GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 7, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 208AB

Members Present: Erin Diebold (ACCOUNTING), Steven Lehr (MBA), Jared Price (ECONOMICS), Megan Wolff (MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY), Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Joseph Morgan (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Noe Santos (Proxy—CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Dawid Zydek (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Stacy Nelson (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE), Laurren McCubbin (ART), Maggie Werning (FILM), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Christopher Trevino (THEATRE), Rachel Riedel (HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION), Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION), Jennifer Scharf (KINESIOLOGY), Brandon Richards (PHYSICAL THERAPY), Edward Wynder (PUBLIC HEALTH), Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION), Kathy Minkel (SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICE MGMT), Sam Harr (ENGLISH), Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Adla Earl (HISTORY), Autoosa Kojoori-Saatchi (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Suzanne Becker (Proxy—SOCIOLGY), Pauline Serrano (CHEMISTRY), Corinne Griffing (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (LIFE SCIENCES), Yanarr Jiang (MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), Elizabeth Young (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES), Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Gabriela Gandarilla (SOCIAL WORK), Jessica Lucero (PRESIDENT), Kyle George (VICE PRESIDENT), Veronica Glover (SECRETARY), Candace Griffith (TREASURER).

Members Absent: Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING), John Piro (LAW), Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES), Justin Smith (MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY) Jennifer Wimmer (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION).

Others Present:
Dr. Adam Simon (Faculty Advisor), Dr. Greg Brown (Chair of the Nevada Faculty Alliance UNLV Chapter), Eric Lee (Director of Financial Services for the Graduate College), Fred Krauss (Director of Graduate Student Outreach), David Wedley (visitor from Sport and Leisure Service Management), Sara Campbell (Higher Ed), Lorena Pike (Foreign Languages), Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager).

I. Roll Call
President Lucero called the GPSA Council Meeting, held in the Student Union, Room 208, to order Wednesday afternoon at 2:01 p.m.
President Lucero reminded council members to bring laptops for future meetings, or print and bring materials, in an effort to follow the “Go Green” potential goal for this year.
Secretary Glover did a verbal roll call so President Lucero could get to know the council and all of its new and returning members.
President Lucero held a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Sarah Wayson. She also announced student Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) counseling was available, if needed. CAPS is located in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center and may be reached at 895-3627.

II. Approval of Minutes
President Lucero asked the council members to look over the September 2009 GPSA minutes to determine any corrections. After hearing no corrections, a motion for approving the September 2009 minutes was made by Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) and seconded by Steven Lehr (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION). With no oppositions, the motion passed.

III. Speakers
Dr. Greg Brown, Chair of the Nevada Faculty Alliance UNLV Chapter, which is an affiliate of the American Association of University Professors, discussed the Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA). There is a part-time instructor category for membership purposes. The NFA discusses current concerns affecting instructors. Dues for PTIs are $22.50 per year. This is a great opportunity to join and become involved. Currently, there is a seat open for a part-time instructor. There is anticipation of creating a seat specifically for graduate student instructors in the future. For more information, visit the blog at www.unlvfaculty.blogspot.com or email Dr. Brown for more information at unlvfaculty@gmail.com.

Eric Lee, Director of Financial Services for the Graduate College, discussed updates on financial aid opportunities. Access funds and scholarships were held back in the Fall due to budget cuts, but the Graduate College wants to release the remaining funds for Spring 2010. To qualify, domestic students must fill out a FAFSA and demonstrate financial need. International students are eligible to apply by enrolling and registering for classes for Spring 10. All students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above. There are other scholarships available and will be announced in December. At that time, applications will be available. The deadlines for these scholarships are typically at the end of January and require three letters of recommendation.

The Lincy Institute is looking to hire Graduate Assistants for the Fall and Spring. They are particularly interested in students from the following areas: Education, Liberal Arts, Allied Health, Urban Affairs, and Nursing. Duties would include data mining, data compiling, as well as community outreach. An email was sent out via Gradlink. Please sign up for this list serve if you have not already. To find the link go to the Graduate College webpage, click on Information for Current Students, Scroll to bottom and Click on GradLink. Register for the listserv using your UNLV email address only.

Sam Harr (ENGLISH) asked if grants/scholarships will affect loans. Eric said that grants may affect loans by replacing portions of the loan with the amount you were awarded by a grant. For instance, if you won $1000 in grants, that amount would replace $1000 in loans. In other words, you would not have to pay back that amount. William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) asked if there was an application. No, there is no application. Domestic students must have a FAFSA on file and international students must be registered for Spring classes.
For more information or questions, please contact Eric at eric.lee@unlv.edu or call him at 895-3320.

President Lucero acknowledged Fred Krauss, former GPSA President standing in for Dr. Kate Morgan (Faculty Advisor), Dr. Simon (Faculty Advisor), and Suzanne Becker, proxy for Sociology and former GPSA Treasurer.

