



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 10, 2007, 3 PM.
Room 205– Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chairperson), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Matthew Abernathy (Biological Sciences), Alissa Bailey (Communication), Kris Kronlein (Geography), Jamie McCandless (History), Aaron Tremblay (Management), Christy Berry (Human Resources), Brandi Pritchett (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Tammy Douglas (Educational Leadership, Research & Technology), Alicia Crenlinsten (Health, Physical Education & Recreation), Dawn Anderson (Interdisciplinary Health Studies), Michelle Anderson (Interdisciplinary Health Studies)

Guests Present: Donna Bobcean (Eastern Michigan University), Gregory Laing (English), Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Dean of the Graduate College)

1. Call to order: 3:02
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of the Agenda 8/10/07 – Jamie moves to approve, seconded by Matthew.
4. *Approval of Minutes from 7/13/07 (pgs. 2-4) – Matthew moves to approve, seconded by Aaron.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College – Dr. Pyenson provided an update about two colloquia that will occur during the Fall semester. The first colloquium will focus on the question of truth and the ownership of ideas, which includes topics such as originality and copying. One speaker will be a distinguished professor of English who will talk about the question of truth and fiction. Dr. Pyenson will also be trying to secure a speaker from the Center of Ethics for this event. The rationale for this colloquium comes out of postmodernity and its focus on values. The second colloquium will involve a panel of distinguished professors who are accomplished in advising theses and dissertations. The focus of this colloquium will be the culture of the advisor-student relationship, as the academic world has norms for behavior that are not the norms for society at large. This colloquium will address the obligations and privileges on each side of this relationship. The Graduate College requests GSAC's help in publicizing these colloquia. Finally, Dr. Pyenson noted that Nora Berrah will be speaking on her initiative to increase the number of women in physics for an upcoming event.
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Welcome New Members – Rosana welcomed all new GSAC members and provided a general introduction to GSAC and its role in the University.
 - b. Tuition Rates Set (pgs. 7-8) – Rosana reported that tuition rates were set for this year during a Board of Trustees meeting in July. WMU's tuition rates increased the least out of all universities in the state of Michigan, at a rate of 6.4% for residents of the state of Michigan and with no increase for out of state and international students. Rosana also noted that there was no increase in student fees.
 - c. University Budget Set – Rosana reported that the Board of Trustees met one week after the meeting during which the tuition rates were set to determine the University's budget. The University's budget for this year will be 299 million dollars, which is slightly higher than last year's budget. This year's budget also includes a 5.9 million dollar shortfall and a two percent increase in salary to all staff.
 - d. Meeting with Pres. Dunn – topics? Rosana and Alyssa will be meeting with President Dunn for the first time in a few weeks. Rosana and Alyssa plan on meeting with President Dunn approximately every six weeks to discuss relevant developments at GSAC and also to speak informally about issues affecting the graduate student community. Rosana welcomed the GSAC members to contact her via e-mail with ideas of topics that may be worthwhile to discuss with the President.
 - e. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – Jason Trowbridge – Jamie spoke in Jason's absence. Jamie noted that the TAU office has moved off-campus to a location on West Main nearby

Qdoba. He also noted that TAU will be speaking at the graduate student orientation and will be distributing printed contracts at this time.

