

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
Monday, November 5, 2007 - 2:00 p.m.  
Student Union Room 211

**Members Present:**

Dalon Rosevear (Accounting), Marcus Conklin (Economics), Ingrid Y. Lee (Management Information Systems), Madalina Tanase (Curriculum & Instruction), Katrina Harris (Educational Psychology), Derek Lester-Proxy (Educational Leadership), Mia Youhne (Special Education), Lei Zhang (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Rebekah Just (Art), Laurene DeBord-Fouk (Film), Oscar Limon (Theatre), Lyndsey Kelly (Health Physics), Donica Beckett (Health Promotion), Jennifer Aldridge-Proxy (Kinesiology), Rachel Walker (Public Health), Gael Hancock (Hospitality Administration), Jason Frank (Sport & Leisure Activities), Amber Featherstone (English), Katrina Hall (Foreign Languages), Kelli Brockschmidt (History), Jordan Duff (Political Science), Eric Tomas Steiner (Psychology), Candace Griffith (Sociology), Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry), Colin Robins (Geosciences), Jason Vance (Life Sciences), Steven Fischer (Mathematical Sciences), Wayn Ward (Physics), Sarah Ewing (Communication Studies), Sara Pelton (Marriage & Family Therapy), Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies), Rachel Wax (Journalism & Media Studies), Gary McCormick (Social Work), Jeremy Ashton Houska (President), Heather Lusty (Vice President), Jessica Lucero (Secretary), Suzanne Becker (Treasurer).

**Members Absent:**

Dana Massengale (Sports Education Leadership), Saul Opie (Mechanical Engineering), Alistair In (Physical Therapy), Catherine Andrea Prato (Nursing), Corinne Wurm (Law), Sara Hill (Anthropology), Melanie Taylor (Criminal Justice), Tyra Jenkins (Public Administration), Saidi Siuhi (Civil & Environmental Engineering).

**Others Present:**

Michael Saltman (Midtown UNLV Revitalization Project Director), Jefferey Panchavinin (Assistant to Mr. Saltman), Nicholle Booker (College of Science Advisor), Rebecca Boulton (GPSA Manager)

**I. Roll Call**

The GPSA Council Meeting, held in the Student Union, Room 211 was called to order by President Houska Monday afternoon at 2:03 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes:** President Houska asked that members review October 2007 GPSA minutes and bring forth any revisions. Geoscience (Roberts not Robins). President Houska asked if there were any other corrections that needed to be made and hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval with amendments. Kelli Brockschmidt (History) motioned for approval and Gael Hancock (Hotel Admin) seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Speakers**

- Mr. Michael Saltman spoke to the GPSA regarding Midtown UNLV Revitalization Project. Assisting Mr. Saltman was Jeff Panchavinin.

Mr. Saltman said that he was interested in raising the level of awareness for the graduate and undergraduate student body. He would like to take the blighted neighborhood around UNLV and raise the bar for all aspects of education, quality of experience, and creating a desire for those who attended UNLV or visited to come back.

Mr. Saltman also spoke about UNLV's transportation system noting that it would be great to have RTC and other alliances to help change this atmosphere.

Mr. Saltman wants to revitalize Maryland Parkway and now has previous UNLV President Carol Harter on board. President David Ashley has also heard his presentations on Midtown UNLV and he too is onboard.

When the Board of Regents and state of legislation meetings take place, he would like to call on the GPSA to let the community and town leaders know that we too think Midtown UNLV has to happen. Mr. Saltman also noted that thus far, there aren't any protestors—just *ennui*.

Mr. Saltman presented a slideshow of what Midtown UNLV could look like noting that the original idea came from Detroit University. The south end of Maryland Parkway is the beginning of this project.

History of Midtown: Clark County comprehensive planning is already really aware of this need for a university district. Not many people live near university.

In addition to Detroit University, Mr. Saltman used Mill Ave. from ASU as a point of comparison for what UNLV can look like. ASU's Mill Ave. used to be like UNLV's Maryland Pkwy but is now full of shops and activity.

Mr. Saltman sees Midtown UNLV as profit that will go back into university.

Mr. Saltman thinks that Midtown UNLV can be completed in 10 to 20 years.