IV. Budget Report
Treasurer Griffith read through the budget from September 2009 and explained the pertinent details. President Lucero asked why the cost of attending the Board of Regents meeting was not included. Treasurer Griffith stated that the required paperwork was not received in September for this month’s budget but would be included on next month’s budget report.

V. Committee Reports
   o President’s Advisory Council (PAC):
     - President Lucero asked to raise graduate student stipends. Current minimum stipends are $10K for Master’s students and $12K for PhD students. Last year, deans were allowed flexibility in allocating the funds. For the most part, allocations remained as they always have. Graduate students want a raise in minimum stipends because the cost of living is rising, but our stipends are not. President Lucero is circulating a letter to the Graduate College asking for a raise of the minimum stipend amount for masters and doctoral students. She wants support in raising stipends. Response so far indicates that stipends may be raised next year by phasing it in. President Lucero wants to know how many students are funded at each level. Currently, there are approximately 910 grad students being funded, but she is unsure about how many of those students are state-funded and how many are grant funded; additionally, she would like to know how many of those are masters and doctoral students.
     - President Lucero discussed iNtegrate. Right now this program is working behind the scenes for administration purposes only. She explained that at a Student Technology Advisory Board meeting, CSUN’s President, Adam Cronis, asked about waitlisting and whether or not it will be addressed in iNtegrate. Waitlisting refers to students waiting to register for a needed class because the class is currently full. This process seems to be built into the system, but we do not yet know if the system will be built to recognize priority admittance (i.e., people who need the class to graduate).
   o GPSA ad hoc awards: President Lucero announced that if you are a member of this committee, you should receive an email within the next week and half to provide times you can meet.
   o Publication Committee: President Lucero announced that the newsletter will be coming out in November barring obstructions. They will be available online. The committee may be helping out the activities committee or grants committee to help publicize their events.
   o Board of Regents (BOR): Vice President George went to Elko for the BOR meeting. One topic of discussion was graduate student housing. The BOR is
discussing purchasing the newly constructed condos on Flamingo across the street from campus and converting them into graduate and/or faculty housing. Laurenn McCubbin (ART) asked if there would be family housing. Vice President George responded that it has the potential for family-friendly units.

- Nevada Student Alliance also met. The Chancellor, Chair & Vice Chair attended and wanted to know what is going on from a student perspective. They discussed the state budget. There will be a $900M hole. The federal government provided stimulus dollars this budget cycle that will not be available for next financial year. They also discussed that higher education concerns come, at best, fourth behind K-12, prisons, health & social services. The Chancellor suggested we invite declared candidates to visit the university and ask about their view on higher education. The Chancellor does not plan to balance the university budget by taking away from graduate students. He does not think “research mission” is salient enough for the public to get behind the directive. We need to start thinking about how to better represent ourselves. There is also the possibility that NSHE will eliminate programs so there is no overlap (i.e., no duplicate programs in engineer between UNLV and UNR). How can we defend this from happening?

- President Lucero discussed that the faculty senate and administration has created a Joint Evaluation Team (JET), which is now including student representatives from CSUN and GPSA. This group will publish the reports that are submitted by the various campus units. All reports from this committee will be available online and President Lucero will keep us updated.

- Grants Committee: Vice President George stated that this committee has met and issued money for the September emergency grant cycle. There is now a date for the grant writing workshop: Friday, October 23rd from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in SU 219. The Activities committee is helping with nuances and organization of the workshop. Further, Vice President George stated that the process for applying for a grant has transitioned to an almost all-electronic system. The committee now only requires two paper copies as opposed to the six required in past cycles. The documents will be scanned in and shared electronically. The ultimate goal is to go all electronic.

- Student Health Insurance Committee: Vice President George stated that many or all graduate students should have access to university health insurance. This insurance, however, is very limited. The policy is up for review and we want something that is more competitive. There is a request for proposal right now. NSHE has banded together so the risk pool is larger; opportunity for more competitive rates. We want to know if this is something we want to do. There may be an implementation of a hard waiver system in which every graduate student is mandated to have health insurance coverage. This mandate would provide better rate in the long run, but there is the potential for added costs to graduate students. If a graduate student had coverage elsewhere, he or she would simply provide proof and be exempt from UNLV coverage. There are pros and cons for the hard waiver system idea.
Grad Council: Vice President George stated that the Graduate College has transitioned 100% to an electronic catalog. There are no more paper copies available. Electronic distribution may allow for release of catalog once per year instead of every other year. Fred Krauss stated that the policies would remain the same; you are bound by the policies of the catalog from the year you entered your program (i.e., credits you must earn, etc.). An electronic catalog allows for correction of minor details (i.e., course listing, etc).

- H1N1 awareness; UNLV is adopting the same policy as CCSD. If you have fever with sore throat or cough you have to go home and wait 24 hours past fever breaks until you can return. If you have students with these symptoms send them home. Please be flexible with course work and deadlines, to ensure that the disease does not spread.
- iNtegrate transition began around 9/10 and it is an incremental process. Applicant for Fall 2010 will be put into integrate. Applicants for Spring 2010 through Summer 2010 are in the old system. Instruct applicants to allow a little more time to process applications as the administration is monitoring two systems. If constituents have issues, direct them to the graduate college.
- Graduate lounge procedures: The GPSA lounge will be wiped down each Friday morning with Clorox wipes. The wipes will be available so you can wipe them down yourself on other days. There is also hand sanitizer available. Be healthy.

