

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, February 4, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 208

Members Present:

Dalon Rosevear (Accounting), Joseph Pignatiello (MBA), Aaron Kearsley (Economics), Ingrid Y. Lee (Management Information Systems), Madalina Tanase (Curriculum & Instruction), Katrina Harris (Educational Psychology), Dan Gianoutsos (Educational Leadership), Mia Youhne (Special Education), Dana Massengale (Sports Education Leadership), Hamidou Diawara (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Lei Zhang (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Saul Opie (Mechanical Engineering), Rebekah Just (Art), Brian Marsh (Music), Oscar Limon (Theatre), Donica Beckett (Health Promotion), Courtney Coughenour (Public Health), Catherine Andrea Prato (Nursing), Gael Hancock (Hospitality Administration), Jason Frank (Sport & Leisure Activities), Sara Hill (Anthropology), Robert Kirschen (English), Jordan Duff (Political Science), Eric Tomas Steiner (Psychology), Candace Griffith (Sociology), Colin Robins (Geosciences), Matthew Jacobsen (Physics), Melanie Taylor (Criminal Justice), Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies), Rachel Wax (Journalism & Media Studies), Sara Pelton (Marriage & Family Therapy), Nathan Myers (Public Administration Proxy), Jeremy Ashton Houska (President), Heather Lusty (Vice President), Jessica Lucero (Secretary), Suzanne Becker (Treasurer).

Members Absent:

Laurene DeBord-Fouk (Film), Lyndsey Kelly (Health Physics), Sonia Randolph (Kinesiology), Alistair In (Physical Therapy), Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry), Jason Vance (Life Sciences), Timothy Waters (Mathematical Sciences), Gary McCormick (Social Work).

Others Present:

Dr. Karl Kingsley (Faculty Advisor), Robert Durette (Psychology), Nicholle Booker (College of Sciences Advisor).

I. Roll Call

The GPSA Council Meeting, held in the Moyer Student Union, Room 208 was called to order by President Houska Monday afternoon at 2:05 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes:** President Houska asked that members review December 2007 GPSA minutes and bring forth any revisions. Sarah Pelton (Marriage & Family Therapy) asked that the December 2007 GPSA minutes reflect that she had a proxy (Nelda Rae Smith). President Houska asked if anyone would like to motion for approval of minutes with revisions noted. Candace Griffith (Sociology) motioned for approval of minutes; Donica Beckett (Health Promotion) seconded the motion. The December 2007 GPSA Council Minutes passed unanimously.

III. Speakers

President Houska noted that originally Eric Lee, Director of Graduate Financial Services, was supposed to speak to the council, but he had a family emergency and was unable to attend the February 2008 GPSA council meeting. President Houska noted that Eric Lee would be invited back to a future GPSA meeting.

IV. Budget Report

Treasurer Becker announced that changes to the budget occur in lines 15 and 16, which reflect December and January GPSA wages and fringe benefits for GPSA staff and stipends for GPSA representatives for the Fall 2007 semester. Line 21 is for travel expenses, but that there weren't any changes to this line due to there being no travel in the months of December and January. Line 30 reflects operational costs such as hosting for the December Council meeting and social hour as well as expenditures for Xerox maintenance and toner/copier paper. Line 68 reflects the revenue generated by incoming student fees. Treasurer Becker also noted that this line will continue to fluctuate as the GPSA continues to collect student fees over the Spring and Summer 2008 semesters. Line 79 reflects the sale of items in the GPSA lounge including snacks, water, copies, and CDs. Last month's total was \$121.29.

With no questions from the Council, President Houska entertained a motion for budget approval. Colin Robins (Geoscience) motioned with Oscar Limon (Theatre) seconding. No one was opposed and the Budget was unanimously accepted.

