



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 8, 2007, 3 PM.  
MLK Room – Bernhard Center

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*Representatives Present:* Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Alyssa Kalata (Incoming Vice-Chair), Chris Praedel (WSA), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Erich Sommerfeldt (Communication), Joanne Lau (Philosophy).

*Guests Present:* Dr. Marianne DiPierro (Graduate College), Dr. Julie Scrivener (Graduate College).

1. Call to order: 3:04
2. Introductions
3. \*Approval of the Agenda 6/8/07: Erich moves to approve, seconded by Kazuhiro.
4. \*Approval of Minutes from 5/11/07 (pgs. 2-3) : Erich moves to approve, seconded by Kazuhiro.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Not in attendance.
6. Report from the Chair
  - a. Incoming GSAC Vice Chair: Rosana welcomes Alyssa.
  - b. Meeting with the Board of Trustees: Meeting occurred on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
    - i. Tuition Increase Tabled: A proposal had been made to increase tuition by up to 9%. This was tabled by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees would like to see more creative ways to solve the budget problem. The new suggestions will be voted on in the July Board of Trustees meeting.
    - ii. President Haenicke: This was President Haenicke's last meeting and many individuals expressed sadness about his retirement.
    - iii. Rosana reported that she spoke about what GSAC did during the past year to the Board of Trustees. Chris also gave a report to the Board of Trustees, with an emphasis on the impact of a tuition increase on students.
  - c. Graduate Student Loan Presentation: Rosana raised to possibility of having individuals come in the fall to speak for approximately forty-five minutes about student loans and issues relating to student loans (e.g. loan consolidation). Erich and Kazuhiro both expressed interest, stated it would be valuable, and commented that we could anticipate at least thirty to forty individuals to attend. Chris stated that the presentation may also be relevant for undergraduate students as well. Rosana will contact Marc Delorey in the Financial Aid department regarding arrangements for the presentation.
  - d. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – Jason Trowbridge: Not in attendance.
7. Report from Marianne DiPierro: Dr. DiPierro discussed recent research conducted by the University examining difficulties that graduate students face and what the University needs to do to address these concerns. 805 fewer graduate students enrolled in Spring semester compared to Fall semester. Dr. DiPierro and a small team of students made attempts to contact these individuals over the phone and through e-mail to discuss their reasons for not enrolling during Spring semester. The top reasons for non-enrollment in the Spring semester were: (1) Medical, family, or work conflicts, (2) Financial issues, (3) Taking comprehensive exams, (4) PTG status or a change in career plans or goals, (5) Completing a certification process, (6) Transfer to another university, and (7) Other (e.g. prior incompletes, lack of availability of courses, poor weather, cost of driving to the university). It was proposed that these issues could be addressed a number of different ways, including: (1) Providing more online education and/or nontraditional approaches, (2) Requiring continuous enrollment, and (3) More individual, one-on-one contact with graduate students by the graduate college and faculty members, particularly in an advisory capacity. Dr. DiPierro also plans on following up with a group of the individuals who were contacted to encourage them to come back to the University and provide them with support through the process. Dr. DiPierro emphasized the importance of a one-on-one, individual approach when working with students who are having difficulty maintaining continuous enrollment at the University and proposed that the graduate college should contact all students

who don't maintain continuous enrollment at the University each semester and discuss collaborative strategies for helping them to maintain continuous enrollment. Dr. DiPierro will make a copy of this report available.

8. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: Not in attendance.
  - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye : Not in attendance.
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – Roy Henry, Ali Fhadel, Jason Olsen, Kelly Daniels: Rosana reported that she is waiting for files from Roy, but that the most recent issue of the Hilltop Review is almost complete.
  - d. GFAC – Kelly Daniels: Not in attendance.
    - i. Proposals
      1. No proposals
  - e. Ad Hoc Committee (5) – Roy Henry, Chair: Not in attendance.
  - f. University Councils
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Amy Noack & Jason Olsen: Not in attendance.
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Erich Sommerfeldt: Rosana reported that the most recent meeting of the Graduate Studies Council was brief. She stated that there was a discussion about not allowing graduate students to teach graduate level courses. She reported that there will still be exceptions to this rule, although this rule will be enforced more vigorously.
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jennifer Messina: Rosana reported that the most recent meeting of this council was cancelled.
    - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: Kazuhiro reported that the University has a new immigration officer, who will address issues like Visa changes, I-20 issues, etc. and that the Haenicke Institute will be taking on a new Dean in August, Dr. McCloud. He also stated that the University is holding an OPT workshop. More information can be found on the University website. Kazuhiro also noted that Spring enrollment data has been compiled and the enrollment for international students increased. Joanne also asked if the Haenicke Institute had mentioned anything about scholarships for international students. She stated that she heard ten scholarships for graduate students were given out, although the website indicated the scholarships were only for undergraduate students. Julie mentioned that the scholarships to which Joanne was referring may have been the Presidential Scholarships that went to the International Students Office.
    - g. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey (on hold until Summer/Fall): Not in attendance.
    - h. CAB representative: Not in attendance.
    - i. WSA representative – Chris reported that students will have access to free legal aid in the Fall and that this access will be open to graduate students as well. Chris stated the WSA still meets every Wednesday at 4:15. He stated that he would like to attend all GSAC meetings (or send a representative in his place) to increase collaboration and the development of common goals.
9. Unfinished Business
  - a. GSAC's Strategic Plan – Rosana Alsaud, Laiza Ashraf, Birkin Gilmore: Rosana reported that work has begun on a strategic plan for GSAC. She stated that the team is in the process of writing mission and vision goals for GSAC and is also in the process of coming up with an outline that makes sense for GSAC. Rosana anticipates having a completed strategic plan by the fall semester.
10. New Business
  - a. Fall Events: Rosana stated that the budget will be determined next week.
    - i. CommUniverCity - 9/8/07: The ticket number for this event will be increased to 550 or 600 tickets, depending on the budget.
    - ii. Welcome Back Picnic & Golf – 9/15 or 9/22.
    - iii. Professional Development Day: The date for this event is not yet set.
    - iv. Social Event – Date not set yet, likely in December. Rosana would like ideas for a possible event!
    - v. Student Loans Presentation – Date not yet set.

- vi. Diane Rehm – 9/25/07.
  - vii. Dinner with the President: Erich proposed that this occur in the early fall, possible October. Friday and Sunday nights were proposed as possible days.
11. General Announcements & Briefs
    - a. Announcements for the Good of the Order
    - b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: July 13, August 10
  11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
  12. Adjourn: 3:48