

## Graduate Student Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

MLK Room, The Bernhard Center

09-15-06

**Representatives Present:** Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Todd Ide (former chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Jason Olsen (English), Keith Russo (TAU), Deondra S. Ramsey (Poli Sci), Mustafa Sanver (Comp Sci), Lori Flint (Comp Religion), Erich Sommerfeldt (Communication), Abimbola Ogunleye (Comp Sci), Folashade Ogunleye, Keith Russon (TAU), Jennifer Messana (Public Admin), Jonathon Thurn (History), Melissa A. Kehoe (Accountancy), Ali Fadhel (Paper Eng., Chem. Eng., Imaging), Kelly Davidson (Student Affairs)

**Guests:** Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Graduate College), Brian Rosenberg (WSAAC), Todd Ide (Former Chair)

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1. Call to order: 3:00
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes (pgs. 2-4): Moved by Todd, seconded by Darryl. Motion carries.
4. Report and introduction from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Graduate College Dean: The Grad College in making progress. The staff is expanding: including a new director of awards and special projects, Dr. Julie Scrivener, who is in attendance. Welcome Dr. Scrivener! Today is the deadline for proposals for Travel and Research Grants. Grad College is initiating a publicity campaign. The theme is: "Beautiful!" And a picture of something that isn't normally thought of as beautiful. There is a new mechanism to handle gripes, now that the ombudsman has been eliminated. Each college has its own person in charge. The Graduate College has Marianne DiPierre. She is called the *Legata*, a Latin term, root of "legal."
5. Report from the Chair
  - a. CommUniverCity: a success! Everyone liked the food. New banner looked great.
  - b. Haenicke Institute Dean search: Rosana is on the committee. First meeting discussed the profile they'll want. They are working on an ad.
  - c. Provost Search Committee: on hold until a new president is in place.
  - d. Meeting with President Haenicke: Was a long, important meeting. He wants to offer GSAC \$20,000 as a precursor to taking over the 20% of CAB money. We need to come up with a way to use the money for intellectual events, not social. President search committee: Rosana is on that committee.
6. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: one vacancy.
  - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: working on the handbook. It is outdated, and should only be on the web. Will be printing new brochures. Looking for designers. Various suggestions are offered, including using the paper engineering department. Todd suggests reconsidering halting the paper handbook. Discussion ensues. We will survey the listserv. More discussion later.
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones: not present
  - d. University Councils
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Adam Milewski: full time status will remain at six credits for now. New rules covering summer I and II assistantships. Speaking of making all appointees as in state residents.
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud, Angela Simon: Won't meet until the 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Kelly Daniels: will meet on Tuesday

- iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto : will meet next Thursday. Kazu asks for a stand in. Rosana volunteers.
- e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
  - i. Proposals : GFAC recommends funding Drive Safe Kalamazoo for \$2000 for rides home events over the year and \$500 for operational expenses. Moved by Rosana. Seconded Kazu. Motion carries. GFAC recommends funding \$2000 for the African Cultural Night event. Moved by Rosana, seconded by Todd. Motion carries.
  - f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks: not present
  - g. CAB representative –
  - h. WSA representative –
- 7. Unfinished Business
  - a. Committee Replacements : sheet requesting volunteers is passed around
  - b. GSAC Student Programming Awards: Todd passes out information outlining the adaptation of the FRACASF guidelines for this award, to open the award to all students. Discussion ensues. Project voted down.
- 8. General Announcements & Briefs
  - a. Unionization – Keith Russo and Jason Olson: Keith: forming a constitution and bargaining committee. Come to meetings, 3pm Sunday, at Campus Point Plaza, near Video Hits Plus. Email [keith.russo@wmich.edu](mailto:keith.russo@wmich.edu).
  - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order
  - c. Next GFAC meeting(s) – October 13, extraordinary meeting October 27, November 10
  - d. Next GSAC meeting(s) – October 13, extraordinary meeting October 27, November 10
- 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 12. Adjourn: 4:55

