GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, December 2, 2009 - 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 213

Members Present: Erin Diebold (ACCOUNTING), Steven Lehr (MBA), Jared Price (ECONOMICS), Megan Wolff (MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Jennifer Wimmer (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION), Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY), Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Joseph Morgan (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Dawid Zydek (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Rachel Riedel (HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION), Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION), Jennifer Scharf (KINESIOLOGY), Brandon Richards (PHYSICAL THERAPY), Edward Wynder (PUBLIC HEALTH), Cheryl Darby-Carless (NURSING), Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION), Kathy Minkel (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICE MGMT), Allison Cantor (ANTHROPOLOGY), Sam Harr (ENGLISH), Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Adla Earl (HISTORY), Andrea Kayl (PSYCHOLOGY), Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY), Pauline Serrano (CHEMISTRY), Corinne Griffing (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Byrson (LIFE SCIENCES), Yanan Jiang (MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES), Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Jessica Lucero (PRESIDENT), Kyle George (VICE PRESIDENT), Veronica Glover (SECRETARY), Candace Griffith (TREASURER).

Members Absent: Stacy Nelson (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Maggie Werning (FILM), Christopher Trevino (THEATRE), John Piro (LAW), Autoosa Kojoori-Saatchi (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Justin Smith (MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY), Gabriela Gandarilla (SOCIAL WORK).

Others Present: Dr. Adam Simon (Faculty Advisor), Dr. Kate Korgan (Faculty Advisor), Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager).

I. Roll Call
President Lucero called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. She reminded everyone to please fill out proxy form, and contracts were available for signing.

The council briefly adjourned from 2:15 - 2:26 to take a group photo.

II. Approval of Minutes
President Lucero asked everyone to look over the November meeting notes and note any changes that needed to be made. Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) stated that in section 8 under new business “organization” should read as “organizations.” Vik Sehdev (CIVIL ENGINEERING) made a motion to change the term from singular to plural and Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION) seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion passed. The November minutes were approved.

III. Speakers
No Speakers

IV. Budget Report
Treasurer Griffith explained the budget report. Vice President George’s trip posted. The council did not have any questions about this month’s budget report.

V. Committee Reports

- GPSA Activities -
  - William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) gave a pictorial overview of the UTCBF, which was awesome. A good time was had by all. The committee is thinking of having another event in the Spring. A thank you went out to Rebel Recycling for all the boxes and picking up the boxes to bring them back to recycle.
  - The next social event will be Thursday, December 3rd from 6 – 9 at Satay Malaysian Grill. They will have drink specials. Check out the Facebook page to RSVP and for more details.

- GPSA Ad Hoc Awards –
  - President Lucero stated that the new deadline for applications was Monday, Dec 7th by 10:45 p.m. Please nominate your professor or have someone nominate you. An award will look nice on your CV. Student awards receive $300 and faculty/staff awards receive a plaque.

- GPSA Community Service
  - Treasurer Griffith reiterated the toy drive and that we are collecting food as well. We need canned food! Please donate cash up until December 11th which is donated to an organization which helps children in transition (i.e., homeless, foster homes, etc.).
  - UNLV is participating in a food drive for 3 Squares. Beginning Monday, the GPSA will collect food for this organization as well. The canned food for the Salvation Army will be delivered on the 7th and thus begins collection for 3 Squares. UNLV is holding a campus wide competition with the prize being breakfast paid for (or cooked by) the president.
  - Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES) stated that we have 11 volunteers to help out at the Salvation Army on December 15th from 10am – 1pm. Please fill out and bring the form you will receive via email. Wear red or a UNLV t-shirt to show your school spirit.

