



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
September 18, 2009 3:00 pm
Walwood Commons – East Campus Walwood Hall (Lot 1)**

Representative Presents: Brandi Pritchett (Chair), Joel L. Raveloharimisy (Vice Chairperson), Tova Samuels (Chemistry), Greg Laing (English), Mohammad AL-Amar (Physics), Eric Strough (Public Affairs and Administration), Zack Sullivan, Nayane Udawatte, Muthanna Yaqoub (Geosciences), Nayane Udawatte (Chemistry), Clara Adams (Chemistry), Krystal Bresnahan (Communication), Stephanie Ruhl (Communication), David Tannor (Mathematics), Eric Strough (Public Affairs & Administration), Joe Johnson (CECP), Cheyla Milo (CECP), Katya Gallegos (Teaching, Learning, Research, & Tech), Raed Salih (Computer Science), Imad Zyout (Electrical & Computer Eng.), Brandy Pratt (Evaluation),

Guests: Melissa Green (DSA), Dev Apiyo (DSA), Naidra Walls (Career & Employment), Amanda Torrens (Communications), Maureen Savage (Communication), Katie Reno (Communication), Jessie Thompson (Chemistry), Juwan Watson (HESA)

1. Call to order: 3:03 PM
2. Introduction
3. Approval of the Agenda for 9/18/09: moved by Stephanie and seconded by Nayane
4. Approval of Minutes from 08/14/09: moved by Nayane and seconded by Tova
5. Report from the Dean of the Graduate College – *Dr. Lewis Pyenson*: good news—enrollment is up, more than 1% for the 2009-2010 school year; interests in graduate studies have increased. Graduated students should be reminded about the travel and conference funds, which have four different deadlines. He emphasizes the importance of applying for these funds. He also reminds students to use the resources that graduate college provides: workshops, seminars, etc. Speakers are coming especially during the Darwin year and the medieval movement. Dr. Hoffman will be at WMU this Fall, he has significant accomplishment. We have speaker for the Spring semester to talk about culture in Nazi Germany and Colonial era in Indonesia. Coordination exists between different departments at Western in inviting speakers to come to WMU.
6. Report from the Chairperson—*Brandi Pritchett*:
 - a. General Report: Clarified the role of members and the rotation of meeting. Parking pass was addressed. The idea of getting a parking pass for those who attend GSAC meeting was presented. The pass would serve as a temporary parking pass, only be used for the particular location of the meeting and just for the duration of the meeting.
 - b. Board of Trustees Meeting: Hilltop Review was presented and promoted during the meeting. President Dunn got a positive review for his performance. The BOT approved 3 more years for President Dunns contract. There was a presentation by Seita Scholars Program, for students who lived in foster home. Challenge: take students to support Seita Scholars Program through volunteer activities. College of Education has a new name. It is now College of Education and Human Development (CoEHD). There has been a new auditing system established for the BOT to serve as a mechanism of accountability. We need students to be involved in Sangren renovation.
 - c. Advocacy: additional smaller version of survey will be done this year to target specific advocacy issues and/or topics. Suggestion was made to run the large annual graduate student survey again this year in order to get more opinion from graduate students. More students want GSAC to advocate for students' needs but less in events. Current advocacies: same privileges for non-funded graduate student borrowing at the library, ID card replacement should not be charged when the ID card is damaged, the National City Bank should not charge for cashing university checks.