7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils (*ON HOLD FOR SUMMER*)
 - a. Web Committee – Alyssa Kalata
 - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilttop Review) – Roy Henry, Ali Fhadel, Jason Olsen
 - d. GFAC – Alyssa Kalata
 - i. Proposals - NONE
 - e. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Jason Olsen
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jennifer Messana
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto
 - f. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey
 - g. CAB representative –
 - h. WSA representative – Chris Pradel
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Fall events:
 - i. WSA BBQ – 8/10, 5pm at Goldsworth Valley Pond (must RSVP) – Rosana invited all GSAC members to attend the picnic.
 - ii. CommUniverCity - 9/8
 - iii. Welcome Back Banquet & Golf Outing – 9/15 – Rosana invited all GSAC members to come and play golf. She noted golf registration is limited to 120 people.
 - iv. An Evening with Diane Rehm – 9/25 – Rosana stated that volunteers are needed for this event and asked GSAC members to contact her if they are interested in helping to set the stage up and prepare for the event. She mentioned that volunteers would have an opportunity to speak to Diane Rehm one-on-one.
 - v. Dinner with the President – Date not set yet (October)
 - vi. Professional Development Day (Non Academic Careers) – 11/16 – Rosana reported that the agenda is still being set for this event.
 - vii. Social Event – Spring. Date not set yet. – Rosana noted that last year this event was the Jorge Cham presentation. This year, the event will occur in January or February. Rosana asked GSAC members to contact her with possible ideas for the event.
9. New Business
 - a. GSAC Representatives List (see double-sided green sheet) – The sheet was passed around.
 - b. Volunteers for 8/27 – stuffing envelopes – Rosana asked GSAC members to contact her if they are interested in volunteering to help stuff envelopes with tickets and nametags.
 - c. Graduate Student Survey – Rosana stated that the survey will be sent to all graduate students to help determine what students expect from GSAC in terms of events, representation, and other issues. Rosana asked GSAC members to contact her if they had any ideas for what types of questions to be included. Tammy suggested that GSAC contact Andrew Huang, who would be able to set up the survey for free through the University.
 - d. Create GSAC Newsletter – methods of promoting GSAC – Rosana stated that this newsletter would reach approximately 5,000 graduate students once a month. She mentioned that she would like to create a subcommittee with two to three graduate students. She asked GSAC members to contact her with any ideas about how to get the project started or what type of information should be included in the newsletter.
 - e. 1st Annual Michigan Graduate Student Summit – 9/29 (Eastern Michigan University) – Rosana mentioned that Donna approached her a few weeks ago about creating a summit and welcomed Donna to the meeting. Donna then provided a brief summary of the plan for the summit. She noted that the summit will likely include twenty-two Michigan schools, a

speech from the Governor, panels consisting of Board of Trustees or Board of Regents members, and opportunities to discuss issues such as unionizing, funding, and lobbying statewide. Each University is allowed to send up to fifteen students. Donna noted that students who would like to attend would be responsible for travel costs only. Rosana noted that she will be speaking about NAGPS and Alyssa will be speaking about GSAC and WMU. Rosana stated that she will e-mail GSAC members about who would like to attend.

- f. NAGPS Legislative Action Days - 9/12 – 9/14 (pgs. 5-6) – Rosana noted that GSAC has been active in NAGPS in the past and that she currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer. Last year, this event involved approximately sixty graduate students lobbying on Capital Hill and meeting with state representatives. Prior to meeting with representatives, a training is provided during which students are taught how to approach representatives and speak about the relevant issues. Rosana stated that at least two people from WMU can attend. She noted that this event teaches students how to lobby on a national level, is interesting and effective, and provides a good opportunity to promote WMU.
- g. NAGPS National Conference – 11/15 – 11/18 – This year, the conference will occur in Austin, TX. She noted that attending this conference provides an opportunity for students to network with sixty to eighty schools and address issues common to all schools. She also stated that an opportunity will be provided for students to run in elections to hold officer positions in the organization. She stated that involvement in elected positions is an excellent experience.

10. General Announcements & Briefs

- a. Announcements for the Good of the Order – Brandi announced that GSOC and GSAC will be collaborating to put on a “meet and greet” event with President Dunn on September 13th and 4:00 p.m. in either the Bernhard Center or another large venue. She stated that President Dunn will address the group and then graduate students will have an opportunity to speak with President Dunn individually.

- b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: August 10, September 14

11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

12. Adjourn: 3:47

Legislative Action Days

Dates: September 12-14, 2007

The goal of Legislative Action Days is to promote awareness on Capitol Hill of graduate and professional student concerns. NAGPS has been working tirelessly behind the scenes with Congress, but there's only so much we can do on our own. That's where you come in!

Where You Come In!

We need a diverse population from around the country, so that we can have constituents visit as many offices as possible. We will be printing packets with information on what issues to talk about, where to go, etc. In preparation for this, you will need to schedule appointments with your legislators. You should email us first at lcc@nagps.org to let us know that you will be attending, and to coordinate your appointments with us.

We suggest you join the Legislative Committee's mailing list so that you can play a role in the planning of this event.

Please contact Serge Egelman (lcc@nagps.org) if you plan to attend! We need to know how many people are coming, and with whom you plan on meeting.

