe and Polytechnic Outreach Director visited W.P. Carey School - Supply Chain Department, and School of Letters and Sciences - Department of Psychology (Cognitive and Action).
- Tempe and Polytechnic Outreach Director met with Graduate Student Organizations:



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- The Graduate Women's Association (GWA) with Rajat during coffee Thursday event regarding How GPSA supports Graduate Student Organization for advertisements (i.e., GradStu newsletter), and
- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Student Chapter with Daniel Burillo (GPSA Assembly President) during their chapter meeting. Gave them flyers and Daniel Burillo gave them a brief speech.
- Downtown and West Outreach Director hosted the following events:
 - The Spring Connect 2016 Fair - tabling event
 - Departmental and other events:
 - College of Public Service and Community Solutions (20 attended)
 - School of Nutrition and Health Promotion. Special thanks Jessie Green-Gruner who helped to make this a success.
 - West Campus Admission Office.
 - Cronkite School of Journalism, College of Health Solutions, College of Nursing and Health Innovations to plan for future coffee events.
- Continuously updated volunteer list (currently at 524) and sent emails to Outreach volunteers.
- Maintained inventory and office supplies for GSCs at each campus location in collaboration with Debra Crusoe and Office Manager
- Polytechnic printer issue was fixed and Tempe Pinter is activated. As of now both of locations is ready to serve printing service to all graduate students.

Director of Communications

- Continued with the marketing and promotion of all GPSA events with a focus on GPSA specific events, rather than university-wide events, continued to update GPSA social media multiple times a day
- Met with Andy to discuss the marketing and promotion of Grad Week for March 2016
- Contacted Jason Manning about a GPSA LinkedIn page
- Maintained GPSA communications for all social media and market driven outreach materials
- Created numerous GPSA marketing materials, including flyers on behalf of GPSA directors

Director of Information Technology

- Updated the GPSA mailing list to reflect current graduate students. All newsletters are now being sent to 11,979 current graduate students.
- The current mailing list means that we are sending emails to a more relevant crowd. The open rate for our last GPSA newsletter was 48.53% - huge increase from last time's 18.31%
- Worked collaboratively with UTO and President to plan for next month's website maintenance and a week long migration process to the new 'Pantheon' server environment.
- Troubleshooting work for the website on numerous occasions.
- Website maintenance and newsletter work.



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- Set up automatic site alerts, that monitors our website from an external environment and sends alerts to Director of IT. The monitoring system hits our website every five minutes to make sure it is up.

Director of International Student Concerns

- Met with Dr. Sumner to discuss progress and future agenda for international graduate students
- Coordinated collaboration with CIS on the International Student Conference from Feb. 1st-4th
- Met with Graduate Education, Career Services, and VP of PD to discuss professional development programming
- Chaired committee meeting to discuss the social events this semester and programming on the Downtown campus
- Met with Daniel Hoyle at ISSC to discuss international students' needs and advocacy
- Met with Tempe and ASU police departments, CIS, and the Safety Manual Team to discuss international students concerns about safety and future collaborations
- Facilitated weekly Tea Time groups on Mondays (sometimes with Taruni) and coordinated with group facilitators on Wednesdays (i.e., Mariam) and Thursdays (i.e., Tracie)
- Continued collaboration with various departments at GPSA (e.g., on Scavenger Hunt) and on campus (e.g., with CIS, ISSC, Career Services, and police departments)

Director of Wellness

- Solidified plans for Wellness Fair on March 14th (see details above)
- Coordinated with other student wellness leaders across campuses to hold the Student Wellness Summit (Feb. 20th 10am-2pm; GSC conference room). Will discuss:
 - holistic vision of wellness; creating harmonized action; using a shared platform
- Cultural & Spiritual wellness
 - Working with Mark Sanders and other student leaders on building an Interfaith Student Coalition; Discussing potential to create shared prayer/meditation space on Tempe campus; Taking next steps to have meditation labyrinth built on Polytechnic campus
 - Volunteered at Peace Luncheon at Polytechnic campus (Feb. 10th, 10am-2pm) where facilitated activity with high school students from ASU prep to learn more about homelessness and justice in Arizona.
- ASU Happiness Project: Participated in meeting on 01.25.16
- Worked with Blue Skies Organic to develop Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program
 - Coordinating with Wrigley Hall facilities manager to create a drop off location
 - CSA options are at <http://blueskyorganicfarms.com/csa/>
 - Small \$16.50 (1 person); Regular \$21.00 (2 people); Large \$32.00 (4 people)
 - There are several add-ons available, including chicken eggs, fruit, whole chicken and Noble Bread.



