



## Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

September 12, 2008, 3p.m.

Presidents Dining Room (Bernhard Center)

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*Representatives Present:* Brandi Pritchett (Chairperson), Krystal Breshnahan (Communication), Greg Laing (English), David Shoup (History), John Kusku (Math), Elizabeth Bradshaw (Sociology), Shane Jones (Spanish), Julie Scarpo (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology), Leah Young (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology), Joe Johnson (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology), Katie Smith (Educational Leadership), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Computer Science), Daniel Seidling (Social Work), Devorah Glanz (Speech Pathology), Dana Henry (Speech Pathology), Jamie McCandless (TAU), Melissa Green (Division of Student Affairs), Katie Smith (Division of Student Affairs), Danielle Harik (WSA), Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Graduate College), Dr. Julie Scrivener (Graduate College)

*Guests present:* Dr. Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Curtis VanDonkelaar (English), Jesse Thompson (Chemistry/TAU), Janelle King (TAU)

1. Call to order: 3:04
2. Introductions
3. \*Approval of the Agenda 09/12/08: Julie moves to approve, seconded by John.
4. \*Approval of Minutes from 08/08/08: Stephany moves to approve, seconded by David.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Dr. Pyenson reported that enrollment is up by 6% this year, which reflects an increase in more than 200 graduate students. This is a reversal of the trend of the last few years, and it reflects more confidence in the University. The Graduate College is holding a number of events this semester, including three talks about plagiarism by a professor of psychology and would like to encourage graduate students to attend. There will also be a recruiting event for WMU that is open to graduate students and will be held the day prior to the WMU football game at Ford Field in Detroit.
6. Report from the Chair
  - a. GSAC Successes ☺
    - i. CommUniverCity: Brandi reported that 750 graduate students attended CommUniverCity, which is the best attendance by graduate students to date.
    - ii. Branch campus outreach: Brandi stated that another goal of GSAC for this year is to increase outreach efforts to branch campuses. She reported that many branch campus students were present at CommUniverCity and thanked GSAC for allowing them to participate.
    - iii. WMU Print Policy (pg. 4): Brandi stated that the Print Policy has been inconsistent in the past among different departments. The GSAC is advocating for more consistency across labs and an increase in the page limit, which has received generally positive feedback. As a result of GSAC's work, the Health and Human Services computer labs now allow the 500 free printing limit.
    - iv. Brandi also reported that international and minority student recruitment is going up. Additionally, Brandi stated Sangren Hall has been high on the list of buildings to be renovated on WMU's campus and around November the amount of state funding that will be allocated toward this endeavor should be known.
    - v. Board of Trustee Meeting
7. \*GFAC – *Alyssa Kalata (3 proposals) We need more members!* The Music department proposal has been tabled until next meeting.
  - a. Chemistry Graduate Student Association: Requested \$546 for event expenses. Brandi stated that GFAC recommends that \$546 for event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
  - b. Association of English Graduate Students: Requested \$2500 for event expenses and \$500 for operational expenses. Brandi stated that GFAC recommends that \$2500 for event expenses and \$500 for operational expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
8. GSAC Treasurer – Alyssa Kalata: Brandi stated that there was nothing to report.
9. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - i. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata*: Brandi reported that the website will be updated soon, and that the next round of updates will include meeting minutes and GSAC office hours.