V. Committee Reports

- **Activities Committee:** Secretary Lucero with the help of Jason Frank (Sport and Leisure Management) announced that the Welcome Back social at PT's Pub held on January 25th was a success and that the next social would be held on February 15 at Jersey's on Sahara and Decatur. Secretary Lucero asked that Council members please disseminate the information to their constituents.
- **Community Service:** Treasurer Becker noted that the GPSA donated boxes of pet items to Noah's Animal Shelter, which is affiliated with Shadetree. She thanked all those who participated and especially thanked Katrina Harris for setting up the community service project. Treasurer Becker also noted that there would be a community service meeting held before the end of the month to discuss upcoming service events. She reported that their goal is to do one event per month until the end of the semester. Treasurer Becker then opened the floor to the committee for any additional comments to which there were none.
- **Grants Committee:** Vice President Lusty reported that the grants committee awarded \$32,000.00 in Spring Grants. She noted that the grants committee had been asked for \$50,000.00, which accounts for the many partial awards for people who were rooming together etc. Vice President Lusty also noted that February 20, 2008 would be the cut off date for emergency grants as the committee would be picking them up on that date. President Houska asked that the Council please disseminate that information.

Vice President Lusty added that the Research Forum is coming up in March and that the Grants Committee will be meeting after next month's March meeting to discuss the planning for this event. She also noted that the Forum is a University-wide conference for anyone who received a grant from the GPSA. This is an opportunity to share with the campus what was done with the grant money awarded and is not optional. Grant recipients have the option to do a poster or paper presentation of their research or conference paper. Additionally, the Research Forum should be seen as practice for delivering conference papers and everyone is encouraged to sign up to deliver a paper even if they did not receive funding. This year Dr. Ron Smith, Interim Dean of the Graduate College is scheduled to attend as is University President David Ashley. Vice President Lusty requests that Council members please post this information.

- **Board of Regents:** President Houska announced that the Board of Regents meeting will be held this Thursday and Friday (February 7 and 8) at the College of Southern Nevada. He also noted that

the *Las Vegas Review Journal* had a piece in today's paper (February 4, 2008) on the upcoming Board of Regents' meeting and noted that the BOR would discuss the possible 10% tuition increase for graduate students. Other items that will be covered is the reversion of Integrate funds. President Houska encouraged Council members to attend if their schedules allowed them to.

VI. Old Business: none

VII. New Business: none

VIII. Announcements:

Vice President Lusty asked that Council members please post the announcements in their respective departments. She noted that Career Services will be hosting workshops on resumes, interviewing, and networking.

Vice President Lusty asked that the Council refer to the brochure put out by Career Services called Interfolio, which is a Dossier Service that Vice President Lusty worked with Iris Morgan to be implemented. Interfolio is an excellent place for CVs, letters of recommendation, and statement of purposes to be held for electronic and paper mailing. Vice President Lusty noted that electronic mailings of job packets cost about \$4.00 and that paper mailings costs about \$5.00 to mail. Vice President Lusty also asked that if anyone would like more information on this service or have questions for her that they please email her at heather.lusty@unlv.edu.

Vice President Lusty announced that the Commencement Committee is searching for Commencement Speaker for the Spring 2008 graduation ceremony. She encouraged those graduating to consider speaking. It should also be noted that after being asked who is graduating this semester, Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies) and Oscar Limon (Theatre) are both graduating.

Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies) noted that there is a typo on the Commencement Speaker Flyer. The flyer states that May 17 is a Sunday, when in actuality it is a Saturday. She asked that council members make the change on the flyer before posting in their departments.

Vice President Lusty announced that there will be a Conference Development Skills Workshop given by six fulltime faculty members in various areas who will speak on topics such as using PowerPoints in presentations, poster presentations, general conference style and how to find and apply for conferences in different disciplines. Dr. Simon will give his "how to write an abstract" talk again, which, Vice President Lusty noted, was really good. The workshop is free but does require students to sign up.

Vice President Lusty addressed another flyer in council member's packets regarding Graduate Research Funding Exploration Workshops, which were done last fall and will be done again this spring. This workshop is designed and presented by the libraries in order to aid graduate students in their respective disciplines to find additional grant and research money. The workshops are scheduled for February 19, 20, and 21.

