



Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 14, 2007, 3 PM.
Connable Board Room– Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Teekmaan Lim (Chemistry), Alissa Bailey (Communication), Jennifer Rubbelke (Comparative Religion), Greg Laing (English), Jamie McCandless (History/TAU), Moses Mwebembezi (Public Affairs & Administration), Brandi Pritchett (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Thomas Brown (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Samantha Wheeler (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Julie Scarpo (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Kate Block (Mallinson Institute for Science Education), Michael Ellinger (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Dawn Anderson (Interdisciplinary Health Studies), Hulrick Baptist III (Blindness and Low Vision Studies), Susan Celestini (Occupational Therapy), Joy Goff (Physician Assistant), Chris Praedel (Western Student Association).

Guests Present: Dr. Julie Scrivener (Graduate College)

1. Call to order: 3:06
2. Introductions
3. *Approval of the Agenda 9/14/07: Samantha moves to approve, seconded by Julie Scarpa.
4. *Approval of Minutes from 8/10/07 (pgs. 2-4): Alissa moves to approve, seconded by Thomas.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Dr. Julie Scrivener announced a number of awards available through the Graduate College. The first round of applications for the Graduate Student Research Fund and Graduate Student Travel Fund are due Monday and are valued at \$1,000 and \$600, respectively. A number of other awards are available as well, including the Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowships, Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships, Patricia Lee Thompson Dissertation Award, Western Michigan University Dames Endowed Scholarship, and the George and Beatrice Fisher Gerontology Dissertation Prize. Please refer to www.wmich.edu/grad/funding.html for more information. Dr. Scrivener also noted that graduate assistantships are also down about sixty students due to finding limitations.
6. Report from the Vice Chair
 - a. Meeting with Pres. Dunn: Alyssa stated that the meeting with Pres. Dunn went well. The primary purposes of this meeting were to get acquainted with Pres. Dunn and introduce him to the goals and functions of GSAC. Alyssa and Rosana hope to establish meetings on a regular schedule with Pres. Dunn.
 - b. WSA BBQ: Alyssa provided a brief description of the WSA BBQ and stated that it provided an opportunity to meet and network with a number of individuals at the University, including Pres. Dunn and members of WSA.
 - c. CommUniverCity: Alyssa reported that 650 graduate students attended CommUniverCity and had an enjoyable time.
 - d. Presidential Meet & Greet Reception (GSAC & GSOC): Brandi reported that the Presidential Meet & Greet Reception was the first time that GSAC and GSOC collaborated on an event, with positive results. Alyssa noted that the students in attendance addressed a number of good questions and issues with Pres. Dunn.
 - e. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – Jason Trowbridge: Jamie announced that the first general meeting of TAU for the semester will be occurring tonight in Room 105 of the Bernhard Center.
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Alyssa Kalata: No report.
 - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: Not in attendance.
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilttop Review) – Roy Henry: Not in attendance.

- d. GFAC – Alyssa Kalata
 - i. Proposals – NONE. Alyssa reported that GSAC would like at least two more members of GSAC to volunteer for GFAC and briefly explained what their roles would be.
 - e. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) –Alyssa Kalata, Greg Laing. Alyssa reported that a committee was formed for the Research Day Celebration. An announcement will follow when dates for the event are determined. She also reported that extensive discussion occurred regarding restructuring FRACASF.
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud, Alyssa Kalata: No report.
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jennifer Messana: No report.
 - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: No report.
 - f. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey: Not in attendance.
 - g. CAB representative –
 - h. WSA representative – Chris Pradel. Chris announced a student rally on the capitol lawn at Wednesday, September 26th, at 2:00 p.m. Students from all across the state will attend and meet with legislative members. Among other topics, the rally will focus on the issue of two-tier funding. Chris would like RSVPs for Western students through the WSA website. Bus service is a possibility, but carpools may be necessary for travel.
8. Unfinished Business
- a. Fall events:
 - i. Welcome Back Banquet & Golf Outing – 9/15: Alyssa provided a brief description of the event.
 - ii. An Evening with Diane Rehm – 9/25: Volunteers for the event should arrive at 6:00 p.m., all other guests should arrive before the event begins, at 7:30 p.m.
 - iii. Dinner with the President: Scheduled for Sunday, 10/28 at 3:00 pm.
 - 1. GSAC members ONLY.
 - iv. Professional Development Day (Non Academic Careers) – 11/02
 - 1. Changed from 11/16 to 11/02
 - v. Social Event – Winter. Date not set yet. Need ideas. GSAC members provided a few suggestions including a BBQ, a picnic, karaoke outing, a day trip to go skiing, and an indoor water-park trip.
 - b. NAGPS National Conference – 11/15 – 11/18
 - i. Needs one person interested in running for a position during the conference (pg. 7)
 - c. Graduate Student Survey. Alyssa announced two surveys will be forthcoming for graduate students in internet form. One is targeted for all graduate students and the second is targeted for GSAC members only.
 - d. 1st Annual Michigan Graduate Student Summit – 9/29 at EMU (pg.8-9)
 - i. Needs GSAC members to come along! Thomas and Jenny expressed a desire to attend.
 - e. Create GSAC E-Newsletter – Needs volunteers! Alyssa announced committee needs to be established to help create the newsletter and get the information to fellow graduate students.
9. New Business
- a. WMU Day at the Capitol - Thon Moses (pgs. 5-6)
 - b. Rebuilding the Bernhard Center – Traditional Union – Needs one volunteer. Alyssa announced that a volunteer was needed to work on the committee to revitalize the Bernhard Center. The committee is designed to improve the image of the Center and make it more of a student friendly location, with attention being paid to the needs and desires of graduate students as well.
10. General Announcements & Briefs
- a. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Hulrick announced that he is the representative from the Institute for Blindness and Visual Impairment and he sends greetings from his

department. Thomas suggested the need for a diversity committee on GSAC and announced that on October 25th there will be a post-traumatic stress presentation made at the University.

b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: September 14, October 12

11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

12. Adjourn: 3:39