



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
By Tova Samuels**

**August 14, 2009 3:00 pm
Emeriti Lounge – Walwood Hall 2nd Floor**

Present: Joel L. Raveloharimisy (Vice Chairperson), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Ashley McKinney (Biological Sciences), Tova Samuels (Chemistry), Greg Laing (English), Mohammad AL-Amar (Physics), Eric Strough (Public Affairs and Administration), Alicia Austin (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Lofti Benothmone (Computer Science), Hesham J. Abed (Computer Science), Raed M. Salih (Computer Science), Brandy Pratt (Evaluation).

Guests: Melissa Green (DSA), Dev Apiyo (DSA), Esther Muriithi (Kambi Ya Kristo), Clara Adams (Chemistry)

1. Call to order: 3:15 pm
2. Introductions
3. Approval of 8/14/09 agenda
4. Approval of 7/10/09 minutes:
[*Note made by Kazu:* Lyggya Muller, becomes the official rep for International Education Council]
5. Report from the Dean of the Graduate College: N/A
6. Report from the Chairperson, *Brandi Pritchett*
The members read the report from Brandi. Concerns were made about the location of GSAC monthly meeting: parking may be an issue for future meetings locations (R & W); everyone generally agrees with dinner every time and a new location.
7. Reports from GSAC Sub-Committees
 - a) *Graduate Financial Allocation Committee: Joel Raveloharimisy, Brandi Pritchett, Greg Laing, Lofti Benothmone, and Alida Austin.
Joel presented two proposals from Kambi Ya Kristo (RSO): motion to approve Kambi Ya Kristo for \$500 operations costs passed. Motion to approve Kambi Ya Kristo for \$240 for Bronco Bash 2009 for \$240 passed.
 - b) Public Relations Committee: N/A
 - c) Web Site/Blog Committee: Joel projected that the new website and GSAC's new blog will be posted in the coming weeks. The blog will have links for outside scholarships, grants, financial aid before school starts.
 - d) Research and Publication Committee: Lofti presented the Call for Paper and Art Work by The Hilltop Review: A Journal of WMU for Graduate Research, accepting 4-6 papers. The submission will be accepted in electronic form and hard copy. There will be a review process, with comments. There is a plan to advertise the journal, which is still in the process. He asked people to participate as reviewers. The call for paper deadline is Sept. 18, 09 and departments have been notified.
8. Reports from University Councils and Committees: Postponed until September
9. Report from WSA, CAB, and TAU
 - a) WSA: N/A
 - b) CAB: N/A

- c) TAU: Zak gave updates about the new contract that TAU has with the administration. TA pay schedule is on the same pay period as faculty. He will participate in different department orientations next week. It was suggested that TAU should up-date its e-mail database. Also GSAC was asked to pass along information/concerns to & from TAU
10. Departmental Reports: postponed for September
11. Unfinished business: postponed for September
12. New business
- a) CommUniveristy: GSAC members were asked to help send the word out about **on-line registration**; the tickets will be mailed once they are ready.
 - b) Departmental Orientations: GSAC members were asked to participate and sign up to departmental orientation
 - c) 2009-2010 Program Planning
 - i. Welcoming New Grad Students Picnic: it was suggested that the picnic should be open to ALL graduate students and each student should bring he/her own food. Kazu will find out more information about available dates, time, and locations. He will present a report about this event for the September meeting.
 - ii. Dialogue with Dr. Dunn: it was presented as an option to have a Meet and Greet event at Dr. Dunn's house. Try to get a commitment from GSAC members before organizing the event.
 - iii. Scholarships/Awards to outstanding GSAC Active Members: discussion was started but no conclusion was made. It was postponed for the September meeting.
13. Student Concern: N/A
14. General Announcements and Briefs:
- a) Announcements for the Good of the Order
 - b) Next GFAC and GSAC Meetings: September 11th, October 9th, November 13th
15. General Discussion—"The State of Graduate Education": N/A
16. Adjourn: 5:03 PM