Vice President Lusty drew member's attention to the Thesis and Dissertation Preparation Workshop that Dr. Harriet Barlow will give. This workshop is free but students must sign up and download the UNLV Guide on How to Prepare a Thesis or Dissertation.

President Houska referred Council to the GPSA *Luminary*, a newsletter publication that comes out twice a semester. He asked that council members put the newsletter out for display and/or send the

pdf. to their constituents. He noted that in the *Luminary*, he thanked various individuals for their participation in the Budget Rally.

IX. Public Comment:

President Houska opened the floor for public comment and explained for new Council members that this is a time for them to advertise any news that is going on in their departments or on campus that would be beneficial for the council to know about.

Sara Hill (Anthropology) commented that she had some issues with financial services in that they contacted her telling her that she did not fill out her financial aid forms correctly. She noted that per University standards, 6 credits is considered full time for graduate students, but that according to financial aid, 9 credits is considered full time. She had her graduate coordinator draft a letter to financial services that explained that her department considers 6 credits full time. The financial aid service advisor Sara Hill spoke with said that she copied this letter to other members of financial services and that she recognized this as a growing problem that needs reconciling.

Brian Marsh (Music) asked if taking 6 credits could also preclude graduate students from receiving other types of aid and was answered in the affirmative.

President Houska noted that there might be tips and tricks that could help circumvent this problem and that maybe this is something to publicize more.

Vice President Lusty noted that perhaps the GPSA could find someone with more weight to aid in this dilemma.

Treasurer Becker noted that the Council has tried many times to get this problem resolved and that it would be a good idea to address this but that she did not know if the GPSA could take a stance as an organization on this issue.

Sara Hill (Anthropology) also announced that as president of the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society, every graduate member is assigned to mentor an undergraduate on things like letters of intent and how to apply to graduate programs. She is happy to share this with the Graduate & Professional Student Mentoring Program that will be implemented at some future date.

Joseph Pignatiello (MBA) announced that the MBA Association will put on another lecture series this semester. Last semester the MBA's lecture series topic was Real Estate. This semester the topic is the effects of the impending U. S. Recession. They will bring in faculty and try to get outside guests to speak as well. The first lecture will be held on February 29, 2008.

Donica Beckett (Health Promotion) announced that the Black Graduate Student Association will host an event this Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 218 entitled "Making HIV History." Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson of the UNLV School of Public Health will be speaking at this event.

Oscar Limon (Theatre) announced the opening of his Thesis show, *Freedom Deck*, to be presented in the Black Box Theatre in the HAM Fine Arts Building. The show will run from February 28, 2008 through March 2, 2008. Tickets are available at the UNLV Box office located outside the parking garage and are free for students.

President Houska announced that PhD student Merrill Swepe was posthumously awarded degree at Winter Commencement. Additionally, Anne Polquin, Educational Psychology doctoral student, is soliciting tutors for CSN. Information packets and business cards for the contact person are available after the meeting.

President Houska also noted that he enjoyed the GPSA volleyball team last semester and hopes to see a GPSA softball team this semester.

Dana Massangale (Sports Education Leadership) asked for clarification regarding the February 8, 2008 scholarship deadline that President Houska had announced. She asked if the grant fellowship deadline for February 22, 2008 was different. President Houska replied that to his knowledge the February 8th deadline was something different, and he could forward that information he had received from Dr. Kate Hausbeck upon request.

Vice President Lusty commented that there are two upcoming grant deadlines: March 15 for summer conference travel and April 15 for Fall research and conference travel. She requested that council email her if there are any questions regarding eligibility and noted that there are ways to work with students if they are waiting for conference acceptance.

Nicholle Booker, Advisor for the College of Sciences, asked Vice President Lusty if that information is available on the GPSA website. Vice President Lusty replied that it is.

X. Adjournment

President Houska asked if anyone would like to motion for adjournment. Brian Marsh (Music) motioned for adjournment and Gael Hancock (Hospitality Administration) seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.