



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2008, 3p.m.

Connable Board of Trustee Room 201 (Bernhard Center)

Representatives Present: Brandi Pritchett (Chairperson), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Krystal Breshnahan (Communication), Stephanie Ruhl (Communication), Greg Laing (English), David Shoup (History), Mohammad Al-Amar (Physics), Benito Hall (Marketing), Katie Smith (Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology), Tammy DeRoo (Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Computer Science), Michael Ellinger (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Danielle Harik (Western Student Association), Jordan Hochstetter (CAB)

Guests Present: Allen Hearn (Social Work), Ngeyan Almutairi (Muslim Students Association), James Naumann (Music)

1. Call to order: 3:05
 2. Introductions
 3. *Approval of the Agenda 10/10/08: David moves to approve, seconded by Benito.
 4. *Approval of Minutes from 09/12/08: Greg moves to approve, seconded by David.
 5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Not present.
 6. Report from the Chair
 - a. WMU Print Policy (pg. 5): Brandi stated that Rosana had initially brought up the idea of increasing the printing limit for graduate students and that recently, momentum has been gained toward accomplishing this goal. Brandi reported that she has had meetings with Dr. Gilchrist, members of WSA, and members of Students for Sustainable Earth about this issue and that the outcome of these meetings has been positive. She stated that WSA has been particularly supportive, even though undergraduate students would not receive a printing limit increase as a result of this initiative. If a resolution is passed regarding the printing limit issue, the graduate student printing limit should be increased to 750 free pages across all OIT computer labs. Brandi also mentioned that Daniel brought it to GSAC's attention that the Health and Human Services building didn't have a 500 free page printing limit, but as a result of discussions regarding the printing policy, they now adhere to this printing limit. Brandi asked the GSAC membership to make an effort to attend the WSA meeting on October 22nd at 4:15 p.m., where the resolution regarding printing limits will be brought before WSA for consideration.
 - b. Forum w/ Dr. Dunn: Brandi reported that the Forum occurred on October 7th and that it was a very successful event. She stated that a lot of University administrators were present, including Dr. Greene, Dr. Anderson, and Trustee Miller. She stated that it was good that administration was present because they got the opportunity to see what students are doing and what issues are important to students. She reported that some of the issues discussed included Sangren Hall, sustainability, printing increases, community relations, e-mail space, and library hours.
 7. *GFAC – Alyssa Kalata (5 proposals) Thanks Deborah & Nayane for joining GFAC and Greg for your continued service!!! ☺
 - a. Music Graduate Students: Requested \$1,050.00 for a lecture series. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$1,050.00 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - b. Muslim Students Association: Requested \$500.00 for a speaker event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$500.00 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - c. Arab Students Association: Requested \$500.00 for a speaker event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$500.00 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - d. Mu Beta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota: Requested \$2,400.00 for their annual Visiting Scholar event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$2,400 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - e. Communique: Requested \$500.00 for operational expenses. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$500.00 for operational expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 - f. Master Social Work Student Organization: Requested \$500.00 for operational expenses and \$1,125.00 for a Hooding and Pinning Ceremony. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$500.00 for operational expenses and \$1,125.00 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
 8. GSAC Treasurer – Alyssa Kalata: No updates.
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9. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

