

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 10, 1999
Siebert Administration Building, Conference Room B

MINUTES

Representatives Present: James Cawthorne (Paper and Printing Sciences and Engineering), Patti Clark (Biology), Ron Coleman (Sociology), Doris Dirks (History), Rob Engblom (WSA), Mark Fredrick (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology), Jessica Gardner (Music), Nancy Greer-Williams (Communications), Kurt Hayden (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Chialin Hsieh (Teaching, Learning and Leadership), Tim Kuehnlein (Political Science), Peter Lawson (Anthropology), Mary Lucas (Communication), Stanislav Rumega (Physics), Sean Smitham (Psychology), Suzanne Stolz (Accountancy), Courtney Thomas (Materials Science and Engineering), Rodger Zanny (Computer Science).

Guests: Julie Scrivener (The Graduate College), Dr. Michael Pritchard (The Graduate College), Bonnie Dube (Student Affairs)

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of new members

III. Report from the Chair

Doris Dirks began her tenure as Chair June 23, taking over from Elton Weintz who had served for three years. We all thank Mr. Weintz for his dedication and hard work as GSAC Chair.

A. Ms. Scrivener and D. Dirks worked on the Summer issue of **Gradients** and it was mailed out mid-August.

B. Recruitment letters were sent out to department chairs in July to increase participation on GSAC. The response was positive, though recruitment is ongoing.

C. The **Graduate and Non-Traditional Student Services Fair** took place on August 25th. The major wrinkle in the Fair was the line for parking sticker validation. This issue will be reviewed by the G&NTSSF committee (which D. Dirks and J. Scrivener are members of).

A discussion of **parking** concerns took place. Rob Engblom, WSA president, is discussing the issue with University administration. Mr. Engblom would like to see a freeze on the price of parking stickers. It was suggested that communication of parking policies need to be improved and that hanging L stickers should be made available.

D. The home opener football game (a.k.a. **CommUniverCity**) will take place September 11. Volunteers for the GSAC tailgate event were solicited: Nancy Greer-Williams, Jay Cawthorne, Ron Coleman, Kurt Hayden and Doris Dirks will act as GSAC “hosts.”

E. Renewal of GSAC membership in the **National Association of Graduate-Professional Students** was discussed. Information on the organization was circulated. J. Cawthorne discussed the benefits of membership in NAGPS. This includes lobbying for graduate student issues, the web site, job bank, etc. A regular membership for one year is \$300. A motion to renew membership in NAGPS was made by Mr. Cawthorne and seconded by Mr. Coleman. The motion was passed.

F. The University is currently undergoing a search for a new **Provost**. Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Mike Pritchard is chairing the committee and discussed his role as SA Dean and then outlined the search for Provost. There is no GSAC representative on the search committee, but WSA President, Rob Engblom is the student rep to the committee. On September 16 there will be an opportunity for GSAC representatives to meet with the headhunter, Jan Greenwood. K. Hayden volunteered to lead the charge and was joined by Rodger Zanny and Mark Fredrick.

G. The 1999-2000 GSAC **Calendar and Handbook** was finally delivered by the printers today. It will be mailed to all graduate students. The Calendar should have been ready much sooner. The GSAC is unhappy with the situation and will seek to either change the format of the Calendar or work with another printer. The committee agrees this is an important topic and both the Public Relations sub-committee and the GSAC as a whole will discuss the matter further during the course of the year.

IV. Committee Reports

D. Dirks solicited volunteers for committee positions.

A. Admissions, Financial Aid, & Student Affairs Council: Dirks attended this meeting. Discussion included undergrad and grad enrollment for 1999-2000 (both increased), problems with financial aid (same old, same old), and Bronco Bash.

B. Budget & Finance Council: Dirks also attended this meeting and almost went blind with boredom. Finance majors need only apply.

C. Campus Planning Council: had not yet met.

D. Faculty Senate: Dirks attended. Ate alot of cookies with Mr. Engblom from WSA. Proposed changes to Faculty Senate will include elimination of several Councils, including: Campus Planning, Budget and Finance and Regional Education Council.

E. Graduate Studies Council: had not yet met.

F. Regional Education Council: had not yet met.

G. Research Policies Council: R. Zanny and Trish Basford attended. Mr. Zanny noted that discussion centered around the issue of who “owns” research conducted at WMU. The University is concerned with issues including: who constitutes the Principal Investigator on a project, who “owns” research data.

H. Awards and Fellowship Committee: had not yet met.

I. NCA RE-Accreditation Committee (Educational Purposes): had not yet met.

V. Old Business

Volunteers for the Graduate Financial Allocation Committee (GFAC), one of the GSAC sub-committees were solicited. Ron Coleman, Tim Kuehnlein, Jessica Gardner, and Peter Lawson volunteered to serve. Jay Cawthorne will serve as chair and Doris Dirks will sit as an ex-officio member.

A motion was made by R. Zanny and seconded by T. Kuehnlein to strike an ad hoc committee to review the structure of the GSAC. The motion was passed. The committee will consist of Tim Kuehnlein, Rodger Zanny, Jay Cawthorne, Rob Engblom and Doris Dirks.

VI. Announcements and Briefs

Mr. Engblom announced that any student may attend the WSA meetings at 4:15 on Wednesdays in rooms 157-159 of the Bernhard Centre. The Graduate College may elect senators to represent graduate students to the WSA.

D. Dirks announced that Peter Middleton, who works on the GSAC web page, is looking for suggestions as to the web page's design.

Those students interested in meeting with the headhunter for the Provost are to meet at 12:45 in the Fetzer Centre lobby on Thursday, September 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.