- GPSA Grants – E/Fall grants November cycle award amount $3800.00
  - Vice President George stated that the committee met and is proposing changes. Eventually the process to apply will become paperless. They are also discussing ways to fund beyond the traditional research interests to better serve the graduate community. This change will allow other departments (i.e., Art, Law, Music) to gain funding by loosening the definition of “research.” Everyone who receives funding is still required to present at the Research Forum in the Spring. If you do not present, you are restricted from future funding until you present at the Forum.
  - Other changes include allowing posters to be funded, up to $50, as well as conferences fees. Membership fees remain unfunded. The committee has removed volunteer funding restriction (i.e., focus groups), so you will now be able to pay your participants.
  - When applying for a grant, be clear as to why the conference is important and the activities.
    - You will be able to apply for funding if you have not yet received your acceptance letter. This change allows more people to apply for funding during the regular grant funding cycle instead of emergency grant cycle. You will need to submit a grant amendment once you receive your letter of acceptance, if you are not accepted, or if the venue changes.
• The letter of support traditionally comes from your advisor. The changes will allow the letter of support to come from any graduate faculty advisor with whom you are closely working.
• The number of credits an applicant has completed in his/her program will no longer be considered in relation to grant awards.
• The total grant amount is increasing from $750 per application, up to twice a year, to $1750 per year. You can apply for all of the grant amount at one time. Instead of only being eligible to receive grant funding twice per year, you are eligible up to four times per year. This does not mean you will automatically receive the total amount when you apply. Grant funding is still competitive and outstanding applications will be awarded these higher amounts.
• President Lucero reiterated that these are all recommended changes and nothing has been voted on or decided.
• Treasurer Griffith stated that she sent out the by-laws that will change, and it is simply an information item today. We would like feedback by the February meeting on the proposed changes, which will go into effect once they are approved.
  - Kathy Minkel (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES) asked if airline tickets will be covered. Vice President George answered that yes, you can include them in your budget.
  - Jennifer Wimmer (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION) asked Vice President George to explain the current grant process, which he did.
  - Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) noted that the $1750 is the total amount you can be awarded in an academic year. You could apply for subsequent grants if you do not exceed the maximum on your first grant application.
  - Dr Simon stated that awarding 1K in the Spring for Fall to someone who does not use the money reduces the pool of money available to others who are apply for grants during that cycle.
    - Vice President George stated that that is a current problem. We want to figure out a mechanism to prevent this from happening.
    - Sam Harr (ENGLISH) asked if emergency grants would help this problem.
    - Vice President George stated that it would, but we discourage their usage except for true emergency situations.
  - Laurenn McCubbin (ART) asked if there is a timeline for implementation.
    - Vice President George stated that changed have to go through by-laws for approval in February or March. Once approved, the changes will be implemented the following academic year.
  - For Fall 2010 grants, the deadline is in the spring. We have approximately $110K available for grants.
  - President Lucero asked council members to direct questions to Treasurer Griffith and Vice President George. She also thanked everyone involved for their hard work.
    - $3800 were awarded in emergency grants.
• GPSA Publications
  - Secretary Glover stated that the Fall newsletter was available.
  - Great work everyone.
• Health Insurance Committee
• Vice President George stated that Brackenridge gave quotes on what possible health insurance will look like. He will email the details once he has looked them over as there seems to be a lot of changes.

- President’s Advisory Council
  • President Lucero was unable to meet so there are no updates at this time.
  • There is meeting scheduled for 12/11. Please let President Lucero know of any questions you want her to address.

- NSHE Tuition and Fees Committee
  • President Lucero stated that she is meeting with the Board of Regents tomorrow and Friday.
  • During the meeting with higher education representatives, tuition will be compared with other western state colleges to ascertain if there should be increases to be competitive and keep up with the changing cost of living.
  • There was a 10% increase last year and the year before in tuition for graduate students. The undergraduates’ tuition increased 5% each year, and due to the budget crisis, received an additional 10% increase. We are keeping up with the flat rate of inflation.
  • To reiterate, fees stay on campus.
  • The letter of intent is being reworked to stipulate how much change will occur to reflect what is going on with finances today. The challenge is to stay competitive with other institutions. It is great to be inexpensive, but the university cannot progress without money.
  • Currently, there is a two-tiered model to increase tuition over the next 2 – 8 years. This change could mean up to a 50% increase for undergraduates. These increases are speculation at this point because there is no letter of intent.
  • Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) asked if we can get the letter of intent so we can address the discrepancies between UNLV and UNR.
    • Vice President George stated that NSHE and the State Legislature is working on it.