He thinks that a high rise product that would be called campus village promenade would be highly beneficial. Already UNLV is crossing Maryland Pkwy by moving the National Safety Building across the street.

Mr. Saltman noted that the Methodist Church on Maryland Pkwy is also a part of this reorganization and that the Geenspun Building will be the first building to actually be on the street.

He would like to replace Grant Hall (arts complex) and possibly relocate it to the east side of Maryland.

Additionally, Cottage Grove/Maryland Pkwy area needs turf reduction to enhance university to desert landscaping.

He would like Harmon to be the gateway to the University. Many places like Carl's Jr. etc. are already on board with this project.

Mr. Saltman said that housing should be "workforce attainable housing."

One GPSA council member's concern is that private money would see greater commercialization, e.g. that private business/restaurants would be replaced by chains. Mr. Saltman answered that this project wouldn't bring in the wrong kind of commercial venue. The venues will be appropriate for the community.

Another GPSA council member asked: "how can we get affordable housing?" Mr. Saltman answered that he doesn't want to "shoo anyone out." There are "lots of people who are law-abiding" citizens that should live there. Housing will be a little more expensive but nicer. His plan is to include 13 acres for UNLV housing. Faculty, administration, students will be able to live in this community.

A question was posed regarding the level of inertia exhibited by this community and noted that what is disappointing is that people say yes they want to see change, but nothing's done or it gets worse. What is it about this point in time and the people coming on board that makes anyone think this will be different? Mr. Saltman said that the difference is he's involved in this project and any projects we do will only enhance properties. The hope is to get people to invest in the University and then have them live here.

Jason Vance (Life Sciences) asked if the universities that have undergone this change like ASU and Detroit have flourishing campus life as well as strong enrollment of undergrads living on campus. Mr. Saltman replied "yes."

Jason Vance (Life Sciences): noted that he would not want to see the familiar nine-month pattern meaning that the businesses that come here would struggle during the summer. Mr. Saltman answered that this is why it is important to get others living around the community and not just students.

Sara Ewing (Communication) asked Mr. Saltman what factors contribute to UNLV as being “UNLoVed” and asked what the deadlines are? Mr. Saltman answered that the community has backed away from UNLV. No one is thinking about educating their kids here. Furthermore, Mr. Saltman declared that UNLV needs to be heart and soul of this community. The community needs to recognize that UNLV is a huge employer. The problem is that before there hasn’t really been an outreach to the county or the community. UNLV has been fairly internalized for about 40 years. As for the deadline for this project, Midtown UNLV will be done with entitlements for student housing at beginning of 2008. The developers are well known and have to open up just around the time that school starts, which might be around 2009 or 2010. He estimates that it would take between 16 to 18 months to build it.

President Houska asked if is there any way that our council can get in touch with Mr. Saltman if we should have further questions. Mr. Saltman invited the council to come to his office or call; he also said that the council can get a hold of his assistant, Jeff Panchavinin.

#### **IV. Budget Report**

Treasurer Becker noted that there weren’t too many changes to the budget this month. Lines 15 and 16 reflect wages and fringe benefits for GPSA office staff. Line 30 expenditures includes refreshments at conference skills workshops, hosting for the monthly social hour and council meeting refreshments, gifts we gave to faculty and panel members for helping us out (e.g UNLV pens). This also reflects the cost for GPSA stationary, letterhead, our Xerox machine contract as well as the renewal of our subscription to *Higher Education Chronical*. Line 68 reflects the revenue generated this fiscal year by incoming student fees. Line 79 reflects the sale of items like snacks, water, Xerox copies, and CD ROMs. The total sales this month comes out to \$479.00.

President Houska entertained a motion to approve budget. Candace Griffith (Sociology) motioned for approval and Katrina Harris (Educational Psychology) seconded. The budget report was approved.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- **Activities:** Secretary Lucero announced that this will be a two-part report. Last month’s social at the Play of the Day was a complete success. 54 people came to this event. The committee has also decided to host a graduate and professional student association volleyball team that Emy will tell you more about.

Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies) announced that a few people have signed up for the GPSA volleyball team. There are still between six and eight slots open, and she asked that council members come up after the meeting to sign up. The season will start on 13<sup>th</sup> of November. The deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup>. Games will be held on weekdays between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. or possibly even until 10 p.m.

- **Bylaws:** President Houska said that there will be an email regarding the clarity of bylaws. The committee will compare the GPSA bylaws to other Graduate Student Associations nationally. He will have reviews hopefully by the December meeting.
- **Community Service:** Treasurer Becker announced that everyone should have a flyer in their packets regarding making a donation to the Shade Tree Homeless shelter, which has opened a shelter next door to Shade Tree for pets called Noah’s Animal House. She asked that council members please post this notice in their departments. A lot of women and children don’t leave an abusive situation because they don’t want to leave their pets behind. Treasurer Becker said that there will be a box in the GPSA and members could still put up a box in their own department for donations. Acceptable items for donations include toys and treats; the shelter specifically asked for KONG toys due to their indestructible nature. They also need towels, blankets, tearless shampoos, stainless steal bowels. Dry food Iams, Purina One, Science Diet would also be gratefully accepted.

Treasurer Becker noted that the committee would also probably do a blanket drive in December and a canned food drive in January or February as food banks will probably be low at this point due to the holiday season.

A council member asked if money could be an acceptable donation. Treasurer Becker said she'd need to check this out. Another member of the council recommended that a gift certificate to PetSmart might be a good donation.

- **Grant:** Vice President Lusty said that for the October emergency grant cycle there were 8 grants awarded totaling \$3750.00. She noted that the deadline for spring is November 15, which is fast approaching. The committee will not accept late applications. They are already looking at reviewing 70 to 80 grant applications.
- **Student activities funding board:** Candace Griffith (Sociology) said that this committee is looking to allocate funds to students and student organizations that are working to benefit the entire student body. Hoping to allocate funds in December meeting. Grants could be up to \$500 per semester, per student.

Rebecca Just (Art) asked if that money was per student or per organization? Ms. Griffith answered that it had to be student-initiated.

## **VI. Old Business: none**

## **VII. New Business**

- **Graduate Student Technology Needs—information item** (handout)  
President Houska asked that everyone fill out this survey and to leave it with Becky or one of the executive council members. He noted that there is a student technology advisory board and that this survey can inform what we do on this committee. He said the committee wants to know what students already have in terms of technology and what students need in order to be successful graduate students.

Treasurer Becker asked if this included technology in the labs. President Houska said yes but also offices, programs, computers, labs etc.

Ingrid Lee (Management Information Systems) noted that she would like to have wider wireless access.

- **GPSA Awareness day—information/action item**  
President Houska said that he is trying to get the University to recognize our needs; in order to do this, the GPSA needs to have more events and more publicity. The GPSA is involved in community service events, grants, as well as many workshops and it is time to let the public know. President Houska opened the floor to Gael Hancock (Hospitality Administration).

Ms. Hancock said that all of our jobs would be easier if there were more awareness. It is a hard sale to get people to think of this organization because the GPSA is not publicized enough.

Ms. Hancock is taking Brazilian drumming, which is led by the percussion director of Cirque Du Soleil's O. They needed a place to perform and so Ms. Hancock thought this would be a perfect way to create awareness—through the partnering with this percussion band and the GPSA. The GPSA could set up a table, handout newsletters, business cards, brochures, and candy. Ms. Hancock noted that PIDA plaza was tentatively scheduled for 26 November from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. She hopes the GPSA will continue this Awareness day annually and guarantees that the Brazilian drumming group will attract attention.

Treasurer Becker commented that she felt this was a great idea but that to get PIDA plaza, it will cost \$250.00 out of our budget. She asked if November 26 leaves the GPSA with enough time to plan?

Ms. Hancock said that she sees this as an annual event that needs to come in the first semester rather than second because we have more new students in the fall that need to know about the GPSA. She also noted that even if no one comes, the GPSA is still getting publicity.

Laurene DeBord-Fouk (Film) asked if the official GPSA Awareness would be 11/26 from 10 a.m.-2 pm. The answer is yes.

Rebecca Just (Art) commented on a possible reservation for this date because the 26<sup>th</sup> is the Monday after Thanksgiving.