- a. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata*: No updates.
- b. Public Relations Committee (3) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto, Svetlana Stone, Krystal Bresnahan*: Kazuhiro reported that he is setting up one of the primary semester social events for GSAC, planned to occur on November 21st. Kazuhiro stated that GSAC will be renting out the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts on the evening of November 21st. The event will involve free admission for approximately 200 people to the New Orleans Art Museum Show, in addition to food and non-alcoholic beverages being provided. He plans for the event to be semi-formal in nature. Krystal stated that she is planning a social event for the Spring semester that would involve renting out Lawson Ice Arena for skating, food, and socialization. She also stated that she would like this event to involve a scavenger hunt, where graduate students would take pictures of ten different signs of spring and submit their pictures for a competition. Alyssa reported that she is still planning on arranging for the Bowling and Karaoke Night to occur.
- c. Graduate Research and Publication Committee (4) – *Vacant*
- d. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Kamleshkumar Suthar*: Kamleshkumar was not present, but Brandi provided a brief update on this committee. She reported that involvement in this committee entails reviewing three rounds of submitted proposals. Kamleshkumar will be reviewing the proposals submitted in September, Roland will be reviewing the proposals submitted in November, and a GSAC member is still needed to review the proposals submitted in March. Anyone who is interested in reviewing the proposals submitted in March should contact Brandi at his or her earliest convenience.
- e. University Councils & Committees
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) - *Greg Laing, Tammy DeRoo*: Brandi thanked Tammy for agreeing to serve on RPC. Greg reported that the majority of the RPC meeting was spent discussing the Support for Faculty Scholars Award and the decisions to fund or not fund various projects. The charges of the RPC for the academic year were also discussed. Greg noted that two of these charges in particular impact graduate students. The first of these charges involves the Annual Research and Creative Activities Celebration, which has tentatively been scheduled for April 10th. The second of these charges involves determining the feasibility of out-of-state and international graduate students funded off grants being charged in-state tuition rates. Greg noted that the RPC seems supportive of this endeavor.
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Brandi Pritchett, Alyssa Kalata*: Brandi reported that one of the primary issues the GSC had been investigating lately was the feasibility of accelerated programs that would allow undergraduates to take graduate level courses. The GSAC and the GSC were supportive of this initiative, however the Undergraduate Studies Council voted against it. Brandi reported that the GSC is putting together special committee to determine if some sort of mutual agreement could be reached in terms of accelerated programs.
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – *Katie Smith*: Katie reported that she attended her first meeting and that a number of issues were discussed. First, she noted that there was a 2.45% increase in enrollment this semester. She also reported that things are going well with WMU's budget. The current plan of the CPFC is to update the Campus Master Plan to revise the values held by the campus. She stated that a couple of values that might be added include sustainability and bridging the East campus and the main campus. She said that an Open Forum on this issue will likely be held soon and that it would be nice to have graduate student input. Katie reported that an East Campus Task Force has also been assembled and is in the process of drafting a mission and goal statements.
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto*: Kazuhiro reported that WMU has joined the Internationalization Laboratory, which involves joining a cohort of schools to examine how WMU's International Program could be improved. He stated that we are doing good in terms of diversity and international student numbers in comparison to our cohort schools. Kazuhiro also noted that there is a new International Student Handbook that has been created and can be picked up at the Haenicke Institute. He noted that the handbook has good information and tips for international students.
 - v. President's University Sustainability Committee (1) – *David Shoup, Daniel Seidling*: Brandi reported that she attending this meeting yesterday and that the primary issue that was discussed

was how to integrate sustainability in to the curriculum. She stated that a report is being drafted to submit to President Dunn, with the intention that he will review this report and give suggestions on what changes can be made and what changes are likely to be effective. Brandi also reported that this committee is creating a website which should be launched next week. The next meeting of this committee will occur on November 6th at 3:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Bernhard Center.

vi. University Accreditation Committee (8) – *Brandi Pritchett* (Steering), Svetlana Stone (Student Learning), Phyllis Pennock (Mission & Integrity), Greg Laing (Preparing for the Future), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Acquisition, Discovery, Application) ***Need 2 Members!!!***: Brandi reported that the Steering Committee will meet for the first time on November 14th. Greg reported that the Preparing for the Future Committee will meet on October 30th. Brandi stated that GSAC is still looking for members for the Acquisition, Discovery, and Application Committee and for the Engaging in Service Committee. She stated that participation on these committees would allow students to have an inside look on the “ins and outs” of accreditation.

f. MLK Committee: No report.