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Planned accomplishments by next meeting

President

- Presentation of the 2016 GPSA Needs Assessment survey
- Finalized plan of action for implementation of the ASU Happiness Project
- Report from Student-Faculty Policy Committee meeting
- Report from Presidents' meeting with Arizona Board of Regents Pres (ABOR) on 2-19

Directors of Outreach

- Continue keeping inventory supplies stocked up at GSCs on call locations
- Continue planning and executing coffee events, and advertising GPSA socials on Polytechnic and Tempe campuses
- Continue planning to visit departments and programs (with coffee, bagels and GPSA goodies) on all four campuses. Here is a planned Polytechnic and Tempe campus visit lists:
 - W.P. Carey School- Economics (February 25th- Tempe)
 - Applied Cognitive Science- (March 2th-Polytechnic)
 - Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering - Graphic Information Technology (GIT) - (TBD~still in planning process with Prof. Schildgen)
 - Ira. Fulton Engineering Programs - Aviation Programs (TBD~still in planning process with Gayla March - Secretary and Prof. Niemczyk)
 - and Others...
 - If you want us to visit your department, please contact either Rodney (West/DT) or Mustafa (Tempe/Poly)
- West Campus and Downtown Campus coffee events are as follows:
 - Thunderbird School of Management
 - Mary Lou Teacher's College
 - Cronkite School of Journalism
 - Four graduate classes at West Campus
 - College of Nursing and Health Innovation
- Continue collaborating with TA chats (with Andy Waldron) during Coffee Thursday event on Tempe campus

Director of Communications

- Create and publish the GPSA LinkedIn page
- Continue with the marketing and promotion of GPSA materials and communications
- Work collaboratively with Andy and Jordan to effectively promote GPSA Grad Week in March
- Continue to update GPSA social media on a daily basis, with GPSA events and activities being the focus of the social media posts



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Director of Information Technology

- Execution of the migration of GPSA website to the new 'Pantheon' environment on March 2nd (to last about 1 week)
- Will work with UTO and be on call throughout the migration process as well as assist in the move and installation.
- GradStu newsletter for February is being prepared to be sent out on Monday, Feb 15th.
- GPSA newsletter will be sent out March 1st.
- Social media connection (Facebook and Twitter) and automatic feeds to the website will be finalized.

Director of International Student Concerns

- Meet with Dr. Sumner and the ASASU meeting to discuss progress and future agenda on international students' concerns
- Finalize plans for the Culture Fest on March 18th
- Work with the committee on graduate students advocacy
- Work with the committee on programming on the Downtown Campus
- Work with the committee on promoting/advertising existing programming for international students
- Coordinate with Tempe police department and CIS to discuss programming on international students' safety training

Director of Wellness

- Lead GPSA Wellness think tank meeting (Fri Feb 19, 3-4pm)
 - will discuss action items for Wellness Fair; help advertising; brainstorming for final event in April
- Lead Student Wellness Summit (Sat Feb 20, 10am-2pm)
 - facilitate activities to brainstorm collective visions for ASU; how to utilize a shared platform for better collaboration
- Continue to finalize details and facilitate GPSA Wellness Fair (Mon Mar 14; 10am-2pm)
 - lead advertising efforts; coordinate volunteers for day of
- Support ASU Happiness Project as schedule permits



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Committee Reports

New Programs Committee (Pauline)

Meetings: January 25th and February 9th from 11-12pm in the Tempe GSC

- Discussed ASU Happiness Project details, timeline, and list of to-dos
- President has been meeting with various units across campus to identify ways to implement in costs-effective and feasible ways
- Next meeting will be Feb 29th, 11-12pm in the Tempe GSC

International Student Concerns Committee (Chun)

Accomplishments since previous meeting

- Contributed ideas for professional development programming for international students and attended the meeting with Graduate Education, Career Services, and Andy
- Discussed social events for this semester and started planning for the Culture Fest
- Contributed areas of international graduate students' concerns for advocacy and attended the meeting with ISSC
- Contributed ideas and contacted local coffee shops for programming on the Downtown Campus
- Collaborated with Director of Events and his committee on the Scavenger Hunt
- Contributed areas of international students concerns from meeting with the Dean(s) in committee members' respective College

Planned accomplishments by next meeting

- Finalize plans for the Culture Fest on March 18th
- Collect information for international graduate student's advocacy
- Further plans on programming on the Downtown Campus
- Continue to collaborate with various departments on campus and promote/advertise existing programming for international students



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Graduate Student Concerns: GPSA Presentation to Student-Faculty Policy Committee Arizona State University

1. Transparency of Programmatic Changes Impacting Graduation Timelines
 - a. Students describe being uninformed of but expected to know about programmatic/departamental changes (e.g., curriculum/policy changes like changes to pre-requisites, class schedules, course availability, etc.) that could significantly impact their graduation timeline.
 - b. Students uninformed of these changes face dropping out, greater financial strain, delayed graduation, etc.
2. Developing Student Handbooks for all Programs
 - a. Students describe that handbooks are not equally developed for all programs, leaving some students without crucial information relevant to their success in their program.
 - b. Students without formalized handbooks seem to be at the mercy of their advisors providing adequate information or turn to other students, who may not be articulating current policies and expectations set by program administration
3. Comprehensive TA/RA/GA/MA Contracts Outlining Duties and Expectations
 - a. Students describe not having the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of their Assistantships formally specified.
 - b. Without such documentation, students are unclear about their roles and responsibilities and of the parameters of their positions which could lead at best to disappointment on faculty members' end and at worst, exploitation on students' end.
4. Adequate Graduate Student Representation on Faculty Councils
 - a. In line with ASU's model of shared governance, graduate students describe not being included in various representative bodies relevant to their colleges/schools
 - b. Undergraduate students have seats on their Faculty Councils while GPSA does not have this same representative opportunity at the graduate level
5. Developing a Graduate Student Bill of Rights
 - a. Students describe wanting an easily understandable, cohesive, centralized document enumerating the rights of graduate students pertaining to their unique roles as students, teachers, researchers, and employees