



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 11, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
Connable Board Room– Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chair), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Greg Laing (English), Kris Kronlein (Geography), David Shoup (History), Deondra Ramsey (Political Science), Elizabeth Bradshaw (Sociology), Marcie Noble (Spanish), Padmapriya Srinivasan (Finance and Commercial Law), Bill Kelly (Management), Aaron Tremblay (Management), Julie Scarpo (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Thomas Brown (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Tammy Douglas (Educational Leadership, Research & Technology), Katie Smith (Educational Leadership, Research & Technology), Joy Bailey (Teaching, Learning & Educational Studies), Sheryl Johnson (Family & Consumer Sciences), Mustafa Sanver (Computer Science), Kamleshkumar Suthar (Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering), Susan Celestini (Occupational Therapy), Joy Goff (Physician Assistant), Katherine Wlodarski (Speech Pathology & Audiology), Dr. Lewis Pyenson (The Graduate College)

Guests Present: Ilse Schweitzer (English), Sarah Stangl (LGBT Student Services/OUTreach), Kimberly Robinson (Collegiate, Black, & Christian), Nosa Osai (Collegiate, Black, & Christian)

1. Call to order: 3:00
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of the Agenda 01/11/07: Aaron moves to approve, seconded by Julie
4. *Approval of Minutes from 12/07/07 (pgs. 2-5): David moves to approve, seconded by Mustafa
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Dr. Pyenson reported that numbers of graduate student enrollment for the Spring semester should be available next week and that the financial situation of the University is improved in comparison to last year. He stated that the Graduate College has a number of different speakers who will be coming to the University this semester. Three speakers will be discussing topics pertaining to Asian studies, such as cognitive science and Buddhist philosophy, Chinese medicine, and modern ideas about Taoism in Japan. Other speakers coming to the University this semester will talk about such topics as how to write a dissertation, how to present oneself when looking for a job, and physics. These events will be posted on the Graduate College website as soon as the dates of the events become available. Dr. Pyenson also mentioned that the Graduate College has been partnering with GSOC to arrange to send graduate students of color to various conferences in the Spring. Rosana then mentioned a presentation she had seen for preparing future faculty at the NAGPS Conference in November. Dr. Pyenson stated that creating a program at the University based on the ideas discussed in this presentation has been mentioned to Dr. DiPierro and the Provost. The tentative plan is to create a twenty hour program for incoming Teaching Assistants consisting of seven to ten modules presented during the week prior to the beginning of classes and the first and second week of classes. After the modules have been presented, the plan is to post the information on the internet and create a paper based manual containing the information as well.
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Provost Search Advisory Committee – Rosana stated that the Committee is moving forward and receiving applications and nominations for the new Provost. The Committee will meet next week to go over what they have so far and then in mid-February, it will be decided which candidates will receive interviews.
 - b. Board of Trustees Meeting 12/14 – At the Meeting, Rosana reported about the events that GSAC put on in the Fall semester and reported on the events that have been planned for the Spring semester. She stated that at this meeting the living wage proposal was voted down and that she unsure what will happen in terms of any future action on the issue.
 - c. Meeting with Pres. Dunn – Rosana stated that she will be meeting with President Dunn next week. She intends on discussing the plan for GSAC for the remainder of the semester, what she would like to accomplish before her tenure as GSAC Chairperson ends, and the issues of increasing the 500 page printing limit for graduate students at the computer labs and extending library resources to

alumni. Rosana asked members to notify her if there are any other issues they would like to have addressed at this meeting.

