



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, October 12, 2007, 3 PM.

Connable Board Room– Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Rosana Alsaud (Chairperson), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Kris Kronlein (Geography), David Shoup (History), Elizabeth Bradshaw (Sociology), Folashade Ogunleye (Finance and Commercial Law), Laiza Ashraf (Finance and Commercial Law), Aaron Tremblay (Management), Brandi Pritchett (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Luanne Harden (Educational Leadership, Research and Technology), Mustafa Sanver (Computer Science), Susan Celestini (Occupational Therapy), Chris Praedel (Western Student Association)

Guests Present: Aishwarya Hegde (Indian Student Association), Timothy Heacock (OUTspoken), Maggie Walters (OUTspoken), Adam McFarlin (Music Graduate Students), Andrew Grabowski (WIDR FM)

1. Call to order: 3:05
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of the Agenda 10/12/07: Kris moves to approve, seconded by Folashade.
4. *Approval of Minutes from 9/14/07 (pgs. 2-4): Alyssa moves to approve, seconded by Kris.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Not present.
6. Report from the Chair
 - a. Welcome Back Banquet & Golf Outing – 9/15 – Alyssa reported that approximately 70 people attended the golf portion of the event and that many additional people attended the banquet portion of the event. She stated that people responded well to the event and the Prairies Golf Club was more than happy to host the event again in the future.
 - b. An Evening with Diane Rehm – 9/25 – Rosana reported that approximately 1,300 people showed up and that several GSAC members assisted with the event. She stated that after the event, she received several phone calls from University administrators and other individuals stating that they enjoyed the event. Rosana asked GSAC members to contact her with possible suggestions for a speaker for next year.
 - c. 1st Annual Michigan Graduate Student Summit – 9/29 at EMU – Rosana reported that she and Alyssa attended this event, in addition to a large number of WMU graduate students. Rosana reported that the event involved fifteen universities in the state of Michigan gathering to discuss how to effectively lobby for graduate student needs on a state level through the creation of a statewide organization. Rosana stated that the statewide organization will likely be modeled after the California system. The current plan is to meet annually in an effort to organize this statewide organization. At the Summit, Rosana also discussed with attendees the benefits of joining NAGPS.
 - d. Board of Trustees Meeting 10/12 – Rosana explained the purpose of the Board of Trustees and then discussed the most recent marketing campaign, which had been presented at today's Board of Trustees meeting. Rosana expressed some concerns about the content of the advertisements to be used, including the lack of diversity presented, awkward mentions of WMU's reputation as a "party school", and unclear messages presented in the advertisements. Chris and Aaron echoed some of Rosana's concerns and Kris questioned whether any of the advertisement had been targeted to graduate students. Rosana stated that graduate students have historically been a neglected minority of only about 20% of the University population, meaning that graduate students must work to advocate for their interests to be represented and their opinions to be heard. Rosana encouraged GSAC members to contact her with ideas about how the advertisements can be modified, which she intends on presenting informally to University administration. She also mentioned that graduate students could contact Greg Rosine directly. Mustafa asked how the process for creating these advertisements began and Rosana stated it started from a survey e-mailed to all students that determined what characteristics are most

reflective of WMU. While WMU's reputation as a party school was a prevalent characteristic identified, location was also identified and is a quality that hasn't been emphasized enough.