- d. Advocacy mentioned by students: *Use of the Student Recreation Center during summer session*—we should ask for the change of the policy in term of fee and use of the gym for graduate students that are part time. *Class Registration*—Registration and drop date should be changed by midnight for the classes that occur on Monday (Labor Day). *Parking Pass*—request hanger instead of sticker to be available for funded students (TA, GA, and SA). *H Parking Pass*—solutions need to be found so students who have H parking pass can have more space and location to park. *Housing*: place to stay overnight for students who commute and cannot drive because of weather condition during winter time. The following items were decided as priorities in term of advocacy program: Parking pass hanging, Bronco ID card, and the use of Student Recreation Center for graduate students that are part time.
 - e. Questions and Concerns: (1) Nayane asked question about the different amount that students received in their pay checks. Response: it is a Federal mandate that changes the payment system: people are to be paid for the time they work. The amount is different but it does not affect the total amount that students should get. Zach explained TAU agreement about the payment system. (2) Student Insurance: the deduction of student insurance fee from the pay check after tax was discussed.
 - f. Point of information: the research paper fee is included in the Graduate Student Research Fund offered by the Graduate College. There was a request of information about the number of students that have attended the workshops for Research and Travel Funds and the number of those who have received funding before.
7. Reports from the GASC Sub-Committees
- a. Graduate Financial Allocation Committee—*Joel Raveloharimisy*: The following proposals were approved and passed:
 - i. Communiqué: \$500.00 for Operational Budget 2009; \$350.00 for Resume/CV Workshop and Publications Presentation on September 24, 2009; \$410.00 for Graduate Student Open House and “M.A. in the Workplace” on October 15, 2009
 - ii. WIDER: \$2,500.00 for Barking Tuna Fest on October 9-11, 2009
 - b. Public Relations: Brandi presented and asked the GSAC members to sign the GSAC membership pledge.
 - c. Website Committee: Joel gave a brief report about the new blog and Twitter account, and the progress in the creation of new GSAC website.
 - d. The Hilltop Review: many submissions were received. The Hilltop Review committee will start to review the proposals.
 - e. Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students need 2 members. They are working on theme and task force for student registration for marketing purposes.
8. Reports from University Councils and Committees:
- a. Research Policy Council meeting—*Greg Laing*: The council met this past Thursday to discuss our charges from the faculty senate for the upcoming academic year. There were three charges that were particularly relevant for graduate students. The first is the Research and Creative Activities Celebration Day, which takes place at the end of the spring semester. It is a chance for graduate student from around the campus to present their work before peers and faculty. GSAC traditionally helps RPC to sponsor and conduct this event. The second charge is the effort by RPC, the Graduate Studies Council, and the International Education. Council to try to lower graduate tuition for externally funded grants to in-state levels for all grad students. The effort last year stalled, but the council would like to try again this year to put the motion forward as a resolution before the faculty senate. Although a resolution is not as strong as the earlier proposal, it would send a message to the administration that in-state funding for graduate student researchers would make Western more competitive. The third charge is that RPC will begin looking into the conflict of interest policy to see if it needs updating. Should changes to that policy impact graduate students, the council will pass that information along.
 - b. GSAC members were invited to join the following councils and committees: Research Policies Council (1 member is needed), University Accreditation Committee (8 members are needed), Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection

- Committee (1 member is needed), President's University Sustainability Committee (1 member is needed), East Campus Task Force (1 member is needed), Diversity & Inclusion Committee (1 member is needed)
9. Reports from WSA, CAB, and TAU – : N/A
 - a. WSA – *Nate Knappen (WSA President)*
 - b. CAB – *David Van Deusen (CAB President)*
 - c. TAU – *Zach Sullivan (TAU Representative)*
 10. Department Report : N/A
 11. Unfinished Business
 - a. Fall Events and Opportunities: GSAC opportunity advocacy Nov 14-18 for NAGPS. Brandi presented a plan to organize the Mixer/Community Networking that will emphasize leadership & professionalism, interviewing, networking for employment purposes. Professionals from different disciplines will be: art, business, healthcare, etc. Students are intended to mingle with other professionals during this event. Tentative dates presented: Nov. 6, 13, and 20. The majority opted for Nov. 6.
 - b. GSAC Scholarship/Awards Reception: Brandi will send email to solicit members' ideas
 - c. CommUniverCity: GSAC is ready for the event. Tickets were mailed out.
 12. New Business:
 - a. Arcadia Creek/Event Center Development Focus Group: Arcadia Creek needs 7 representatives from GSAC on October 2nd to sit as a task force and focus group. Please email Brandi for further information.
 13. Students Concerns/Open Floor: Please refer to point #6.c, 6.e, and 6.f
 14. General Announcements and Briefs
 - a. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Active GSAC members will be given a pin to recognize their services to the GSAC: Tova Samuels, Clara, Cheyla, Nayane, Stephany, Zack
 - b. Next GFAC and GSAC Meetings: **October 9th** , November 13th, December 11th
 15. General Discussion: "The State of Graduate Education": N/A
 16. Motion to adjourn: 5:17. Twelve members stayed until the end of the meeting.