- d. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – ? – not present. Rosana asked that if GSAC members know anyone from TAU, to please ask him or her to contact Rosana about attending GSAC meetings.
7. GFAC – *Alyssa Kalata*
- a. New members: *Alyssa Kalata (Chair), Rosana Alsaud, Joy Goff, Alissa Bailey, Susan Celestini, Aaron Tremblay, Greg Laing, Bill Kelly, and Priya Srinivasan* – Rosana stated that a few new individuals agreed to serve on GFAC this semester. She extended her thanks to those individuals who volunteered. Rosana asked if all members of GSAC would like the information about the GFAC proposals to be included in the GSAC agendas. Kris asked if the information could be mailed out before the meetings. Rosana stated this would likely be too difficult because many proposals come in the form of hard copies and are often turned in late. David asked if the amount of each proposal and a sentence or two about the proposal could be included in the GSAC agendas. Rosana agreed to begin to include this information in the GSAC agendas, starting with the next GSAC meeting.
 - b. *Proposals (separate GFAC handout):
 - i. Collegiate Black and Christian - Intersivity Christian Fellowships: CBC requested \$2,420 for the Evening of Black Excellence. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved, contingent upon the organization's willingness to contact GSAC and GSOC with information about the event, so it can be appropriately promoted to graduate students. Motion to approve passed.
 - ii. OUTreach – OUTreach requested \$350 for operational expenses and \$2,000 for a resource fair, speakers, and reception to occur in conjunction with another major University event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved. Motion to approve passed.
8. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
- i. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata* – Alyssa stated that the current charge for the Web Committee is to try to make the current GSAC website more functional, user-friendly, and visually appealing. Alyssa stated that the long-term goal for the Web Committee is to switch the GSAC website over to the WMU website template. Alyssa requested help from any members with knowledge of DreamWeaver. Tammy agreed to try to help with the template switchover.
 - b. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – *Vacant*
 - c. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Aaron Tremblay* – Aaron explained the purpose of each award and stated that applications are rated on one to five scales in a number of different areas. An average of these scores is taken and applications are ranked and then awarded funding. Aaron stated that March 15th is the due date for the next set of awards. David asked if the amount awarded differed for Master's and Doctoral students. Aaron stated that the amount awarded is the same, regardless of status as a Master's or Doctoral student. Aaron also noted that students are allowed to apply as many times as they would like if previous applications are rejected. After a student has been given an award, the student is not eligible to apply again until the following year.
 - d. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – *Alyssa Kalata, Greg Laing* – Greg stated that the council is still in the process of revising the Faculty Research and Creative Activities awards and that most of the current discussion is focused on the degree to which the faculty members should have to seek or receive extramural funding. Greg stated that some discussion also occurred about policies pertaining to contacting students via e-mail to participate in survey research. Rosana asked Greg about the status of progress pertaining to the Research and Creative Activities Day and Greg stated that a meeting will occur soon regarding this event. Rosana stated that this event is typically very large and benefits many graduate students.
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Rosana Alsaud, Alyssa Kalata* – Alyssa stated that the number of individuals graduating with Doctorates from the University this year was reported on and the numbers look good. Developing a better system for program review was also a topic of discussion. Alyssa stated that she reported on the NAGPS National Conference.

- iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) –*Priya Srinivasan* – Priya stated that the Capital Campaign was discussed at the previous meeting of the Council. She stated that she thinks it would be beneficial for GSAC and WSA to get more involved in the Capital Campaign to increase the likelihood that students might be able to obtain funding through this mechanism. She said that individuals involved in the Capital Campaign will attend the next meeting of the Council on January 22nd.
- iv. International Education Council (1) –*Kazuhiro Iwamoto* – Kazuhiro stated that the Council hasn't met since the last GSAC meeting. However, he reported that the Subcommittee for Recruitment and Retention did meet. He stated that he is trying to advocate for in-state tuition for international students and also advocate for including international students in the Western Edge. He stated that at the University, all people born in the United States can claim residency after a year of living in Michigan, but international students do not have this option. He discovered that this is determined on a school-by-school basis, rather than being state policy. Rosana proposed asking if it would be possible for international students to start receiving in-state rates after meeting certain program milestones, in the spirit of some of the ideas that had been proposed for graduate students relating to the Western Edge. Kazuhiro noted that this year was the first year that tuition was capped for international graduate students and the first year in a while that international graduate student enrollment has increased.
 - e. MLK Committee –*Sheryl Johnson* – Rosana reported that this Committee has been inactive because of some errors in communication. She noted that the MLK Celebration will be occurring in ten days. Rosana stated that it may be too late to get involved in the MLK Celebration, however she stated that she would like GSAC to get involved in the NBGSA annual conference in Chicago from March 12 through March 16. She stated that this conference provides a good opportunity to network and discuss the ways to meet the needs of minority students. Rosana encouraged members to look at www.nbgsa.org for more information. Rosana stated that if any members are interested in attending the conference, they should contact her for more information and possible financial support through GSAC.
 - f. WMU Day at the Capitol – Needs people to go! – Rosana reported that Greg Rosine spoke to GSAC last month about the event and asked for graduate students to attend the event on the 28th of May. Ideally, he would like graduate students to give poster presentations to highlight the kind of research that is being conducted at the University. Rosana asked members to let the students of their respective departments know about this event and the opportunity to present their research.
 - g. WSA representative –*Chris Praedel* – Not present.
- 9. Unfinished Business
 - a. Member T-Shirts – Rosana stated that GSAC is planning on making specific t-shirts for GSAC members. Discussion occurred about the style, color, and embroidering of these t-shirts. Rosana thanked Susan for her assistance with identifying possible t-shirt options.
 - b. Graduate Student Survey - Rosana sent e-mails to all graduate students and the GSAC listserv regarding the survey. The deadline for participating in the survey is January 31st. Rosana encouraged all GSAC members to participate in the survey, if they haven't yet already.
 - c. GSAC Chair – Rosana stated that a Search Committee consisting of Alyssa, Rosana, Susan, Alissa, and Dr. Pyenson was established last month. The GSAC Chairperson position is posted on Bronco Jobs and the deadline for applying is February 11th.
 - d. Current requests from graduate students:
 - i. Increase 500 page limit at computer labs.
 - ii. Extend library resources to alumni.
 - e. Spring events:
 - i. Feb. 2: Skiing trip – Timber Ridge (pg. 6) – Rosana stated that this event will involve taking 94 graduate students via buses to Timber Ridge. GSAC will pay for ski equipment, lift tickets, and a limited number of lessons. Rosana stated that a mass e-mail about this event will be sent out by next week. She thanked Kazuhiro for his help in planning the event.
 - ii. Feb. 5: Open Forum with Pres. Dunn and WSA – Rosana reported that this forum will be similar to the forum conducted last semester, in which audience members were given the opportunity to ask Pres. Dunn any questions that were of interest to them.
 - iii. Mar. 21: Professional Development Day – Fetzer Center – Rosana reported that prior to the beginning of the official portion of Professional Development Day, Keith Cooley will be giving

a talk at 11:00 about issues that graduate students may face as they enter the job market. The official portion of Professional Development Day will begin at approximately 12:30.

- a. Keynote: Keith W. Cooley, Director, Dept. of Labor & Economic Growth
- iv. Mar. 29: Bowling, Karaoke, and Game Night – Airway Lanes – Alyssa stated will be contacting Airway Lanes shortly to set up this event. This event will be a purely social, fun night out for graduate students.
- v. Apr. 11: Research Day – Rosana reported that planning for Research Day is coming along well.

