

Graduate and Professional Student Senate of West Virginia University

Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 6th, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Mountainlair, Greenbrier Room

- I. Attendance, Welcome
 - a. Began meeting at 7:05 with introductions
- II. Officer Reports (*Officers* : 5 minutes)
 - a. President (Will Armentrout)
 - i. Semester Priorities and Roadmap
 - ii. Have started a series of meetings with deans this semester
 - 1. Start building a relationship with admin and the colleges
 - 2. Admin knows our concerns about fee structures, etc
 - 3. Eberly, Creative Arts, Education have already met – Davis and Stadtler next
 - iii. Representation is another big project for this semester
 - iv. Leadership for next year – stay senator? Move into officer position?
 - v. Want to continue to build ourselves into the structure of the university and through the meetings our concerns are being heard and met
 - vi. *Sam* says we've build ourselves into the structure pretty well – more seats than grad students to help – shift focus to recruitment to help with the meetings and admin
 - 1. Need senators to flesh out the ranks – retool description? Refocus as a point of contact between us and colleges?
 - b. Vice-President (Sam Horrocks)
 - i. 3 minute thesis update, for later
 - c. Secretary (Lindsey McNellis)
 - i. Nothing to report
 - d. Treasurer (Chris Morlock)
 - i. Not present
- III. University Committee Reports (5 minutes)
 - a. Graduate Council
 - i. Hasn't met?
 - b. Graduate Associate Deans Committee (*Will Armentrout*)
 - i. Did meet in January, not much new
 - ii. Retooling how credits and merit waivers operate
 - iii. Changing language in graduate catalogues to allow for minors
 - c. Graduate Student Advisory Council
 - i. Met last week, Amanda Bailey in attendance
 - ii. Putting together another Town Hall – March 22
 - 1. How to get more people show up? Topics covered and free food?
 - 2. Open to all grad students, some guests
 - 3. *Will* – suggestion, couple it with something that will draw students in – combine with cookout?
 - 4. *HH at octane at the end of the end of the semester?*
 - iii. Grad student appreciate week
 - 1. April 3-8
 - 2. Feedback on what they include and what we'd like them to include
 - 3. Bowling night, moving cookout, 3mt, Friday Night Lights party at Octane? Also including challenge course this year
 - 4. Trip to Deep Creek, RSVP

- iv. Certificate in University Teaching
- v. To be full time in the summer, 1 credit if you have an assistantship, 6 otherwise
- vi. Some kind of calculator about taxes and fees on OGEL website?
 - 1. Best deal over summer?
- d. SGA Liaison (Nathan Tehrani)
 - i. No more news on the election, still single party running
 - ii. Redid way they do grants, hearing all at once and passing as omnibus bill, then striking individual issues
- IV. GPSS Committee Reports (10 mins)
 - a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Nothing to report
 - b. Committee on Recruitment and Outreach
 - i. Update of Roster
 - ii. Add and take people away
 - c. Committee on Social Activities (Amanda Bailey, Chair)
 - i. Recap of “Grad Pub at the Brew Pub”
 - ii. Roughly 222 people attended, so good turnout
 - 1. Only costs \$300 for GPSS to put on
 - iii. No return at meeting though
 - iv. No other social events at the moment
 - v. *HH at Octane?*
 - d. Committee on Financial Affairs and Student Life
 - i. Securing Graduate Student Spaces on University Committees
 - ii. Nate has a list of committees – see part V, b
- V. New Business (15 mins)
 - a. Statement on Visa and Immigration Restrictions
 - i. Assisting with Iranian Student Association’s “Academics United – No Visa and Immigration Ban”
 - 1. Thursday, February 9th from noon-1pm outside of Woodburn
 - ii. Statements by GPSS and other campus groups
 - iii. Sent out the statement and have been in contact with groups on campus about these kinds of political
 - iv. Iranian Student Association sending a campus wide email to announce the Academics United event
 - 1. Trying to reach more students and reach faculty
 - a. OGEL to send email to deans?
 - b. GPSS send targeted emails?
 - v. Tried to work Muslim Student Association, but leader was not available
 - vi. Trying to reach a broad spectrum of students and faculty to support this event
 - vii. Contact WVU police about possible issues and contacting Karraker about best protocol
 - viii. Email association contacts and ask them to disseminate to their departments
 - ix. Reaching out to Daniel Brewster, social media guru
 - b. Graduate Representation on University Committees
 - i. Student Events Committee (Few SGA),
 - 1. Looking for many people to volunteer
 - 2. None in attendance volunteered
 - ii. Student Legal Services (2 SGA)
 - 1. Cannot be a law student

- 2. None in attendance volunteered (Pete might be willing)
- iii. Library Open Educational Resources (1 SGA)
 - 1. Keep track of open access journals, examine databases and search tools for students
 - 2. None in attendance volunteered
- iv. LGBTQ Commission (2 SGA)
 - 1. Already have a grad student sitting on this committee
- v. Student Health Communications Committee (2 SGA)
 - 1. No information
 - 2. None in attendance volunteered (Patrick might be willing)
- vi. Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee (2 SGA, 1 GPSS)
 - 1. Will attend these meetings
- ~~vii. Mountainair Advisory Committee (?)~~
 - ~~1. Not a committee striking~~
- viii. We don't have meeting times for all of these, but we have contacts for most of them.
- ix. Any volunteers to serve on these committees? Send call out to listserv
- c. Advocacy trip to DC March 11-14 with NAGPS and WVU Science Policy
 - i. Priorities and Funding
 - ii. If interested, stay after meeting
 - iii. Talked about this at the December meeting
 - iv. Will need to meet a few times between now and then to get training on how to package a message and interact with congress people
 - 1. Perhaps funding through us for 1 or 2 people?
 - 2. Nate interested, Amanda interested
 - 3. Meetings would be Monday, Tuesday
 - 4. Major leg work is setting up priorities and setting up the meetings with the congress people

VI. Old Business (20 mins)

- a. Meetings with College Deans
 - i. Recap of meetings with Eberly, Creative Arts, and Education & Human Services
 - 1. Game plan for the meeting approach on the back of the agenda
 - 2. College tuition is a burden, long term get rid of it, other options in the mean time
 - a. More equitable pay distribution
 - b. Equalize out of state and in state tuition
 - c. Transparency – in the acceptance letter that they are required to pay college tuition and push for last year's amount of tuition paid
 - 3. Most deans do not know how the departments spend the money
 - 4. Working on setting the right tone between conciliatory and aggression in terms of getting our demands met
 - ii. Upcoming meetings: Davis, Statler
 - 1. These will be this week
 - iii. Determine colleges for next round of meetings
 - 1. Nursing
 - iv. Change tenor of meetings if we can't get reps from the other schools?
 - 1. Perhaps send 1 or 2 GPSS reps to a meeting or get together for their department or college?
 - v. Check back in with the colleges we have met with
 - vi. This information gathering is our major drive for the semester

