



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, April 13, 2007, 3 PM.
Room 205, Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Kelly Daniels (Vice Chair), Birkin Gilmore (English), Erich Sommerfeldt (Communication), David Zwart (TAU), Jennifer Messana (Public Affairs and Admin), Amy Noack (Geosciences), Laiza Ashraf (Finance), Mustafa Sanver (Computer Sci), Dawn Anderson (College of Health and Human Services) Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Grad Dean)

1. Call to order: 3:05
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of the Agenda 4/13: moved by Dawn, seconded by Erich
4. *Approval of Minutes from 3/16/07: moved by Mustafa, seconded by Emily
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Research Day next week. Lectures plus free breakfast and lunch. Prizes will be awarded to presentations, \$200 apiece. Recently awarded a number of Thurgood Marshall Awards, which had been affected by Prop 2. So far this has been successful. Student Research and Travel Grants have been awarded. A substantial number of awards have been given, including international awards partially sponsored by GSAC. The Gwen Frostic Research Award has been initiated this year. Not a lot of applicants this time, but hopefully in the fall there will be more interest. This is an award for doctoral student who are writing their dissertations. Applications to grad school are up over 25%. We don't know how this will affect enrollment in the fall yet. Mustafa asks about students who drop out. The Grad College has done a survey, and most of those students who dropped out weren't assistants. Hardly any of them switched to another institution, which is an encouraging statistic. The survey is difficult to do, and so there is a plan to offer all students lifetime email service to keep in touch with them
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Presidential Search Advisory Committee: Rosana is an integral part of the committee, so GSAC has been represented. The interviews in Detroit were effective and surprising, and a rewarding activity for Rosana. All three remaining candidates are strong. Ghosh will be doing his public presentation tonight at 5:30 at the Business College. Tomorrow the search committee will meet and decide upon a recommendation. Then they will meet with the Board of Trustees
 - b. Meeting with VP Student Affairs Diane Anderson: Spoke of graduate student housing. She will get back to us on that issue. Also, Rosana wants to know what the Board of Trustees does with her reports. She plans to ask for feedback next time
 - c. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – David Zwart: General membership meeting April 20. We will discuss the University's last best offer. This is the most important meeting all year
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: basic updates
 - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: brochure is at the printer
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – Roy Henry, Ali Fhadel, Jason Olsen, Kelly Daniels: unfortunately Roy had to attend to personal business, and the Hilltop Review is on hold
 - d. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
 - i. Proposals
 1. * Association of Graduate English Students (AGES): GSAC recommends funding \$2500 for their annual creative writing reader. Moved by Erich. Seconded by Birkin. Motion carries
 - e. Ad Hoc Committee (5) – Roy Henry, Chair: met once to make a plan to create bylaws and a constitution
 - f. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Amy Noack & Jason Olsen: Pyenson covered this information earlier

- ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Erich Sommerfeldt: Dr. Pyenson clashed with the Council over his assertion that conferences were a waste of time, and the Master’s degrees at WMU will never compete
- iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jennifer Messana: meeting canceled
- iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: Hired Rosana’s top choice for the HIGE Dean, Dr. McCloud, who has many contacts in Asia. This is a good direction for international studies
 - g. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey (on hold until Summer/Fall)
 - h. CAB representative –
 - i. WSA representative – Jo Lau: not in attendance
- 8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Diane Rehm Talk _ Rescheduled for 9/25
 - b. Bus trip to Chicago 3/31: was a great success. Students generally thought this was an excellent use of student fees
 - c. Vice-Chair Search – Full appointment: 15 applicants so far. GSAC will fund half the stipend, and the Grad College the other half. GSAC’s portion will be approximately \$6,000 per year
- 9. New Business
 - a. Faculty Feedback Workshop: Three students presenting. It’s going well
- 10. General Announcements & Briefs
 - a. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: April 13, May 11
- 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 12. Adjourn