



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 15, 2006, 1:30 – 3:30 PM.
Room 204, MLK Room, Bernhard Center

Members Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Kelly Daniels (Vice Chair), Jason Olsen (English), Joanne Lau (Philosophy), Deondra Ramsey (Poli Sci), Roy Henry (Poli Sci), Dawn Anderson (Health and Human Services) Emily Schrimpf (Social Work), Thomaz Chianca (Evaluation Center), Kelly Davidson (Student Affairs), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Erich Sommerfeldt, Julie Scrivener (Grad College)

Guests: Jessica Lynam DeBoer (Spanish)

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of Minutes from 11/10/06: moved by Kelly Daniels, seconded by Erich
4. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College
5. Report from Julie Scrivener: Travel Awards; funded 25 out of 39 proposals, including 7 international awards, supplemented by GSAC
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Presidential Search Advisory Committee: job description is finished. Will appear in Chronicle of Higher Education. 20 or so candidates have been nominated. Some have accepted.
 - b. Dinner with the President: should happen in February.
 - c. NAGPS National Conference: Rosana, Jenn, and Doris attended. 40 schools present. GSAC, it turns out, is a model Graduate Organization. A new board is being organized. Rosana and Jenn have been elected as CFO and National Employment Concerns Chair respectively
 - d. Future of WMU Panel – 11/28/06: focused on many of WMU's problems. Nothing new to us, but a good event for members of the community
 - e. The Power of Procrastination - 12/01/06: went well, in spite of the University being closed. Jorge was already in town, so we went on with the event. Over a hundred attended. We drank \$750 worth of wine, and all the food. No waste. A good time for all
 - f. Professional Development Day - 12/08/06: 86 students attended. A great success all around.
 - g. Addendum to proposal to President: Dr. Haenicke approved proposals to organize a panel of professional scholars to critique student presentations; and to make a print edition of The Hilltop Review
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: new pictures added to website. We plan to buy a new camera
 - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: working on redesigning and printing brochures
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop) – Roy Henry: 21 submissions this fall. The magazine is getting a higher profile, but would like to continue this trend, to become a legitimate peer reviewed journal. We need more members, in the form of a review pool. Going into print will help
 - d. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: not present; RPC was a joint meeting with the Grad Studies Council
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Erich Sommerfeldt: low funding levels block the ability to recruit the quality of students departments would like. Offering all Master's students In State tuition levels will help out of state students
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Kelly Daniels: could not attend. Minutes not available yet, but next meeting will catch up with reports
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: Ongoing challenges to competing in the International market; considering rethinking the European three year program;

they've set up a network of current students who can be contacted by prospective international students. Turn around rate for visa processing is now three weeks. A great improvement

- e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
 - i. Proposals
 1. * History Graduate Student Organization: GFAC recommends \$500 for operational expenses. Moved by Erich. Seconded by Jason. Motion carries
 - f. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey
 - i. *Needs financial support for event: \$500. Moved by Jason, seconded by Kazu.
 - g. CAB representative – No one present
 - h. WSA representative – Jo Lau: Graduate students are badly underrepresented. According to WSA's constitution they could have five graduate representatives. Jo suggests we need more involvement.
8. Unfinished Business
- a. Bus trip to Chicago – Discussion of ways to make sure no one will not show up and waste tickets.
 - i. Betrayal at Steppenwolf Theatre
 - ii. Museum of Science and Industry: Daniels; why not make the event go to Body Worlds II? General agreement with this suggestion.
 - b. Diane Rehm Talk: Erich; March 13th. 7:30 pm. Poli Sci and Public Admin, and the Provost have contributed. We are 2,500 short, but still looking for donors. Everything is moving ahead well. Still working on a title
 - c. Anti-Racism Panel: Looking at Kraftbrau as a venue. Discussion about whether the venue should be on or off campus; ultimately, it is Ron's event, with some oversight
9. New Business
- a. Constitution and By Laws: we do not have these. Instead we have "rules and regulations." Rosana and Kelly want to turn the rules into a constitution and by laws.
 - b. Vice-Chair Search: will start in Spring; new policy, maximum one full time assistantship, (one full time, or two half time appointments), a change from the current maximum of an assistantship and a half.
 - c. Next Professional Development Day – dates? Week before Spring Break. Friday afternoon.
 - d. Big Brother Big Sister Bowling: Rosana suggests we form a GSAC team, to volunteer to bowl on behalf of the Big Brother Big Sister event. 10-12, or 12-2, February 23, Harpo's lane
10. General Announcements & Briefs
- a. Unionization – David Zwart: Jessica: see the website: www.tauaft.org. Have presented the contract requests, and are waiting for a response.
 - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Julie; new payment plan policy, where students can set up a plan to pay tuition, or health care. \$30 fee.
 - c. Next GFAC meeting(s) –January 12
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11. General Discussion "The State of Graduate Schools"
12. Adjourn: 3:23