Community Service: Treasurer Griffith is trying to organize a meeting time. This year’s theme will be along the lines of poverty/hard economic times. The meeting will determine the events for this and next semester.

President Lucero reminded all Committee Chairs to please send her a summary of your notes from your meetings.

Bylaws Committee: If you are on this committee, please download the bylaws and read through them with a critical eye. As a reminder, Steven Lehr (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), Justin Smith (MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY), and Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) are on this committee.

GPSA Activities: William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) stated that the activities committee met last Friday. The committee will focus on more professional-oriented activities. They are collaborating with grants committee by distributing flyers, etc. For the remaining months, there will be one cultural event, one social event, and one professional event. These are designed to draw out different crowds.

- The first professional activity is November 21st. Laurenn McCubbin (ART) explained the team activity. The Ultimate Team Cardboard Fortress Battle (UTCFB) was featured in the NY Times as an alternative sporting event. The object of the game is to capture the flag of the other team. The team building exercise is to elect a general, who gives a speech and wears a funny hat, build a cardboard fort, and then charge the opposing team’s fort. A BBQ will follow. There is a facebook group and rules are available online. Automatedredemption.com/flavorcountry/utcfb.html
President Lucero asked if we could include a waiver on the flyer as a disclaimer for the GPSA. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) asked for clarification of date.

On December 3rd there will be an end of semester event. It will, hopefully, be at Firefly at the new downtown location. The event will double as an awards ceremony/ trophy ceremony for the UTCB activity held on the previous month. This may be a good time to involve charity/ donations.

Stay tuned for activities for next semester. Contact Billy (William.o.saas@gmail.com) if you have ideas.

VI. Old Business

GPSA 2009-2010 Goals
President Lucero explained how to bring a motion to the table. She asked if there were any overarching context issues. There were no questions or suggestions. Christopher Trevino (THEATRE) made a motion to pass the goals; Elizabeth Young (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES) seconded the motion. With no discussion, the goals passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

- Ad Hoc Government Relations Committee: President Lucero announced the addition of the Ad Hoc Government Relations Committee. The members of the Executive Board, John Piro (LAW), and Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) will comprise the committee. They will advocate on behalf of the graduate student body to the NV legislature. Luis Valera, UNLV’s Director of Government Relations will be contacted on occasion for guidance.
  - Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) is on the committee because he was the CSUN Vice President last year and worked on the Southern Nevada committee to fight the budget cuts; he also has cultivated relationships with people in the NV legislature.
  - John Piro (LAW) has also cultivated relationships with members of the NV legislature.
- Recognition of Graduate Student Organizations:
  - A motion to approve the recognition of Chi Sigma Iota – Omega Alpha Chapter was made by Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION) and seconded by Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION). The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Announcements

- President Lucero announced new Secretary, Veronica Glover (formerly of PSYCHOLOGY).
- President Lucero announced that the GPSA is looking for a graduate/professional student to speak at commencement. A flyer was included in all packets.
- The Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity announces its 3rd annual symposium. A flyer is included in all packets.
- The Spring grant deadline is November 15th.
Graduate Lounge in Lied Library may be moved so that special collections can use the existing space. President Lucero is working closely with architects and designer so we have a well-lit, inviting space. The move is money dependent. Elizabeth Young (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES) asked when the move is expected. President Lucero replied that the move is in the beginning stages, so most likely not this semester.

Mother Jones Magazine: Treasurer Griffith explained that UNLV was mentioned in the October 2009 edition of the magazine in regards to the tombstone campus campaign and our activism. It showed how our activism affected a change. President Lucero reiterated the campaign.

IX. Public Comment

- President Lucero announced that the new council members should expect to be on the Ad Hoc Financial Aid Committee and will work directly with the Foundation to make the new scholarship created by the GPSA happen.
- President Lucero reminded members of the Brookings lecture tonight in Greenspun Hall. There is another one next week on the 14th.
- President Lucero announced an opportunity to have lunch with the Football Team on Friday for $10. Anyone can go. It is at the Thomas and Mack conference room at noon.
- Christopher Trevino (THEATRE) announced that Conservatory Theater is putting on a show Thursday through Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. It includes students and professional actors in the show. Check it out.
- Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE) The School of Architecture is sponsoring a student art exhibit.
- Maggie Werning (FILM) announced the 48-hour film competition starting November 4th – 6th. Sign up on film department website.
- Treasurer Griffith announced Movies that Matter on 10/21. The movie discusses diagnosing of gender identity disorder and that it is still in the DSM-IV. Contact Candace if you have any questions.
- Kathy Minkel (SPORT & LEISURE SERVICE MGMT) There will be a golf event at TPC Summerlin. This is an annual event.

X. Adjournment