

# Graduate and Professional Student Senate of West Virginia University

## Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Evansdale Crossing, Room 414

### I. Attendance, Welcome

- a. Call to order, 7:02 pm
- b. Series of meetings, met with Dr. Karraker to talk about prioritization and strategies for pushing agenda
  - i. Eliminating college tuition
  - ii. Allowing 1-2 credit dissertation status

### II. Officer Reports (*Officers* : 5 minutes)

- a. President (*Will Armentrout*)
  - National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
    - i. In stoneybrook, around for 30 years
    - ii. Large amount of pull on capitol hill
    - iii. Advocates for grad student causes
    - iv. Something worthwhile to buy into the group (\$150 for a year dues)
    - v. Next month, vote on joining
    - vi. Mizzou is in similar situation as WVU, have been able to pass initiatives
    - vii. Got the grad student health insurance case deferred, fought evidence used against grad students
    - viii. Send more info after the meeting and minutes are written up
    - ix. Q: How often do they meet? – nationally once a year, regional meetings also once a year (we would be a part of the northeast region)
    - x. Q: who are the other 30 schools? – mix of schools, public/private, ivy league/land grant, budgets vary as well (penn gets 2 mill)
    - xi. Q: what impact would joining have for us? – resources for us would help us achieve more for our grad students
    - xii. Q: Do they have resources for people like us trying to get grad senates off the ground? – online repository of resources
    - xiii. Advisor – pros/cons to this association, agenda items from DC office and conference in DC, gain lots of knowledge, talk with senators and other staffers
    - xiv. Q: can we trust them in light of the embezzlement scandal? – absolutely, 10 years in the past, checks in place
    - xv. Q: can we use the funds from OGEL to pay? - yes
- b. Vice-President (*Sam Horrocks*)
  - Meeting with Dr. Karraker (Summary and Motivation for Meeting w. Deans)
    - i. Scheduling meeting with grad deans to discuss college tuition situation
    - ii. Background on the SWOT teams, Karraker in charge of grad student one – make sure no cuts impact grad life
    - iii. Trying to increase efficiency to allow for getting rid of college tuition
      1. Lots of resistance from grad deans
    - iv. Meet with deans – discuss various ways to help alleviate burden on grad students (more later in meeting)
- c. Secretary (*Lindsey McNellis*)
  - Nothing to report
- d. Treasurer (*Chris Morlock*)
  - Not in attendance, sent notes

### III. University Committee Reports (5 minutes)

- a. Graduate Council
  - Did not meet
- b. Graduate Associate Deans Committee (*Cabot Zabriskie*)

- Did meet in October
- Bulk of meeting about disciplinary actions
  - i. Streamlining process, same for grads and undergrads
    1. 4 phases, time frames that stages need to happen by
- What to do with grad students?
  - i. 1 credit dissertator status, almost universally disliked
    1. grad students wouldn't take 1 credit seriously
    2. students should be able to in order to limit fees and costs
  - ii. summers are only full time with 9 credits
    1. per federal government regulation?
    2. Trying not to make it go into effect until next summer
    3. 5 is part time
  - iii. Main directive, protect PhD production
  - iv. Q: US Dept of Ed might be the ones requiring these changes?
  - v. Q: What does this mean for people who are teaching? – should be able to teach, but check with your department
  - vi. You are supposed to get a syllabus for any courses you sign up for
- c. Graduate Student Advisory Council (*Lindsey McNellis, Amanda Bailey*)
  - Met in October
  - Newsletter from OGEL (sent 10/21)
  - Grant workshops are being offered, link for signing up
  - College tuition was brought up, they'll keep trying
  - Parking rep was there – rec center, grad after hours parking
    - i. Suggested to allow department sharing as some students may only need it one night a week
  - Morgantown would institute 2 hour paid parking spots, no plans for WVU to do the same
  - Town hall did not have a good turn out – need to get the word out better for the next
- d. SGA Liaison (*Nathan Tehrani*)
  - Big 12 Student Government Conference
    - i. First 2 meetings with full senate
    - ii. Budget finalized
      1. \$127,000
    - iii. Big 12 SGA conference is happening on Friday on Evansdale

#### IV. GPSS Committees and Special Projects (5 mins)

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
  - Nothing to report
- b. Committee on Recruitment and Outreach
  - Nothing to report
- c. Committee on Social Activities (Amanda Bailey, Chair)
  - Fright Farm went well enough
  - November 17<sup>th</sup> – Grad Pub at the Brew Pub
    - Right before Thanksgiving break
    - Same as last year, ½ off drinks, ¼ off appetizers, some free food available early
    - 6–9 pm
    - Digital sign in – collecting emails?
    - Door prize for all new facebook likes and/or twitter followers within 24 hours
- d. Committee on Financial Affairs and Student Life
  - Representative Needed for Transportation and Parking University Committee
    - Offered space – next meeting at 8 am on 11/17

#### V. New Business (20 mins)

- a. Increasing Cost to Graduate Students (Meetings with College Deans)
  - When to schedule? – January, mid to late

- Developing Talking Points
    - Karraker sent a letter to deans with talking points
    - How college tuition is being spent within the college?
      1. How is it allocated among the different depts? Equally? By student?
    - How is it used to enhance graduate education?
    - Explain questions in advance so they can provide answers
  - What is fee structure? Were new students aware of costs?
    - Most (Davis) not aware of use of college fees (450)
    - Davis has high number of GAs, college really helps grad students
    - CCA most not aware of use of college fees (550)
      1. Not much discussion about it
    - Nursing (900), lots of costs for supplies and labs
      1. Paid beyond base stipend
      2. Classes online, makes it difficult to reach all the members
    - Engineering (621)
      1. Funding for student conferences?
    - Stadler response was raising stipend to make up for rise in tuition (not a transparent policy)
    - Law (7000 per semester for college tuition), no separate fees for the college listed
      1. Lots paid for by college
    - Medical fees? Dental school fees?
  - Maybe flyers around campus to reach more people
  - Main points
    - Push for transparency about how they use the college tuition handed back to them
    - Push for transparency for incoming students to explain true cost of attendance
    - Information on our website or OGEL about fees and where the funds go, maybe before March/April
  - Meeting Logistics
  - Revisit in December?
- b. Bus Route Changes on the Evansdale Campus
- WVU asked Mountain line to change routes to enhance foot traffic
    - 2 public meetings, 11/8 at 1:30 pm, 11/9 at 6 pm, in Westover at admin offices (420 Dupont Rd)

## VI. Old Business

- a. none

## VII. Open Floor

- a. Green Bank telescope, public meeting on Wed, bus leaving from Coliseum around 2:30, for students to go to NSF public meeting
- b. Insurance changes – deductible changes
- i. Transparency of coverage to students
  - ii. Options?
- c. STEM – some have OPT, others don't for international students

## VIII. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn – 8:33 pm

**Next Meeting: Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm  
Mountaineer Room, Mountainlair**