

Graduate and Professional Student Senate of West Virginia University

Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Mountaineer Room, Mountainlair

I. Attendance, Welcome

- welcome from Will at 7:05
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the year, providing a little bit of background
- formed last year out of quality of life issues and fees discussion
- make sure you sign in on the attendance sheet – please make sure you let us know that you want to be a senator and or are a senator and if you are on the listserv and receiving emails from us

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

- a. President (*Will Armentrout*)
  - a. *Visioning meeting, charting a path forward for the semester*
  - b. *Breaking into committees later to help form that vision*
  - c. *Think about what committees you might want to serve on*
- b. Vice-President (*Sam Horrocks*)
  - a. *Working recruitment and outreach efforts*
- c. Secretary (*Lindsey McNellis*)
  - a. *Website, events updates*
- d. Treasurer (*Chris Morlock*)
  - a. *Absent*
  - b. *Did send mock-up of a logo, suggested edits were not included*
  - c. *Logo design in committee recruitment and outreach*
- e. Liaison to SGA (*Nathan Tehrani*)
  - a. *SGA meeting last Wednesday*
  - b. *Officially became vice-president of graduate student affairs*
  - c. *Also attended parking meeting, leave till end of meeting*
    - i. *Parking was a major topic last meeting, we've been in contact with SGA and others about this issue*

*Advisor phoned in at 7:18 – welcome and thank you for coming to the meeting*

III. Senator Appointments (*Sam Horrocks, Will Armentrout : 10 minutes*)

- a. Welcome, Introductions of Colleges / Programs Represented
  - a. 14 people in attendance, go around and introduce ourselves
  - b. quite a few new faces, many from new colleges – nursing and sports sciences
  - c. are there any questions about the GPSS, what we're doing
  - d. history
    - i. about 2 years ago there were issues in Eberly over college tuition and fees; response to this was to form a graduate senate
    - ii. most other schools of this size have one

- iii. we want to establish lines of communication across graduate programs and to provide a channel of communication from programs to administration
  - iv. embedded into university committees that affect graduate life across campus
  - v. looking to grow our involvement
- b. Typical Senate Duties
- a. Come to the monthly meetings – 1.5 hours roughly
  - b. Committee meetings, monthly – 1 hour roughly
  - c. Report back content of our meetings to your program and to bring any issues from your program to the notice of the senate
    - i. If there is a time conflict, we can communicate this information electronically
    - ii. graduate students online representation as well – skype the meetings for those interested who cannot attend (Gotomeeting?)

#### IV. University Committee Reports (10 minutes)

- one of the ways we can be involved in the university
  - a. Graduate Council
    - Did not meet
  - b. Graduate Associate Deans Committee
    - Report by Will Armentrout
      - i. New propositions discussed at this meeting
      - ii. Sole grad student at meeting
      - iii. For this upcoming summer, full time credit hours will equal 9 instead of 6 (which was the previous standard)
      - iv. Eliminate college tuition, working on this, need to get all the deans on board
      - v. Q: remove or freeze college tuition? Different monetization scheme?
        - 1. Idea comes out of SWAT team, save university money; how to do this without adversely affecting grad students
          - a. Remove college tuition, not freeze
          - b. Opt in health care system, instead of opt out
          - c. No lowering GA stipends
      - vi. Office of Grad ed/life has been working towards raising GA stipends, but now tasked with saving money
        - 1. How can we as the GPSS and grad students help with ideas and advocate with Grad ed/life for grad students
      - vii. Q: Eberly just added college tuition, have other colleges always had these fees?
        - 1. Not sure what it's like on other programs
      - viii. Q: Last summer enrolled in 6 hours, that was full time, still have to pay fees for classes over 6 – with full time going up to 9 that means more in fees and tuition?
        - 1. Probably
      - ix. Q: justification for why its going to 9?

