

## Graduate Student Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center

07-09-06

**Representatives Present:** Rosana Alsaud (Finance Chair), Todd Ide (former chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Jason Nuzzo (Performing Arts Admin), Lokendra Pal (Paper Engineering)

**Guests:** Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Graduate College), Judy Gipper (Dining Services)

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1. Call to order: 4:02
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes (pgs. 2-3). Moved by Todd, seconded by Jason. Motion carries.
4. Report and introduction from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Graduate College Dean
  - a. We are seeking Truth, with Compassion. The goal of graduate studies. Spoke of background. Dr. of History of Science. Impressed with the faculty. Spoke of a “bump” in graduate studies, which will be gotten over.
  - b. Concrete: 1. Student parking slots in Walwood. 2. Organizing an annual lecture series, devoted to a general theme embracing all disciplines, “prospects and perils of world peace,” this year’s theme, four inside speakers, four outside, contacted two outside speakers including the provost of K College who is a political scientist, Spencer Weirt, physicist and author, has a line on a Nobel Peace Prize Winner, looking for inside speakers as well. 3. Will buy a high powered printer, on which we can make our own advertising. 4. Grad College will stay in Walwood. 5. Bringing forth GSAC issues to Faculty Senate—more attention to theses and dissertations, will work with programs to get a closer relationship between advisor and student, these documents are overall concerns of the university, its reputation; other matters dealing with students switching programs, streamline this procedure, even encourage it. Question: where will GSAC move? Answer: stay with the Grad College, for now.
5. Report from the Chair
  - a. Brief introduction: MBA candidate in finance, and has worked with Career Services, which will be a boon for Professional Development Day.
  - b. Dinner with Bailey: postponed until the fall. She will contact us. President will meet privately with Rosana soon.
  - c. Provost Search Committee: Soon they will post advertisement. Using a consultant. Seems very fair, and all are participating.
  - d. Board of Trustees 7/14/06 Meeting: Rosana and Todd both spoke. Tuition has been increased 6%. Got rid of block tuition for grad students. Todd suggests revisiting block tuition to nine for the cost of eight credits. Miscommunication about how long GSAC had to talk; Rosana spoke of tuition raise and urged administration to retain office of ombuds; Todd spoke of housing opportunity
6. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

- a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: 1. Fixed various links. Yet we need more links to graduate RSOs. 2. Working on the history page. Perhaps we need to contact the Faculty Senate. 3. Streamlined the site overall. 4. We want to improve the overall look by working with the logo. Rosana has a suggestion for a revolving “poster” on the front page. Discussion follows. Kazu: update and expand rep list. Jason: prefers a clean, simple look
  - b. Public Relations – Need a rep
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones: (Todd): all but one of the articles are back with revisions. Ready for publication in fall. Working on symposium, perhaps in spring
  - d. University Councils
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: no activity
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Todd Ide: not meeting this month or next. Dr. Jellies presented, explaining the process of the review appeal
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Kelly Daniels: Will meet September 19<sup>th</sup>.
    - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto (pgs. 4-6): Dropping population of international students; need more trained faculty in OISS, turnaround of visas needs to speed up. We are uncompetitive that way. Pyenson: they will hire new staff
  - e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels: call for members.
    - i. Proposals: \$500 requested by OUTreach for operational funds. Tabled until next meeting. Motion carries. \$2000 requested by WIDR for Barking Tuna Festival. Moved by Todd, seconded by Kazu. Motion carries.
  - f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks
  - g. CAB representative –
  - h. WSA representative –
7. Unfinished Business
- a. Committee Replacements: Rosana passes around a list.
  - b. Housing Proposal: Todd: made the changes recommended last meeting; the Board seemed receptive. Dr. Pyenson: optimistic but it won’t be easy. Vice Pres of housing says there’s a question of favoritism toward grad students. Pyenson suggests the argument could be made for assistants. Todd supports this by pointing out Michigan State offers free rent for assistants.
  - c. GSAC Student Programming Awards: Kelly Davidson: there are rules governing the release of activities funds. More clarification will follow. Rosana suggests another option: pooling our money with the grad college to help support the colloquium. Discussion follows
8. New Business
- a. Dining Services – Judy Gipper: wants to communicate with grad students about dining options. Will attend picnic, other events
  - b. CAB’s 20% of SAF: Tabled until next meeting
  - c. Graduate Colloquium: Tabled
  - d. GA/TA Training: August in Schneider Hall. Various brief presenters. Break out sessions. New GAs and TAs will have a lot of choice. Desk for insurance

- e. Graduate Students Orientation: Dilemma: Scheduling is a problem. Labor Day weekend can't happen. Before that can't happen. The week after conflicts with CommUniverCity. Discussion follows. A web based orientation? How about at the picnic? General agreement
  - f. CommUniverCity planning: speaking to caterers. Ordered 500 tickets for game
  - g. Picnic planning: speaking to caterers.
  - h. New job: Managing Gilmore House. Ad will go out
9. General Announcements & Briefs
- a. Unionization – Keith Russo and Jason Olson: not present
  - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order
  - c. Next GFAC meeting(s) – August 11, September 8
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11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
12. Adjourn