



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

November 14, 2008, 3p.m.

Connable Board of Trustee Room 201 (Bernhard Center)

Representatives Present: Brandi Pritchett (Chairperson), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Nayane Udawatte (Chemistry), Alissa Bailey (Communication), Greg Laing (English), David Shoup (History), Mohammad Al-Amar (Physics), Joe Johnson (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Computer Science), Imad Zyout (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Dr. Lewis Pyenson (The Graduate College), Ms. Melissa Green (Division of Student Affairs), Mr. Chris Sligh (Division of Student Affairs), Danielle Harik (Western Student Association)

Guests Present: None.

1. Call to order: 3:02
 2. Introductions
 3. *Approval of the Agenda 11/14/08: Stephany moves to approve, seconded by David.
 4. *Approval of Minutes from 10/10/08: David moves to approve, seconded by Stephany.
 5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Dr. Pyenson reported that historian Haydn White was on WMU's campus yesterday and today and gave a speech at the Fetzer Center, as well as held a smaller Master Class and luncheon with students. He also stated that Eloy Rodriguez, a notable figure in natural medicine, will be on campus on Monday and Tuesday next week. Dr. Pyenson reported that WMU will be graduating 52 to 54 doctoral students in December, which means that WMU may maintain 100+ doctoral graduates this year. He also stated that TAU contract talks are beginning, which will impact the lives of graduate students at WMU. Finally, he mentioned that Dr. Paul Courant has been invited to speak at the Second Annual Graduate Student Summit about the current economy and its impact on graduate students and higher education. He also reported that the Governor has been invited to speak at this event, although there is word yet as to whether she will be able to attend.
 6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Summit Report: Brandi reported that preliminary planning has begun for the Second Annual Graduate Student Summit and that the GSAC may develop a small ad hoc committee at some point to assist in planning for this event. Kazuhiro briefly discussed his experience at last year's Summit. Alyssa mentioned that the primary purpose of this year's Summit will be to develop an organization that can be sustained over the course of the year and that details regarding this organization will be worked out at this year's Summit.
 - b. WMU Print Policy - CELEBRATE THE VICTORY! Brandi reported that the GSAC was successful, with the help of Dr. Gilchrist, Dr. Dunn, and Students for Sustainable Earth, in increasing the printing limit for graduate students at all OIT labs from 500 to 750 free prints. This change in printing limits will become effective in January.
 - c. WMU Week in Detroit! Brandi reported that WMU Week in Detroit focused on visibility, recruitment, and fundraising for WMU. She stated that this event was very fun and that she would like to encourage more participation from the GSAC at next year's event, which will feature WMU vs. MSU in a football game at Ford Field.
 - d. Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Committee: Brandi stated that she attended a meeting of this body this morning and that graduate student representation is still needed on two of the eight committees (Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities and Engagement and Service).
 7. *GFAC – Alyssa Kalata
 - a. Pakistan Students Association: Requested \$2,500.00 for a musical performance. Alyssa stated that the GFAC recommends that \$2,500.00 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - b. Graduate Student and Professionals in Student Affairs: Request tabled until December meeting.
 - c. Sociology Graduate Student Association: Requested \$500.00 for operational expenses. Alyssa stated that the GFAC recommends that \$500.00 for operational expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 8. GSAC Treasurer – Alyssa Kalata: Alyssa reported that GFAC is on target in terms of allocations for this year and will likely have allocated 50% of all funds by December.
 9. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
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- i. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata*: Alyssa reported that she had no major updates regarding the website. Brandi asked about the progress of switching the website over to the general WMU template. Alyssa stated that she is having difficulty switching to the template. Chris suggested that Alyssa contact Brian Woy and Stephany volunteered to provide some assistance.
- ii. Public Relations Committee (3) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto, Svetlana Stone, Krystal Bresnahan: Kazuhiro reported that up to 220 students will be coming to the event at the KIA, from 5:00 – 8:00 next Friday. He stated that the Radisson will be catering the event and that WIDR will be DJing jazz music. He also reported that President Dunn may attend the event.
- a. Graduate Research and Publication Committee (4) – *Vacant*: No updates.
- b. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Kamleshkumar Suthar*: Not present.
- c. University Councils & Committees
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) - *Greg Laing, Tammy DeRoo*: Greg reported that OVPR has assembled an export control policy that is enforced federally. He encouraged all GSAC members to check with OVPR about this export control policy if they have any research that may involve international communications. Greg also reported that RPC will be discussing in-state tuition funding levels for international students.
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Brandi Pritchett, Alyssa Kalata*: Alyssa reported that the primary topic of discussion at the GSC meeting was the criteria for the Research and Creative Scholar Awards and the Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards.
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – *Katie Smith*: Not present.
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto*: Kazuhiro discussed WMU’s involvement in the internationalization laboratory, which focuses on making internationalization more feasible. Kazuhiro also mentioned that he is serving on a Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee, for which he is looking in to creating a student subcommittee, since students have a lot of useful information in this area.
 - v. President’s University Sustainability Committee (1) – *David Shoup, Daniel Seidling*: David reported that the Committee will likely be issuing a report early next semester. He stated that there is a huge push from the committee for the University to switch over to recycled paper for use in their printers and copiers. He reported that progress in this area has been held up by some faculty concerns that recycled paper will jam printers and copiers. David stated that this concern is being researched and tested. The GSAC membership voted unanimously to provide support for the use of recycled paper on campus. David stated that he will draft up a document regarding the GSAC’s opinion on this matter.
 - vi. University Accreditation Committee (8) – *Brandi Pritchett* (Steering), Svetlanta Stone (Student Learning), Phyllis Pennock (Mission & Integrity), Greg Laing (Preparing for the Future), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Acquisition, Discovery, Application) ***Need 2 Members!***: Brandi, Greg, and Stephany all reported that they attended their first subcommittee meetings, which focused primarily on information gathering. Brandi stated that there are still openings on two subcommittees (Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities and Engagement and Service) and that involvement on these committees would be only an hour to one and a half hours each month.
- d. MLK Committee: No report.
- e. WSA representative – *Danielle Harik, President*: Danielle reported that WMU achieved their goal in the United Way Campaign and that WSA, CAB, and the Honors College were particularly involved. She also stated that the Pizza with the Provost event went well and that a graduate student was in attendance. Danielle also reported on a number of upcoming events. On November 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., a couple of student organizations will be doing a t-shirt swap, where students can bring a t-shirt from another school and exchange it for a WMU t-shirt. On November 21st, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., a “diversity dinner” will be held, which includes dancing, music, speakers, and a free dinner. Finally, WSA will be attending the second Student Association of Michigan conference, where issues that impact students, such as book prices and transportation, will be discussed.
- f. CAB representative – *David VanDeusen, President*: Chris reported on behalf of CAB. He stated that CAB members just returned from a regional conference that focused on possible entertainers to bring