10. New Business

- a. * National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA) – Annual conference (pg. 7) – Rosana stated that she would like to have a number of GSAC members attend this conference. She asked that interested members contact her for more information.
- b. * National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) – Legacy Membership – Rosana stated that GSAC has been a member of NAGPS for over a decade and during that time, members of GSAC have been fairly active within the organization. She stated that GSAC pays \$1,000 a year to be a member, which allows the organization to participate in legislative efforts on behalf of graduate students and network with other graduate students and graduate student organizations across the United States. She reported that WMU was one of three universities that were initially offered the opportunity to obtain a Legacy membership within NAGPS. The legacy membership costs \$10,000, is put toward the NAGPS endowment, and allows WMU to be a member of NAGPS for life. Rosana reported that if GSAC members are interested in WMU obtaining a legacy membership in NAGPS, Rosana will try to find various sources of funding at the university to pay for the membership. A number of members highlighted the benefit of having such a prestigious designation as one of few legacy members of NAGPS and encouraged Rosana to seek sources of funding. The Capital Campaign was suggested and Rosana agreed to pursue this potential avenue.
- c. Legislative Action Days (LAD) – NAGPS, Washington, DC (pg. 8) – Needs one member – Rosana reported that Legislative Action Days will occur from February 6 through February 8. GSAC would like to have at least one member attend. Kazuhiro stated that he went in the Fall semester and would be happy to help interested individuals contact Michigan senators and representatives. Tom stated that he would like to go and represent WMU and that he will contact Rosana for further information.

11. General Announcements & Briefs

- a. Announcements for the Good of the Order – Tom asked Rosana about the status of the Hilltop Review. Rosana reported that she has been unable to contact the individual who was working on the Hilltop Review and as such, the publication is on hold. She stated that if she is unable to revive the Hilltop Review prior to leaving office, this is an endeavor she would like the next Chairperson to pursue. Kazuhiro and Katherine raised various concerns about traffic intersections at the University. It was suggested that these concerns be directed to the Campus Planning and Finance Council. Finally, Tom announced that the Native American Students' Association is restarting and their first meeting is on Tuesday at noon in the Division of Multicultural Affairs.
- b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: February 8, March 14, April 11

11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

12. Adjourn: 4:50

*Items that require a vote from members.

GSAC Skiing Trip

Dear Friends:

The winter is in full blast and what better way to enjoy the snow than to hit the slopes at Timber Ridge. GSAC will be sponsoring a skiing trip, which will include the ride to Timber Ridge by bus, ski rentals and lift tickets. We will even have ski lessons for 30 people. So here is what you need to know.

Who: Graduate students

What: Ski

Where: Timber Ridge

Why: Because it will be FUN

When: Feb. 2nd

The maximum load is 90 people, and the **RSVP deadline is Jan. 28th**. Slots will fill up quickly (probably far before the deadline) and will be a first come first serve basis. Once the slots fill up, an email with details will be sent so please keep an eye out for that. If you have any questions contact GSAC Chair Rosana Alsaud at gsac@wmich.edu.

National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA)

The National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA) is excited to hold its 20th Annual National Convention in Chicago, IL March 12 – March 16, 2008. The convention will be held downtown at the Four Points Sheraton at O'Hare Hotel with hundreds of participants from all over the world.

In celebration of our 20th anniversary, our theme exemplifies what we have portrayed over the years, Brilliance in Black. Through a series of workshops, forums, competitions, and roundtable discussions we will continue the legacy.

What is NBGSA?

NBGSA is a non-profit, student-run organization dedicated to encouraging the high-quality achievement of African-American students through academic, professional, and social programs. We have positioned ourselves as the premiere organization devoted to helping African-American students realize their dreams, achieve their goals and excel in academia.

What is the NBGSC?

The National Black Graduate Student Conference (NBGSC) is a scholarly conference where great networking and academic, professional and social opportunities occur. The Association creates a culture for planning, fact-finding and/or problem solving in face-to-face groups with high participation. Conferees come from universities around the nation to present their work in paper and poster sessions and round table discussions. Many conferees also enjoy interacting in seminars and workshops facilitated by nationally, regionally and locally recognized presenters. The NBGSA also holds its general assembly and annual business meetings at the NBGSC.



SAVE THE DATE

Legislative Action Days

February 6 – 8, 2008
Washington, D.C.

Big Ticket Goals:

- ◆ Equality for Graduate Students
- ◆ Stop Denying Student Federal Aid to At-Risk Students
- ◆ Lower the Debt Burden for Graduate Students
- ◆ Immigration Reform

Questions & RSVP: Chris Wright, Legislative Concerns Chair
lcc@nagps.org