g. WSA representative – *Danielle Harik, President*: Danielle reported that WSA is still trying to figure out the reasoning behind why the accelerated programs initiative was not supported by the Undergraduate Studies Council. She also reported that she was pleased to see that the Forum with President Dunn was well attended by graduate students. She reiterated the importance of graduate students being present at the WSA meeting on the 22nd, especially since WSA is a body that exists for the benefit of both the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. Danielle also reported about efforts being put toward the United Way Campaign. She stated that on October 29th, CAB is putting on a Miller Movie and will donate twenty-five cents of each dollar toward the campaign. She also stated that the Honors Association will be donating money from their Wednesday luncheons. Finally, Danielle noted that the next WSA meeting is on October 15th at 4:15 p.m. and will be attended by Lowell Rinker. She encouraged any interested graduate students to attend.

h. CAB representative – *David VanDeusen, President*: Jordan reported that things with CAB have been going very well. CAB has put on two well attended Miller Movies and has also had well attended General Assembly meetings. He stated that this shows a renewed activity on campus. He also noted that CAB is no longer allocating money to RSOs and instead is moving toward more collaborative efforts with student groups. He stated that there hasn't been a huge interest in this approach as of yet, although CAB is collaborating with WIDR FM for Barking Tuna Fest. He hopes as word spreads about this approach, there may be additional student groups interested in taking such an approach. He also noted that CAB has a number of potential larger spring events lined up.

i. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – *Jamie McCandless*: Not present.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Branch Campus Outreach: Brandi reported that Alyssa has been planning and making branch campus visits. Alyssa briefly discussed her visit to the Traverse City branch campus and mentioned that she will be visiting the Southwest Campus (in Benton Harbor) on October 30th for a student resource open house. After this branch campus visit, she stated that she plans to visit either the Grand Rapids campus or the Battle Creek campus. Brandi noted that she has also been having discussions with students and administrators about whether establishing a SAF at the branch campuses would be appropriate. She will continue to provide updates about this issue as it develops.

b. Legislative Action Days: *Kazuhiro Iwamoto* and *Bill Kelly*: Kazuhiro briefly discussed NAGPS and the GSAC's historical involvement in the organization. Kazuhiro stated that twice each year, NAGPS does a Legislative Action Days event, during which graduate students meet with legislators to lobby on behalf of graduate student interests. He mentioned that some of the primary issues this year were federal funding for graduate students, retention of international students for jobs in the U.S., energy development and academia, and federal funding for students with prior drug offenses. Kazuhiro reported that he met with Senator Stabenow and Fred Upton, as well as had an e-mail conversation with Senator Levin. Kazuhiro announced that the next Legislative Action Day is in February and he encouraged GSAC members to attend.

c. Student Union Tour: Brandi reported that there are no major updates regarding the Student Union Tour. She said the idea behind the Tour is to investigate other student unions to help inform potential renovations to the Bernhard Center.

d. Change 4 Change: Brandi stated that Change4Change is a student-run initiative to assist in the improvement and renovation of Sangren Hall. She reported that the idea behind the initiative is to raise a small amount of money to purchase furniture or an item of technology for Sangren Hall, with the thought that this will help to build momentum, show that the students are supportive of the administration, and show the state of Michigan that the quality of Sangren Hall is important to students. David suggested that we may want to have signature sheets with the donation boxes. Kazuhiro suggested that we might want to try soliciting donations online, possibly through a link on the WMU website. Michael suggested that we could also offer RSOs an opportunity to purchase advertising space on a webpage in exchange for a donation. Brandi also reported that Alyssa is working on a letter regarding state higher education appropriations, which should also help with the Change4Change initiative.

e. Upcoming Events (pg. 6): Brandi mentioned that students can receive full reimbursement for the Sustainable Business Forum Conference. Brandi also discussed the possibility of creating a Volunteering Committee, although she expressed hesitation about creating another committee because the existing committees of the GSAC are not currently filled. GSAC members agreed that putting together a Volunteering Committee is not appropriate at this time. Brandi also highlighted the importance of getting at least 25 GSAC members to attend the Dinner with President Dunn. Brandi mentioned that members may be able to bring a friend or significant other or send someone in their place if they cannot attend. Brandi also discussed the new version of Professional Development Day and mentioned that this upcoming Professional Development Day will focus on publication, and will likely involve a panel and a more interactive workshop.

