

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, January 14, 2000
Bernhard Center, Connable Board Room

MINUTES

Representative Present: Jay Cawthorne (Paper and Printing Sciences & Engineering), Ron Coleman (Sociology), Carmen Cornieles (Educational Studies), Doris Dirks (History), Mark Frederick (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Jessica Gardner (Music), Jessica Grace (History), Nancy Greer-Williams (Communication), Kurt Hayden (Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering), Matthew Hollrah (English), Tim Kuehnlein (Political Science), Stanislav Rumega (Physics), Sean Smitham (Psychology), Courtney Thomas (Materials Engineering & Industrial Design), Larry Tobos (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Dale Werkema (Geosciences), Rodger Zanny (Computer Science)

Guests: Rob Engblom (WSA), Julie Scrivener (The Graduate College), Dr. Michael Pritchard (The Graduate College), Amy Nelson (Student Affairs), Elton Weintz (GSAC Chair Emeritus)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the December 10, 1999 GSAC meeting were approved.

III. PRESENTATION

Presentation by Career & Student Employment Services Office.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair's meeting with Dr. Floyd was canceled. The Chair reminded members of GSAC about the dinner with President Floyd on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.. She sought confirmation from those wishing to attend the dinner, and organized the topics of discussion. The topics include the enrollment threshold for maintaining graduate courses, three-quarter assistantships, Spindler Hall, research and travel grants, library concerns, health care, graduate student representation, hiring of faculty.

The Chair presented the Provost Visitation Schedule and encouraged all members to attend one or more of the sessions. Large public presentations are planned for each candidate, and opportunities for students to meet with the candidates are also provided. Dr. Pritchard encouraged GSAC members to make a special effort to be in attendance at these meetings.

Regarding health care, the Chair reported that the administration has begun preliminary discussions about health care for graduate students. There was considerable discussion about the various options that might be suggested. One major point was made that a pay increase to account for health insurance may be a better option than accepting university health insurance. Members were encouraged to think about various options that they might prefer. There was discussion about how involved graduate students would be in the discussion about extending health care privileges to graduate students. A motion was made to create a GSAC Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care. Tim Kuehnlein volunteered to be chair of the committee. The Chair distributed a brochure from NAGPS concerning health care options available through the Association.

Regarding NAGPS, the Chair entertained the option of elevating the status of GSAC to the highest level of membership. Discussion centered on the extra benefits that might accompany such an elevation of status. While it was suggested that there may not be any specific benefits, greater support of the Association would be potentially beneficial to GSAC indirectly.

V. UNIVERSITY COUNCILS, GSAC SUB-COMMITTEES, WSA

Research Policies Council (Roger Zanny): The Faculty Senate concluded discussion on the intellectual properties document and approved it. The final product allows researchers to take copies of documents and research. The University maintains the primary records.

Campus Planning Council (Dale Werkema): No report, but Werkema asked to be replaced as the representative to this Council because of schedule conflicts. Jessica Grace accepted the position.

Faculty Senate (Doris Dirks): The status of strategic planning was discussed. Doris raised questions concerning Academic Integrity Committee. There seemed to be confusion as to the status of the committee and the role that graduate students would play in such a committee. Discussion ensued, and GSAC agreed to establish a list of names/potential representatives to submit to the Committee.

Graduate Financial Allocation Committee (Jay Cawthorne): The new GFAC guideline concerning allocation of funds for food were distributed. The new guidelines stipulate that food and beverage funding requests must not exceed \$500 per academic year for operational budgets or 50% of the total amount of funds requested for specific events, meetings, speakers, presentations, banquets, functions, etc.

A \$1,000 allocation to the Graduate Student Writing Center for the purpose of purchasing books for the Writing Center library was recommended by GFAC. GSAC approved the recommendation. Approval came with the friendly request for the Writing Center to report its purchases to GSAC.

A \$3,000 request from the Creative Writing Program (English Dept.) was submitted for a poetry reading event. GFAC recommended allocating \$2,000 toward honorarium with the stipulation that the event must be confirmed by March 1, 2000. The Program was encouraged to seek additional funding from the President's Office. The recommendation was approved by GSAC with two members voting in opposition to the recommendation.

Public Relations Committee (Trish Basford): The Chair announced that Trish agreed to accept the chairmanship of the committee. The primary objective of the committee is to organize the Graduate Reception and develop alternative plans for the student calendar/handbook as well as subsequent funds that become available as a result of such reorganization. An organizational meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 28, 2000. Members of the committee include Trish Basford, Doris Dirks, Jay Cawthorne, Matt Hollrah, Tim Kuehnlein, Pete Lawson, and Elton Weintz.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Jay Cawthorne reminded GSAC members that they should be thinking ahead to the 2000-2001 year in regards to the GSAC Chair position.

VIII. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BRIEFS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.