to WMU. He also reported that CAB is looking in to digital projection for the Miller Movies and that the transition to digital projection will likely occur by next Fall.

g. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – Jamie McCandless: Not present.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Branch Campus Outreach – Alyssa & Dan: Alyssa reported that she and Daniel visited the Southwest Campus in Benton Harbor, which houses a few different graduate programs. She stated that the primary purpose of their visit was to be present at an Open House for potential undergraduate and graduate students seeking information about attending WMU, but that she and Dan also had an opportunity to meet with a Social Work class to get feedback about their campus.

b. NAGPS – Brandi & Mohammad: Brandi reported that she and Mohammad attended the NAGPS National Conference at University of Minnesota. Brandi stated that they went to a number of presentations, discussed a new Student Bill of Rights, and the created the annual legislative platform, which focused on many of the same issues from last year, as well as new issues pertaining to the FAFSA, international student visas, and diversity. Brandi also reported that Mohammad was also elected as the International Concerns Chairperson for the Midwest region. Brandi noted that next year’s meeting will occur in Lincoln, Nebraska and that the NAGPS Regional Conference will occur in March at Notre Dame University in Indiana. Finally, Brandi noted that the second Legislative Action Days event of the academic year will occur in February.

c. Change 4 Change (Allocations Letter) – Alyssa & Brandi: Brandi reported that Alyssa composed a letter to Governor Granholm regarding state higher education appropriations, an idea that came out of a meeting with President Dunn, Katie John, and Greg Rosine. GSAC received a brief letter from Governor Granholm in return. Brandi also noted that Phase One for improvements on Sangren Hall has been approved and individuals working on the project are currently working out a lot of logistical issues (e.g. where to hold classes). Brandi reported that with Change4Change, we will be trying to raise money for something small to contribute to the Sangren project (e.g. furniture, technology), possibly through the use of drop boxes, websites, and other fundraising methods.

