GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, June 2, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.
Student Union Room 224

Members Present: Cesar Valdez (Proxy - COLLEGE OF BUSINESS), Stacy Nelson (COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING), Jeff Malecki (COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS), Edward Wynder (COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES), Crystal Jackson (COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS), Pauline Serrano (COLLEGE OF SCIENCE), Surbhi Sharma (COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS), Marcus Johnson (COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, INTERIM SECRETARY), Kyle George (PRESIDENT), Antonia Gutierrez (VICE PRESIDENT), Michael Gordon (TREASURER).

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: Carin Wallace (GPSA Business Manager)

I. Roll Call
   President George called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
   • Introductions of GPSA Officers. President George appointed Marcus Johnson (COLLEGE OF EDUCATION) Interim Secretary through the summer session. A university-wide search for position will take place at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester.

II. Approval of Minutes
   • President George asked everyone to look over the April meeting notes and note any changes that need to be made. Edward Wydner (HEALTH SCIENCES) made a motion to approve the minutes. Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS) seconded the motion. The motion passed following no discussion.

III. Speakers: None

IV. Budget Report
   • Treasurer Gordon reported the combined budget for April and May 2010.
     i. Grants committee expenses were covered in report.
   • Treasurer Gordon, President George, and Carin discussed the possibility to rent out partitions to venues held at the Student Union; a new computer for the GPSA Business Manager; and travel expenses to upcoming Board of Regents meeting.
   • All in favor. Motion carries.

V. Committee Reports
   • Grant Committee – $6,143.30 May Emergency Grants, Summer Grants - $26,730

VI. Old Business
   • GPSA Summer Representative Forms.
     o Carin announces that the forms are online and should be delivered to her ASAP.

VII. New Business
   • Doctoral, Specialist’s and Master’s Commencement Regalia
     i. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES) questioned process of changing the regalia and asks “why the hold-up” in changing the regalia.
ii. President George announces possibility for rental regalia to made available, if changes to the regalia are approved.

iii. Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS) asked about colors of regalia, specifically what different colors mean for each college/program. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) elaborated on how different colors represent different degree programs, and can clash with the proposed university colors. President George suggests that an option be created to allow graduating students to opt for a hood that better goes with the university’s colors.

iv. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) recommended flexibility in graduation tams, arguing that Law students have walked at commencement with specialty tams.

v. Surbhi Sharma (URBAN AFFAIRS) asked what changes would be allowed for master’s students. President George responded by presenting a standardized robe of scarlett and/or Grey for undergraduate and master’s students.

vi. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES) questioned how a change would affect the bookstore. President George responds by saying that no major changes would have to be taken by the bookstore. The bookstore would just be working with a different company for purchasing and selling robes, if the changes go through.

vii. Cesar Valdez (Proxy - BUSINESS) made a motion to approve change; seconded by Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES). The motion carried (with considered alterations to flexibility in tams and college hoods).

- Graduate Student Honor Code

  i. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) motioned to approve. Cesar Valdez (Proxy - BUSINESS) seconded. Discussion followed.

  ii. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES) questioned the need for a contract. Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS) argued “what’s the point, since a contract with the Graduate College is already in place.”

  iii. Edward Wynder (HALTH SCIENCES) and Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) asked if faculty are reprimanded for GA abuse. (Executive Council do not know whether a system is in place for reprimanding faculty for GA abuse.

  iv. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) suggested that the GPSA work to raise the awareness of GA abuse.

  v. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCE) asked if code of conduct already exists. President George responds with “yes, but it is not substantial.”

     1. Wynder supports self-policing by students

  vi. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) motioned to withdraw previous motion.

  vii. Motion to adopt GA abuse stance (majority vote)

  viii. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES) motioned for further discussion, Cesar Valdez (Proxy - BUSINESS) seconded the motion.

ix. Entire council voted for GPSA to speak out on GA abuse

x. President George asks if there is a motion to adopt honor code
1. Edward Wynder (HEALTH SCIENCES) motioned for discussion. (Wynder amended his own motion to discuss at next open GPSA committee. Jeff Malecki (FINE ARTS) seconded).
2. Wynder volunteered to head committee
   a. Cesar Valdez (Proxy – BUSINESS), VP Gutierrez, Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS), Treasurer Gordon
3. Motion is tabled
   • Grant-in-Aid – information item
     i. Board of regents requests to discontinue Grant-in-aid
     ii. Motion by Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS) to approve official GPSA position against elimination of Grant-in-aid benefit. Marcus Johnson (EDUCATION) seconded discussion.
        1. Argued disadvantages about losing students and difficulties in recruiting and retaining the best and brightest students.
        2. May undermine morale at the university.
     iii. Vote to take stance on cutting Grant-in-aid (passed unanimously)
   • New Graduate Student Orientation – August 18, 2009, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m., volunteers needed.
     i. Serving GPSA council members should mark their calendars and attend if possible.
     ii. Email Carin if interested in volunteering.
   • “Education Counts” Initiative (being active about next year’s budget)
     i. President George recommended to vote by mail/absentee so education supporters can be tracked and coded. Vote cast remains anonymous.
        1. Potential to quantify education’s voting bloc
     ii. Motion by Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS), Surbhi Sharma (URBAN AFFAIRS) seconded. The motion carried
   • 2010 – 2011 GPSA Goals
     i. Reviewed past years’ grant goals
     ii. Put to ‘bed’ some prior goals (i.e. handbook)
     iii. Went Green in 2009-2010 and this goal stays on list.
     iv. Consolidating and restructuring committees (i.e. combining social and service committees)
     v. Increasing service involvement through grants
     vi. Reach out to local businesses to partner with UNLV
     vii. President George agrees to email list of goals out to committee

VIII. Announcements
   • GPSA Summer Council Listing
   • Summer 2010 Graduation Deadlines – (June 4th, 2010 is the deadline for applying without a late fee. Additional deadlines available on Graduate College webpage.)

IX. Public Comment – No comments

X. Adjournment
   • Crystal Jackson (LIBERAL ARTS) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ed Wydner (HEALTH SCIENCES) seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:32am.