Issues to Discuss

We plan on focusing on two different issues when we meet with our Senators and Representatives:

The Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act

More information on this issue can be found [here](#). Prior to 1986, graduate student stipends were tax-exempt. This bill would return them to their tax-exempt status. NAGPS has been working on this issue for many years. It was recently reintroduced in the 110th Congress as H.R. 1407 by Rep. Phil English. In the 109th Congress this bill received a total of 53 Cosponsors. We plan on speaking with previous cosponsors to retain their support, as well as convincing other Representatives to support this bill.

Equality for Graduate Students

Both the House and Senate have passed bills to reauthorize programs in the Higher Education Act. However, these bills create benefits for undergraduate students at the expense of graduate students. These bills are myopic because they will stifle America's competitiveness in the long term. We plan on working to include graduate students in any bills that promote higher education.

Stop Denying Student Aid to At-Risk Students

Since 1997, over 200,000 qualified students have been denied aid because of previous drug convictions. NAGPS believes that the Department of Education should not be used as part of the criminal justice system. Denying student aid to those who need it most only promotes recidivism. Studies have shown that college graduates are far less likely to commit future offenses and are more likely to be productive members of society. We plan on promoting awareness of this issue in hopes of getting the law changed.

Immigration Reform

Every year over 100,000 qualified advanced degree holders are denied work visas because of an outdated quota system. All of these applicants have recently obtained advanced degrees and have been deemed qualified by both potential employers and the government. However, because the number of applicants far exceeds the quota, most are forced to return to their home countries.

NAGPS believes that all qualified advanced degree holders should be allowed to contribute to the U.S. economy, if they so choose. We will be discussing this issue with legislators, in hopes of seeing similar language included in any future immigration bills.

Tentative Schedule

- Wednesday, September 12th

7:00-10:00PM

Group meeting to discuss the issues, learn how to talk to legislators, and answer any questions.

- Thursday, September 13th

9:00-10:30AM

Group meeting to discuss any lingering issues, and we will hear from an outside speaker.

10:30-5:00PM

Meetings with legislators.

5:00-8:00PM

Group happy hour.

- Friday, September 14th

9:00-5:00PM

Meet with legislators.

5:00-7:00PM

Happy hour and debriefing.

If you wish to attend, but cannot get your school to reimburse you, we may be able to offer grants. If you wish to apply, please email Serge Egelman (lcc@nagps.org). Please include your school, address, and any previous involvement with NAGPS events.

WMU tuition and fees

Fall or Spring semester rates (on-campus)	
effective with Fall Semester 2007	
Resident (on-campus)	Non-Resident (on-campus)
Undergraduate (lower) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,285 flat rate for 12 - 16 credits • \$219.00 per credit hour for 1 - 11 credits • \$3,285 plus \$219.00 for each credit hour over 16 	Undergraduate (lower) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,058 flat rate for 12 - 16 credits • \$537.22 per credit hour for 1 - 11 credits • \$8,058 plus \$537.22 for each credit hour over 16
Undergraduate (upper) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,630 flat rate for 12 - 16 credits • \$242.03 per credit hour for 1 - 11 credits • \$3,630 plus \$242.03 for each credit hour over 16 	Undergraduate (upper) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,973 flat rate for 12 - 16 credits • \$598.17 per credit hour for 1 - 11 credits • \$8,973 plus \$598.17 for each credit hour over 16
Graduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$344.75 per credit hour 	Graduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$730.18 per credit hour

Summer I or Summer II Session Rates (On-Campus)	
effective with Summer I Session 2008	
Resident (on-campus)	Non-Resident (on-campus)
Undergraduate (Lower) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$219.00 per credit hour 	Undergraduate (Lower) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$537.22 per credit hour
Undergraduate (Upper) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$242.03 per credit hour 	Undergraduate (Upper) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$598.17 per credit hour
Graduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$344.75 per credit hour 	Graduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$730.18 per credit hour

Required fees, effective Fall 2007

Per semester		
(on campus only)	(5 Cr. Hrs. & Up)	(1-4 Cr. Hrs.)
Enrollment Fee*	\$333.00	\$169.25
Student Assessment Fee	\$12.00	\$12.00
Total	\$345.00	\$181.25
Per session		
(on campus only)	(4 Cr. Hrs. & Up)	(1-3 Cr. Hrs.)
Enrollment Fee*	\$167.00	\$84.75
Student Assessment Fee	\$6.00	\$6.00
Total	\$173.00	\$90.75