11. New Business

a. Departmental Reports ☺

12. Student Concerns (open floor)

13. General Announcements & Briefs

a. Announcements for the Good of the Order

b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: Nov.14th, Dec. 12th (different location)

11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

a. Future Events

12. Adjourn: 4:54

*Items that require a vote from members.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PRINT POLICY

Under present Office of Information Technology (OIT) policies, all Western Michigan University (WMU) students are allowed to print up to 500 pages per semester on University lab printers. While it is assumed that this policy is consistent across University computer labs, many University computer labs do not operate under this policy. There are currently some University computer labs that require students to pay for each printed page, that have alternative printing limits, and/or that require students to provide their own paper when printing.

Two aspects of the present systems under which the University computer labs operate are of particular concern to the graduate student population at WMU. First, many graduate students have remarked that the 500 page printing limit interferes with their ability to complete their research and other tasks essential to progressing through their graduate programs in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Graduate level work requires a great deal of printed material, in the form of articles for review, theses and dissertations, and other large projects. Graduate students can easily exhaust the present printing limits within one semester while completing their work. Second, the inconsistency in printing policies across campus presents challenges for graduate students who utilize computer labs where the printing policies are potentially prohibitive in terms of costs (e.g. labs that charge students for each page printed or labs that require students to provide their own paper) or for graduate students who opt to travel to alternative computer labs on campus to avoid costs associated with the labs that they would prefer to utilize.

Based on these concerns, the GSAC proposes two policy changes: (1) to increase the maximum printing limit for graduate students from 500 pages to 1000 pages per semester and (2) the universal adoption of the standard OIT printing policy across all University computer labs. With the adoption of these two policy changes, ambiguity about printing policies will be eliminated, equity will be established across University computer labs, and graduate students will have increased access to a necessary resource for completing their graduate level work.

Your signature and appropriate indication below indicates your support for either/both increasing the maximum printing limit for graduate students or/and adopting a standard printing policy across all University computer labs.

FYI: EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Michael Pritchard will address graduate students and graduate advising faculty in a special presentation on Research Ethics in a University.

October 22nd, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Fetzer Center

Register on-line at the following URL:

<https://herodotus.walwood.wmich.edu/pritchard102208/>

"How to Get Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals, a Writers' Workshop," conducted by Jan Anderson, a professional writing consultant with her own company, Beyond Words, Inc.

Friday, October 17th, from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., in Room 1010 of the College of Health and Human Services.

For workshop objectives, please visit the following URL:

http://www.wmich.edu/grad/Grad_Ctr_Research_Retention/PublicationWorkshop101708.htm
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2009 World Congress on Computer Science and Information Engineering
(CSIE 2009)

March 31 - April 2, 2009

Los Angeles/Anaheim, USA

<http://world-research-institutes.org/conferences/CSIE/2009>

Sustainable Business Forum Conference

November 13, 2008 at the Fetzer Center

** Student Scholarships**

<http://www.southwestmichigansustainablebusinessforum.org/>

GSAC Opportunities

CMU/WMU Blood Drive Challenge – October 23 from 9:30 am – 6:00 pm at the Rec

Dinner with the President – October 26th from 4 - 6pm **Dinner Provided**

Evening at Kalamazoo Institute of Art – November

Your Pathway to Publication: Panel Discussion & Workshop – November 19th & 20th at the Fetzer Center

GSAC/WSA Speaker Collaboration – December