- e. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – *Jason Trowbridge*: Not present.
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
- a. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata* – Alyssa reported that GSAC has created a Facebook group and encouraged members to join. GSAC intends on using the Facebook group to post updates, events, and conversation topics.
 - b. Public Relations – *Folashade Ogunleye* - Folashade reported that the new brochure looks nice and stated that she had no other substantial updates.
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – *Vacant* – Rosana stated that work on the Hilltop Review is still on hold because she has been unable to retrieve the necessary files from the former coordinator of the project. Rosana also asked GSAC members to consider filling this position if they have experience in this area.
 - d. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Aaron Tremblay* – Aaron reported that the purpose of this committee is to review requests for research and travel grants given by the Graduate College and supplemented by GSAC. He reported that the next meeting is on Thursday.
 - e. GFAC – *Alyssa Kalata*
 - i. Proposals (separate GFAC handout):
 1. Indian Student Association (pgs. 1-4) – Indian Student Association requested \$500 for operational expenses and \$770 for Legally Desi event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved. Folashade moves to approve, seconded by Luanne.
 2. Mu Beta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (pgs. 5-24) – Alyssa reported that no individuals from this organization attended the GFAC meeting and as a result, the request for funds will be tabled until the next GFAC meeting.
 3. OUTspoken (pgs. 25-28) – OUTspoken requested \$2,400 for Pride prom event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved. Kazuhiro moves to approve, seconded by Laiza.
 4. Music Graduate Students (pgs. 29-37) – Music Graduate Students requested \$1,800 for a lecture series. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved, contingent upon the agreement that the Music Graduate Students promote the lecture series to all graduate students and departments. Kris moves to approve, seconded by David.
 5. African Students Association (pgs. 38-43) – African Students Association requested \$200 for operational expenses and \$2,500 for the African Cultural Night 2007. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved. Mustafa moves to approve, seconded by Laiza.
 6. WIDR FM (pgs. 44-46) – WIDR FM requested \$2,000 for the Barking Tuna Festival. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that this request for funds be approved. Kris moves to approve, seconded by Luanne.
 - ii. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – *Alyssa Kalata, Greg Laing* – Alyssa reported that discussion during the past RPC meeting focused on WMU's plan in the event of a pandemic flu, continued talk about FRACASF, and a proposal that may change the membership of the RPC.
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Rosana Alsaud, Alyssa Kalata* – Rosana stated that a new certification in Geographic Science was approved. Ways in which the Western Edge could potentially benefit graduate students was also discussed.
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – *Jennifer Messana*: Not present.
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto* – Kazuhiro reported that this council just had its first meeting for the year. He reported that data presented at the meeting indicated that WMU is doing well in terms of international graduate student enrollment, although WMU is still lagging behind pre-9/11 levels. He also reported that the tuition was not increased for international graduate students this year. Kazuhiro also reported that two paid positions are being created to help international graduate students to acclimate and get involved on campus.
 - g. MLK Committee – *Deondra Ramsey*: Hasn't started meeting yet.

- h. WMU Day at the Capitol - *Thon Moses*: Thon was not present, but Rosana indicated that this event will involve promoting and giving WMU a presence at the state capital.
 - i. Rebuilding the Bernhard Center – *Padmapriya Srinivasan (Priya)*: Priya was not present, but Rosana indicated that this committee is planning a remodeling of the Bernhard Center that should turn it in to a more traditional student union.
 - j. WSA representative – *Chris Praedel*
 - i. Open Forum with Pres. Dunn (WSA & GSAC) – Chris reported that this event went well and that he is looking to plan a similar event for February 5th.
 - ii. Rebuilding Bernhard center – Chris also discussed the rebuilding of the Bernhard Center. He said that it is likely that students would have to pay a tiered yearly fee in order for the rebuilding to occur and the new building to be maintained. A couple of options for the location of a new student center have been proposed including tearing down McCracken Hall to make room for a new student center or building the new student center near Haenicke Hall.
8. Unfinished Business
- a. Fall events:
 - i. Dinner with the President – Sunday, 10/28 (pg. 5) GSAC members ONLY. Must RSVP! – Rosana requested that all GSAC members make an effort to attend this event, as it was cancelled last year because of a low RSVP rate. Rosana would like to reestablish this event as a yearly tradition for GSAC.
 - ii. Professional Development Day (Academic Careers) – 11/02 – Rosana reported that postcards have been mailed and students should receive them soon.
 - iii. Social Event – Winter. Date not set yet. **Need ideas.** Bowling? Karaoke? – Kazuhiro proposed taking a ski trip. He will investigate the cost of this potential event.
 - b. NAGPS National Conference – 11/15 – 11/18
 - i. Rosana Alsaud, Alyssa Kalata, Aaron Tremblay – Rosana reported that she, Alyssa, and Aaron will be attending the NAGPS conference. She stated that this is something GSAC tries to do every year and that the conference is informative and fun.
 - c. Graduate Student Survey: Alyssa reported that she has developed two surveys (one for all graduate students and one for GSAC members) that she will be circulating shortly to find out how GSAC can be more helpful. Luanne mentioned that on extended campuses there is not a lot of awareness of GSAC and encouraged Rosana and Alyssa to find ways to connect more effectively with these campuses. Mustafa emphasized that Rosana and Alyssa should also make continued efforts to obtain representation from all departments and encourage these individuals to attend meetings on the behalf of their departments.
9. New Business
- a. Graduate College Panel: Rosana spoke about a collaboration of GSAC and GSOC on a panel last weekend, in which GSAC and GSOC representatives spoke about their experiences as graduate students. Brandi reported that approximately 50 people attended.
 - b. Hilltop Review: On hold.
 - c. 2007 Homecoming King Nomination from GSAC: Rosana reported that Aaron was sponsored by GSAC to run for homecoming king, although he unfortunately was not chosen as a finalist. GSAC wishes to congratulate Aaron on his efforts!
10. General Announcements & Briefs
- a. Announcements for the Good of the Order
 - b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: November 9, December 7
 - c. Kazuhiro reported that he attended Legislative Action Days and proposed that GSAC members should consider attending the Legislative Action Days in February.
11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
12. Adjourn: 4:46