- Vik Sehdev (CIVIL ENGINEERING) stated that one plan is to take the community colleges out of NSHE and have them funded by the county. This would result in UNLV having a bigger slice of the pie.

- JET Committee
  • President Lucero stated that departments have to submit a report explaining high/med/low programs. The committee will then make recommendations to the President about which programs to improve or cut.
  • The committee is recessed until January. Check out the Provost’s website for a link to the JET committee reports: http://provost.unlv.edu/JET/
  • You may send feedback to anyone listed on the website.

- Parking Advisory Committee
  • Vice President George explained that in the past all persons classified as staff had to purchase a staff parking sticker. This mainly affected PTIs.
  • Now, if you are a PTI you have the option to buy either student or faculty parking.
  • Kathy Minkel (SPORT & LEISURE SERVICES) stated that she had a constituent forced to buy a faculty parking sticker.
    • Vice President George stated that that was the policy last year but now they have the option to purchase student parking.
  • If you carpool you can receive a refund on the unused portion of your permit. Make sure the license plates are registered to the permit you will use.
• Board of Regents
  • President Lucero went over special student fees. Departments institute these fees, but anything over $50 must be board approved. Some regents are not in favor of special fees because they do not like to raise fees too much. The main complaint from departments is that the fees are supplemental to their budget. Special fees can only be used to purchase materials from a 3rd party source and not to pay salaries.
    o The dental School will increase special fees from $4600 to $5100.
    o Physical Therapy will increase fees from $0 fee to $450 (only for new students). The fees cover items that students have traditionally paid for, such as uniforms. The program wants the fees to be officially on the books.
    o Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION) asked if only the students in those programs will pay the fees? President Lucero answered yes.
    o Clinical Lab Sciences is increasing from $400 to $600 for numerous items that have expiration dates, are non-reusable, etc. This department experienced a 47% cut and cannot afford to supply these things. Currently there are eight people in the program, and they said they would be willing to pay these prices as other institutions cost as much as 200% more to attend than UNLV.
  • President Lucero reiterated the $5 Student Association fee. The $1.24 earmarked for GPSA was given back to UNLV to aid in the shortfall, $1 to athletics, $1.74 is going to Graduate Assistant stipends.
  • Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) asked if this was the fee that everyone had a problem with last year. President Lucero stated that the undergraduates had issues with the fee, but the graduate students did not.
  • GPSA is being audited tomorrow. We did not have much money so we should not have any issues.

VI. Old Business

VIII. New Business
  • Bylaws, Section V revisions (information)
    o Please send feedback before the beginning of the Spring semester. Information must be sent to the committee 10 days prior to meeting.
  • Grants Workshop Budget (action)
    o Please publicize this event for a big turn out.
    o The budget will come out of activities.
    o The room is not finalized yet, but will be announced.
  • Update on Goals: How we are doing (information)
    o President Lucero asked everyone to turn to page four of the newsletter which listed the GPSA goals. We are currently in progress on almost all of the goals.
      • We need more awareness.
      • We need more focus on graduate and professional students being competitive in the workplace.
  • Candace asked for a motion for stipends to be paid.
    o Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY) motioned to release funds. Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP) seconded the motion
There were no questions or discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Announcements
- Grants Workshop, January 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.—UNLV Faculty guest speakers
- Announcements from committee?

X. Public Comment
- Dr. Korgan stated that the stipend goal for next year is that they will remain the same. In 2010, PhD base stipends will increase to $14K. In 2013, MA stipends will increase to $12.5K and PhD will increase to $16K. These increases will cost about 3 million per year and are not set in stone. Increases depend on fundraising efforts. Cross your fingers.

XI. Adjournment
- Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION) made a motion for adjournment. Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) seconded the motion. Without opposition, the motion passed.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.