President Houska asserted that establishing Awareness Day this year is important.

Colin Robins (Geoscience) noted that the Geoscience department right now is heavily focused on research and they don't give a lot of feedback. He thinks this is a great idea but that Geoscience probably wouldn't come to an event so late in semester.

Office Manager Boulton noted that this day would provide opportunity for publicity.

Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry) asked if the GPSA will have any flyers from publications committee to distribute. Office Manager Boulton replied that this would not be a problem.

Jason Vance (Life Sciences): asked where PIDA plaza is located to which President Houska replied that it is the grassy area in front of the Student Union by FDH and Wright Hall.

President Houska asked for a motion to approve. Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry) motioned for approval and Rebecca Just (Art) seconded. The majority of the council voted for approval, therefore motion to have GPSA Awareness day on November 26, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. was approved.

Next, President Houska asked for a motion to approve \$259.00 from the GPSA budget to pay for PIDA plaza. Dalon Rosevear (Accounting) and Laurene DeBord Faulk (Film) seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Announcements**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Graduate School Recruitment Fair November 7<sup>th</sup>: 9am-12pm. Student Union 208 – flyer
- GPSA Social Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: The Freakin' Frog 5pm - 8pm – flyer
- November Community Service Activity: "Make a Donation" – flyer
- Graduate & Professional Student Mentoring and Support Organization – Candace Griffith (Sociology) noted that we are trying to get this together to help first years and existing students. The organization needs volunteers who are interested in mentoring. The organization needs one or two representatives per college.
- Upcoming Nevada Conservatory Theatre productions: The Heiress, November 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and Fiddler on the Roof November 23<sup>rd</sup>-December 9<sup>th</sup> (for 2007-2008 season schedule see <http://nct.unlv.edu/07-08.html>)
- GPSA Grants: Deadline for Spring Semester funding November 15<sup>th</sup> (for more information see <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants.htm>). Vice President Lusty noted that she is working closely with Dr. Ron Smith, interim VPR and Graduate Dean, to use one of their professional grant writers to aid in a seminar for grant writing.
- Preparing for the Preparing for the Academic Job Search seminar: Vice President Lusty noted that on November 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be many instructors who are interested in volunteering their time to aid in graduate student preparation for the academic job market. She encouraged that the council promote this event so that the professors will continue to want to donate their time. Vice President Lusty also noted that October's Library Research Seminars went fairly well. There were fifty people in attendance altogether. She is working with Diane Vanderpol to get another set of research seminars in place for the spring semester. Interested individuals who missed the seminars can go to the GPSA website for more information and posted powerpoint slides.
- Deadline for GPSA Awards: November 30<sup>th</sup> --Vice President Lusty announced that the deadline for nomination packets is Nov. 30, 2007. These awards will give recognition to those who actually help the GPSA function. These include the Outstanding Mentor Award and GPSA Merit Award. There is also a Distinguished Contribution Award to acknowledge administration and staff and a Service Award for any individual who has given multiple years of service. These awards will be presented at the research forum.
- Defining Beauty: Jean Nidetch Women's Center Event: December 1<sup>st</sup>: Treasurer Becker noted that this conference is cosponsored by the Women's Center and Dove. Naomi Wolf will be on campus to speak

regarding her book on the beauty myth. She also explained that this event is not only for women; the event incorporates interesting information for both sexes.— flyer

- GPSA Quarterly Newsletter – handout
- CNN Democratic Presidential Debate: flyer—Treasurer Becker spoke about the upcoming debate in order to raise awareness. She asked that council members post the flyer in their departments.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

President Houska opened the floor for public comment.

Rebekah Just (Art) announced that her show is coming up in the Grant Hall Gallery. The exhibition will begin on November 18, 2007 and last until December 1, 2007. There will be an opening reception on November 19 between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Her photography exhibition is inspired in part by her ex-boyfriends.

President Houska commented that he truly appreciated everyone that stayed for the entirety of this meeting.

#### **X. Adjournment**

President Houska asked if anyone would like to motion to adjourn: Candace Griffith (Sociology) motioned and Jason Vance (Life Sciences) seconded the motion. The GPSA meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.