



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, March 16, 2007, 3 PM
Room 204, MLK Room, Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Kelly Daniels (Vice Chair), Birkin Gilmore (English), Folashade Ogunleye (Finance & Commercial Law), Emily Shrimp (Social Work), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Science), David Shoup (History), Erich Sommerfeldt (Communication), David Zwart (TAU), Sarah Stangle (LGBT Student Services). Jennifer Messana (Public Affairs and Admin), Amy Noack (Geosciences), Jonathan Thurn (History), Roy Henry (Poly Sci), Laiza Ashraf (Finance), Mustafa Sanver (Computer Sci)

Guests Present: Casey Nelson (Educational Leadership), Yogesh Datar (Chemistry), Beth Sodr (Chemistry), Juan Carisalez (GSOC), Victoria Stallworth (AKA), Nevada Jones (AKA), Chris Praedal (WSA Presidential Candidate)

1. Call to order: 3:02
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda. Moved by Erich. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carries
4. *Approval of Minutes from 2/09/07: Moved by Kazoo, seconded by Erich. Motion carries
5. Report from Graduate College: not in attendance
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Presidential Search Advisory Committee: interviewing next week in Detroit
 - b. Anti Racism Panel: Went well. Well attended, and everyone was interesting. *The Gazette* article never mentioned GSAC. In the future we need to look at that
 - c. NAGPS Legislative Action Day: Rosana, Jen and Joanne went. Tried to meet with representatives, and managed to go door to door to meet with five reps. Praedal: "Upton will be at Bilbo's the next day at noon." Good job Rosana and Jen! Rosana: NAGPS has connections with corporations who will help graduate students learn about their finances. Would it be a good idea to invite them? Seems that there would be interest. Jen: connect it to PDD? Rosana will ask about it
 - d. NAGPS Regional Conference (Midwest) 3/22-3/25, Cleveland, OH: has been canceled because of low turnout. Perhaps it was because it was too close to Legislative Action Day
 - e. WSA Presidential Candidate—Christopher Praedal: passes around cards and invites us to vote. Grad students can even run for President. He has a website: www.chrispraedel.com. Wants a grad student on the WSA board. Wants to clean up WSA politics. WSA should have a GSAC rep. We can pass resolutions together. Work together to sign petitions. Another idea: campus cleanup day. Rosana: WSA meets weekly and it is too difficult for grad students to attend. Can we attend one day a month? Chris agrees. He also wants to improve the prestige of the WSA, in terms of the setup of the meetings, the professionalism of the organization. Vote from next Tuesday from 9 a.m., online until 11 p.m. Friday. On the www.wmich.edu homepage.
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: Updated event and news items
 - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: working on the brochure. We are foregoing the print handbook because it is expensive and all that info will be online
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – Roy Henry, Ali Fhadel, Jason Olsen: received a new batch of submissions. We need to read them quickly. Should be ready for Research Day. How many? Discussion ensues. Erich: try Howard Printing
 - d. Ad hoc committee: Roy Henry: haven't met yet. Will meet next week. We should meet with various other entities before proceeding
 - e. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) –Amy Noack and Jason Olsen:
 1. Research Day – 4/20, from nine to three

- ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaoud & Erich Sommerfeldt: we have 4,615 graduate students, 3,127 on campus, the latter of which is GSAC’s constituency. Created a sub committee to review the guidelines for dissertations
- iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jen: has not had the chance to attend yet
- iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: spring enrollment is up by 100%! Not back to pre 911 levels, but we getting closer
- f. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
 - i. Proposals
 - 1. * Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKAS) – GFAC recommends that AKAS seek funding at WSA because their events may not appeal to grad students. Also, they may come next week with a rep from their grad chapter
 - 2. * GSOC – Recommends \$500 for operational expenses. Moved by Fola, seconded by Erich. Motion carries
 - 3. * Alpha Phi Alpha Frat – missed GFAC meeting. Application denied
 - 4. * American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) – denied request for funding because it is covered by Research and Travel Grants. Discussion ensues about future rules of GFAC funding. Finally, our current policy is sound
 - g. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey: no activity
 - h. CAB representative –
 - i. WSA representative – Jo Lau: not in attendance
- 8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Bus trip to Chicago 3/31: going well. Both buses are nearly full.
- 9. New Business
 - a. Graduate Research and Travel Fund. Needs rep!
- 10. General Announcements & Briefs
 - a. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – David Zwart: wear your buttons. The team is negotiating a new contract
 - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order
 - c. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: March 16, April 20
- 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 12. Adjourn