## Graduate Student Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center

08-11-06

**Representatives Present:** Rosana Alsaud (Finance Chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Lokendra Pal (Paper Engineering), Joanna Lau (Philosophy), Doris Dirk (Education), Chris Jones (Geoscience), Yogin Patel (Mech Engineering), Manik Kapoor (Mech Engineering), Jonathon Tharn (History), Angela Simmon (Sociology), Kelly Davidson (Student Affairs), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Science) Christopher Ciptadjaya (Chemistry), Folashade Ayunbeye (Chemistry),

**Guests:** Dr. Lewis Pyenson (Graduate College), Jason Olsen (TAU)

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9. Call to order: 3:03
10. Introductions
11. Approval of Minutes (pgs. 2-4): Dr. Pyenson corrects minutes, concerning his report. Approved by Lokendra, seconded by Doris. Motion carries.
12. Report from Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Graduate College Dean. Follow up from last month: There are many parking places in Walwood for students. We must fix the sign that forbids them from parking there. Annual lecture series: waiting on a big speaker. We bought the high powered printer, which is available to GSAC. We must work out a cost sharing system concerning large printing jobs. Report from Grad Studies Council: we will improve the process of how theses and dissertations come about. New points: a new direction may emerge, in terms of attitudes toward students, emphasis on retention, major focus by President and Provost, the whole university is involved. Flat rate fee no longer applies to graduate students. The university is solid, and the bump will be overcome. The value of graduate diplomas will remain solid. Discussion ensues regarding retention and proposed improvements.
13. Report from the Chair
  - a. Haenicke Institute Dean search: GSAC is invited to participate
  - b. Provost Search Committee: Will meet in September
  - c. Meeting with President Bailey: Getting to know each other. Bailey liked the housing proposal and the student award fund, though she didn't know anything about the details. Getting rid of block tuition was a good idea, says Bailey, because it didn't apply to grad students anyway. Dr. Pyenson suggests that some rooms may very well be offered this fall at a discounted rate for grad appointees. Rosana says that Bailey said that no move will be made until next year about the tuition remission of master's students
14. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: History page is up. Also, links page has been updated.
  - b. Public Relations – Flyer mailed out for CommUniverCity and the Picnic
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones: no news
  - d. University Councils
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: no news
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud: no news
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Kelly Daniels: no news
    - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: no news
  - e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
    - i. Proposals: Sociology Graduate Student Association requests \$600 for operational expenses. GFAC recommends \$500 for operational expenses. Moved by Doris, seconded by Joanne.

Motion carries. OutReach requests \$500. Kelly suggests that they need a budget narrative before we can allocate the money, so upon receipt of a reasonable budget narrative GFAC will allocate \$500.

- f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks: no activity
  - g. CAB representative –
  - h. WSA representative – Joanne: No activity
15. Unfinished Business
- a. Committee Replacements: Passing around the sign up sheet. Slowly committee slots are being filled
  - b. GSAC Student Programming Awards: Rosana opposes this use of SAF funds. Kelly concurs. Chris suggests we give it another try with a new draft of the proposal. Kelly suggests we create a sub committee to brainstorm about alternate use of the money. Lokendra supports the award because finding grants is vital to students in the sciences. More discussion next meeting
16. New Business
- a. New Grad Student & GA/TA Training: will happen on the same day. Dr. Pyenson wants to revise the graduate student handbook. The Grad College’s job isn’t to instruct TA/GAs on the details of teaching. That is for each department. The Grad College should encourage and enlighten incoming GA/TAs. Student Insurance will be available at the session.
  - b. CommUniverCity planning: Everything is ready to go.
  - c. Picnic planning: All set. One detail: tent will be set at 11 AM. Rosana looks for volunteers for help to set up chairs.
17. General Announcements & Briefs
- e. Unionization –Jason Olson: TAU wants to help with picnic; will have a permanent rep soon
  - f. Announcements for the Good of the Order
  - g. Next GFAC meeting(s) –September 8, October 13
  - h. Next GSAC meeting(s) –September 8, October 13
13. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
14. Adjourn: 5:00