1. No
  - x. Half time will move up to 5
  - xi. Q: is this affecting undergraduates too?
    1. Not sure
  - xii. If the fee issue goes away, increasing to 9 may not be that bad
  - xiii. Q: will there then be university fees that replace college fees?
    1. Not sure
  - xiv. Hard to talk about as we don't have the full puzzle in front of us – what does moving one piece mean for other pieces
    1. Perhaps Karraker could come to our next meeting
  - xv. Remind university and departments why they want to offer attractive packages to entice grad students
  - xvi. Having Karraker or Constina here could help correct anything we have wrong in these types of discussions
  - xvii. Merit waivers on \$ amount instead of credit hours
  - xviii. Minutes are available from that meeting
- c. Graduate Student Advisory Council
  - Provides a voice to Dean Karraker for grad students
  - Possible town hall for grad students to hear their cases and problems on the ground level
  - Have not received email with dates/times/locations
- d. Faculty Senate Committees
  - Research and Scholarship, Teaching and Assessment, Leadership
    - i. No new updates on this yet
    - ii. Have a senate along the same lines of us, have many committees that meet and report back to main senate body
    - iii. These 3 committees were identified as being useful to have grad students on in order to add our voice to what happens on the faculty side
    - iv. If anyone wants to take the lead in contacting these committees, volunteers?
- e. SGA Liaison
  - SGA funds projects and trips
  - Redoing some of the bylaws about grants
    - i. Currently 1500
  - Will not be able to get grants for a couple of weeks while the revamping happens
  - Trying to increase amount to 3000
    - i. Larger the impact on the university, larger the grant
    - ii. No food per diem, events must be catered, no reimbursements, no gas money, rentals must go through enterprise, plane tickets
  - Just one grant per academic school year, can get grants for summer if applied at the end of spring semester

## V. GPSS Committees and Special Projects – Visioning and Appointments (15 mins)

- broke out into these committees and met among those groups
- volunteers for point people on these committees?

- GPSS meeting, and maintain committee meetings outside of GPSS meetings
  - a. Committee on Academic Affairs (4 ppl interested)
    - Compiles committee meetings above, main interface between senate and faculty/administration
    - Not selected a chair
    - 3 main points
      - i. handbook for programs of study, should have access to program handbooks
      - ii. working on interdisciplinary phds, combining different field of studies, fits interests, more flexible
      - iii. working on advising, students meet a variety of faculty mentors to help find a phd advisor?
    - Set up meeting with Grad ed/life
  - b. Committee on Recruitment and Outreach (5 ppl interested)
    - Encouraging participation in GPSS, below committees, and identifying and working with grad organizations around campus
    - Special Project on Internet Presence
    - Special Project on Understanding Existing Graduate and Professional Student Organizations
    - Sam will chair committee
    - Keep on keeping on talking with deans and getting appointments from deans directly
    - GPSS as cosponsor of town hall
    - Interfacing with social activities for next Grad Pub at Brew Pub
      - i. Make the social activity lead to attendees at our meetings and involvement in GPSS
  - c. Committee on Social Activities (Amanda Bailey, Chair) (4 ppl interested)
    - Social activities, picnics, happy hours, etc
    - Join facebook group for announcements and take the survey to see what people are interested in
    - Interest in weekly get togethers, happy hour, team trivia
    - At least one large event per semester
    - Outings for special events – maybe something for October
    - Investigate trivia nights and happy hours
  - d. Committee on Financial Affairs and Student Life (4 ppl interested)
    - 3000 funding stream from Grad ed/life, makes decisions on use of that money, applies for necessary grants
    - Special Project on Parking on Campus
    - Not selected a chair

## VI. Discussion: Parking on Campus (*Nathan Tehrani* : 10 minutes)

- Parking at the Rec Center
  - Large discussion over the last several weeks
  - Rec center is now paid parking, \$1.50 between 8 and 5
  - GPSS crafted a letter stating our case
    - Importance of rec center for grad students and issues with the public transportation
  - SGA and Vice President of Finance met – parking policy will change, but no firm details on the change