d. Student Union: Brandi asked GSAC members how they feel about the idea of GSAC having an office in the Bernhard Center. Mohammad stated that he thinks it is a good idea because of visibility and its central location on campus. Brandi stated that these would be benefits, in addition to proximity to other student organizations. She also mentioned that there are benefits to housing GSAC at the Graduate College, in particular that many people involved with graduate student life at WMU are located in the Graduate College. Daniel suggested that GSAC should try to have offices at both the Bernhard Center and the Graduate College.

e. Dinner w/ the President: Brandi reported that Dinner with President Dunn was cancelled because only eleven people agreed to attend and Brandi had agreed to have at least twenty-five people attend. Brandi asked if GSAC members would like to try and have this event in the future. Nayane stated that GSAC should try to have the event on a weekday. Kazuhiro stated that he doubted GSAC would be able to get the necessary attendance because of schedule conflicts, although he stated that the event was a pleasant, informal way to interact with the president. Kazuhiro and Mohammad suggested that maybe in the future the event could be opened to GSAC members and one or two friends of each GSAC member, in order to increase attendance. Kazuhiro also suggested that we should invite President Dunn to future GSAC events.

f. Upcoming Events (pg. 5): Brandi reported that the speaker event has been postponed due to scheduling difficulties.

11. New Business

a. Communication: Brandi stated that communication with the graduate student body is one of the biggest challenges faced by the GSAC. She asked the GSAC membership if they had any ideas for methods of communication, aside from e-mail. Members suggested blogs, monthly newspapers, interviews and articles written about the GSAC in the WMU Herald, and a Wiki similar to that created by UC Davis.

b. NEW trinkets: Brandi reported that the GSAC needs to purchase new items to hand out at GSAC events and on campus. She asked what sort of “freebies” GSAC should give away. Members suggested car stickers, mugs (in particular, eco-mugs), pens, staples, license plates, USB drives, pins, and bags.

c. Departmental Reports ☺: Kazuhiro reported that the Biology graduate student group has been inactive, but that they’re thinking about reactivating it. Mohammad stated that the Chemistry graduate student group is active, Alyssa mentioned that the Clinical Psychology program just created an RSO (CPGSO), and Brandi stated that the CECP department is trying to get a graduate student departmental organization started.

12. Student Concerns (open floor): Kazuhiro mentioned that a group called the International Student Coalition has been started and mentioned that some of the interactions between the group and other on-campus bodies have been somewhat hostile in nature. He cautioned members to remember that this is a small group of international students and does not represent the international student perspective on campus as a whole. Joe mentioned that Patricia Williams is starting a RSO for students who were/are involved in the Kalamazoo Promise. Mohammad mentioned that the MSA event, "Why I Am Still Muslim" is occurring tonight at 6:00 p.m. Imad asked why students the Electrical and Computer Engineering have not recently received teaching and research awards. The teaching and research award process was discussed. Imad also suggested to try to vary the times of GSAC events so more people can attend.

13. General Announcements & Briefs

a. Announcements for the Good of the Order

b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: Dec. 12th (Walwood Commons), Jan. 9th, Feb. 13th

14. General Discussion "The State of Graduate Schools"

15. Adjorn: 4:46

* Items that require a vote of members

FYI: EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- In Spring 2009, you'll be able to use either our existing library catalog
<https://www.library.wmich.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>
or our new catalog <https://vufind.library.wmich.edu/vufind/> and compare features

We'd like to have graduate students participate in a 30-45 minute exercise. We're offering FREE \$10 WMU Bookstore Gift Card (Bernhard Ctr) for your feedback. We'll ask you to complete an exercise using either our existing catalog or our new one currently in development and then ask you about your experience.

Please let Michele D. Behr (michele.behr@wmich.edu or 269.387.5611) know if you'd be available to visit Waldo Library for 30-45 minutes Tuesday, November 18, or Wednesday, November 19 at either 9am, 10am, 11am or 2pm, 3pm, or 4pm. If you aren't able to be here Tuesday, we'd appreciate whatever comments you might have about the new library catalog via our convenient online suggestion form:

<http://www.wmich.edu/library/forms/feedback.php>.

- FREE Parenting Course through Capstone Family Support Center. Call 269.926.1979
- 2009 World Congress on Computer Science and Information Engineering (CSIE 2009)
March 31 - April 2, 2009
Los Angeles/Anaheim, USA
<http://world-research-institutes.org/conferences/CSIE/2009>

GSAC Opportunities

Evening at Kalamazoo Institute of Art – November 21st 5-8pm

Your Pathway to Publication: Panel Discussion & Workshop – November 19th (auditorium) & 20th (rm. 2016) at the Fetzer Center

GSAC/WSA Speaker Collaboration – December (Postponed)