- ii. Public Relations Committee – Kazuhiro Iwamoto, Svetlana Stone, **Needs 1 volunteer**: Brandi reported that the GSAC Fall Social event is currently being planned and will likely involve an evening at the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts. The GSAC Winter Social event is also being planned and may be called the Spring Fling Skate and involve renting out Lawson Ice Area, for skating, music, and food. A “Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt” has also been suggested and would involve students collecting 10 photos for prizes.
- b. Graduate Research and Publication Committee (4) – *Vacant*: Brandi reported that *The Hilltop Review* is currently inactive. GSAC would like to run this publication with submissions once a year. It would support graduate student publication in a peer-review setting.
- c. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Kamleshkumar Suthar*: Dr. Pyenson reported that students can apply for funding three times each year. The first round of applications is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Applications are then ranked and awarded money based on that ranking. The money is intended to defray equipment costs or travel costs. The GSAC has provided the Graduate College with additional money to fund international travel. Additionally, a graduate student is invited to sit in on this committee to help review the applications. The position requires a significant time commitment to review the 160 or more applications. Two weeks after the deadline applications are given to the committee and they have 10 days to 2 weeks to review them. Awards are given based on how much money is available and the number of applications submitted. Typical numbers are 20 travel and 15 research awards.
- d. University Councils & Committees
  - i. Research Policies Council (2) - *Greg Laing*, **Needs 1 member**: No report.
  - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Brandi Pritchett, Alyssa Kalata*: Brandi reported that they have not met.
  - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – *Katie Smith*: Katie reported that they have not yet met.
  - iv. International Education Council (1) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto*
  - v. President’s University Sustainability Committee (1) – *Brandi Pritchett, David Shoup, Daniel Seidling*
  - vi. University Accreditation Committee (8) – *Brandi Pritchett* (steering), Svetlanta Stone (Student Learning), Phyllis Pennock (Mission & Integrity), Greg Laing (Preparing for the Future), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Acquisition, Discovery, Application) **Need 2 volunteers**: Eileen Evans reported that on October 6<sup>th</sup> the university will begin preparing for the accreditation for the 2012 year. Accreditation is a systematic review for the purpose of ensuring the quality of education. The U.S. Department of Education wants to know if the institution will do what it says it can now and in the future. Programs cannot be accredited unless they are attached to an accredited university and students must be attending accredited universities for financial aid. Transfer of credits must originate from an accredited institution. We are on a regional accreditation body that asks for an evaluative, forward-looking, and data driven report on the university before an evaluator committee will visit campus to verify the claims in the self-study report are accurate. There are five criteria and there will be a committee for each criterion. Committees consist of 10 to 12 people including members from WSA and GSAC and are broadly representative across campus. Committees will meet in October and then begin to work on their reports. Graduate students will be full participants in committees and will bring their experience to the crafting of the self-study report.
- e. MLK Committee: No report.
- f. WSA representative – *Danielle Harik, President*: Danielle reported that monthly WSA meetings are on Wednesdays and are open to graduate students as well. Next Wednesday, Dr. Dunn will be attending. The 24<sup>th</sup> will be Campus Public Safety. Western Wednesdays will help raise student pride, asking students to wear Western apparel. Western Michigan United Way volunteer opportunities are also available for students. Finally, there is a camping trip in planning.
- g. CAB representative – *David VanDeusen, President*: No representative present.
- h. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – *Jamie McCandless*: Jamie reported that contract negotiations will take place this year. A general membership meeting will occur on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Room 159 of the Bernhard Center and September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Brown and Gold Room. Both meetings will occur

at 4:00 p.m. Jamie also noted that Moore Hall is being closed due to problems with asbestos and black mold.

#### 10. Unfinished Business

a. Department Orientations: Brandi reported that 19 department meetings were attended by GSAC representatives to help inform departments about the functions of the GSAC. Membership has increased due to these meetings.

b. Change 4 Change: Brandi reported that this is GSAC/WSA collaboration intended to raise money for Sangren Hall renovations. One idea is that the funds raised could be used to purchase furniture for the building. More information will be forthcoming.

c. Student Union Tour: Brandi reported that student input is requested to help make the Bernhard Center more student-friendly. There will be another (possibly split into two trips) mini tour to examine the student unions of other universities. These trips will need graduate students to attend on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

d. WMU Day in Detroit: Brandi reported that the first week in November there will be some outreach events in Detroit to help spread awareness of WMU. The Graduate College has asked for GSAC support for those events.

e. Upcoming Events (Social & Professional): Brandi reported that bi-monthly email updates will be sent to the entire graduate student body including more information about events. For now, upcoming events include the KIA evening (to occur in November), the Forum with President Dunn on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Room 157 of the Bernhard Center at 5:00 p.m., the GSAC Member Dinner with President Dunn on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Gilmore House, and a nationally known speaker in December. Also, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a lunch at 12:00 at the Gilmore House with the Chamber of Commerce to talk about downtown development.

#### 11. New Business

a. Michigan Graduate Student Summit: Brandi reported that last year the first summit was held at Eastern Michigan. Dr. Pyenson reported that Western had one of the largest delegations and that attendees were addressed by Michigan politicians. Western has been asked to host this year in March and it is possible that the Governor might speak at this event. Brandi suggested the formation of a mini-committee to plan. Additional information will be forthcoming.

b. WMU/CMU Blood Drive Challenge: Brandi reported that every year there is a blood drive challenge and we have lost to CMU for the past few years. There are tentative places and dates planned. Volunteers are needed for the sites and Brandi suggested that 6 – 12 graduate students could volunteer to work shifts that are minimum 2 hour commitment.

c. Volunteering Collaborations w/ WSA – Suggestions?: Brandi stated that GSAC would like to work collaboratively with WSA to build community among students and share funding of events.

Community outreach is one possible option for this, like Habitat for Humanity or United Way work.

12. Student Concerns (open floor): Brandi reported that our surveys have provided a lot of information about graduate life at WMU, as well as branch campus outreach and an open forum for student concerns. Brandi opened the floor up to student concerns. Jamie stated that the post-Labor Day start has given students a short period for drop-add on Monday classes. Daniel asked about progress on the printing policy. Brandi reported that those contacted by GSAC have responded positively to the increased 750 page limit. GSAC will more formally address WSA and Students for a Sustainable Earth before going back to Dr. Gilchrist of OIT.

#### 13. General Announcements & Briefs

a. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Danielle stated that the Friends of East campus are having an open debate at the Little Theater at 7:00pm September 24<sup>th</sup>. Brandi announced that volunteers can win a free WMU parking permit for the Campus Classic 5k run.

b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> (different location): Brandi announced that the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at another building because Bernhard is booked. Daniel suggested using the Health and Human Services building.

#### 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

a. Future Events

12. Adjourn 4:45

\*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.