

**Graduate Student Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center  
03-10-06

**Representatives Present:** Todd Ide (chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Jan Miller (Social Work), Lokendra Pal (Paper and Printing Sci and Eng), Joanne Lau (Philosophy), Christopher Jones (Geoscience), Adam Milewski, Justin Smith (Sociology), Doris Dirks (past GSAC chair), Kasuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Nate Michon (Comparative Religion), Kinfu Adisu (Teaching, Learning and Leadership), Alexandra Teachout (Geography), Thomas Lawrence (History), Brad Salisbury (Mech and Aero Engineering), Elizabeth Pierce (Blindness and Low Vision Studies), Kelly Davidson (SALP)

**Guests:** Christine Dore (Living Wage), Adriana Rosas (Anthropology, NASO), Kevin Vichcales (Grad College)

1. Call to order: 4:03
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes lost in website exchange. New minutes constructed from memory and notes. Invitation for any to help rework the minutes. Approved conditionally by Toni, seconded by Chris J
4. Report from the Dr. Ronald Davis: not present
5. Report from Dr. Kevin Vichcales: two grad dean candidates visiting. Decisions will be made soon, though negotiations might take longer, 35 or 40 days. Award competitions: Dissertation Completion Fellowship should be decided in two weeks. Diversity award: more applicants than usual. March 15<sup>th</sup> is deadline for travel grant. Grad Student Creative Scholar Awards and Teaching Effectiveness Awards coming up. DA/GA allocations: 12 million for 06/07, a cut of 2.2 million or 743 thousand depending upon the math. Appointment restructuring is going forward. Watch the list serve.
6. Report from the Chair
  - a. Living Wage Resolution/Presentation: Christine Dore: this movement has been going on for a year and a half. Dorm jobs were eliminated and privatized. 60 jobs turned into 30, no benefits, \$7 an hour. \$9 an hour with benefits is seen by Kalamazoo Health and Human Service Board as minimum living wage. Organization seeks GSAC's official support to the effort to ask the administration to only hire contractors who pay living wages. Vigorous debate ensues. Moved by Doris. Seconded by Jan. Brad dissents, alone.
  - b. Relay for Life: 24 hour walk around the track, raising money for cancer research. April 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Searching for a GSAC team.
  - c. NAGPS Regional Conference: Notre Dame, fill out application and give to Todd if you want to go.
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: New website up and running. A few photos not functioning. Kelly will meet with contractor next Thursday to fix bugs. Request for two volunteers to join web committee to help with research projects relating to past GSAC Chairs and GSAC history. Everyone please take a look at the website and offer feedback
  - b. Public Relations – Toni Strutz: the public is still out there, and we are still relating to them.
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones: journal looking good. Papers under review. Looking for cover art
  - d. University Councils**

- i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: banner facilitates admissions. New research misconduct procedures, posted on the RPC website
  - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Toni Strutz & Todd Ide: did not meet
  - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Brad Salisbury: report by the chair to faculty senate, well received. Overall, we are seen as a safe campus. There is a parking problem off campus, Vine neighborhood, whereby students park near the “silver” bus line and take bus to campus
  - iv. Assessment - Kelly Daniels: developing a one page explanation of assessment for those not familiar with the concept. May 17<sup>th</sup> is D-Day for Grad Program Review, says Kevin. Watch for grad program losses and perhaps gains.
  - v. International Education Council (1) – Kinfu Adisu: no news.
- e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
  - i. Proposals: Up Till Dawn requests \$2000 for letter writing campaign, GFAC recommends \$2000; moved by Alexandria, seconded by Kinfu; motion carries. Native American Students Organization requests \$2000 for Powwow, GFAC recommends funding \$2000; moved by Adam, seconded by Chris; motion carries. Drive Safe Kalamazoo requests \$500 operational funds and \$1394 for Gala, GFAC recommends \$1894 total; moved by Doris, seconded by Toni; motion carries. Sociology Grad Student Association requests \$2000 speaker fee for speaker event, which it currently holds from unused funds from last year; GFAC recommends \$2000, but would appreciate more warning in the future.
    - f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks: not currently meeting. Recommends seeing the film Stolen Childhood. April 1<sup>st</sup>, Doris’ birthday at O’Duffy’s. 6pm until the end
    - g. CAB representative –
    - h. WSA representative –
- 8. Old and Continuing Business
  - a. Intramurals: no dodge ball. Softball instead? Talk to Todd
  - b. Chair Search Committee: Doris Dirks: sent out ad. Doris encourages us to urge candidates to apply
  - c. Service Project: Doris suggests showing “Stolen Childhood” film, fundraiser. Kraftbrau is suggested as venue. Elizabeth, Kelly Daniels volunteers.
  - d. Insurance: Jan Miller: we will have new insurance packages next year. Are we willing to pay more money for more benefits? Annual health exams are in every package. We will have more choice
- 8. New Business
  - a. NAGPS Western Regional Conference: Doris attended national conference. Organization in shambles. Doris on new board. Need more members. WMU needs to get more involved. Kevin seconds comments. They’re seeking treasurer. Doris requests funding to attend conference in Boulder. Moved by Kelly, seconded by Thomas. Motion carries
  - b. Dinner with the President: we’re in process of getting on the schedule. Todd will be in touch
  - c. Permission for sponsorship of Jaycees Turkey Presentation: GSAC considering co-sponsoring event, Turkey a between East and West. Kinfu suggests the topic is relevant
- 9. General Announcements & Briefs
  - a. Unionization – Keith Russo and Jason Olson: not present
  - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order
  - c. Next GFAC meeting(s) – April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Next GSAC meeting(s) – April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>
- 10. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 11. Adjourn, 5:47