

Graduate and Professional Student Council
General Assembly Meeting
2-6-2007 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Convene: 7:03 pm

I. Approval of the Minutes

Move to approve Minutes

Move: Alethea Duncan Second: Xing Zong

Passed Unanimously

II. Announcements

- a. **Nate Kundtz:** The next meeting will be the YT elections on February 20. The meeting will likely be 2 hours long.
- b. **Gabi Wurmitzer:** There will be a basketball game watch at Broad Street at 7pm for the Women's Game. On the 10th they are having a mixer w/ UNC and NC State at Jack Sprat at 7:30. February 14 is Valentine's Day, and there will be two events. One at the Broad Street café, speed dating, sponsored by Cupid.com. Afterwards will be a salsa dance; the admission is \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance. There will be Mardi gras party at Broad Street Café for free on February 16th at 9pm. International night in Chapel Hill at Jack's Sprat on the 17th and will be a celebration of people from different parts of the world.
- c. **Audrey Ellerbee:** She presented a presentation which is this meeting's digest.
- d. **Julie Roy:** On February 24th we are having another event with Big Brother Big Sister called Bowling for Kids Sake. The goal is for people to raise money, and she would like people to table on the Bryan Center Walkway and by the Med Center Cafeteria, as well as people to vote. The goal is to raise over \$2000.
 - i. **Nate Kundtz:** Julie has built up our Community Service initiative from the ground up, and so Julie is receiving the GPSC Distinguished Service Award and a small gift.

III. Young Trustee Update – Eric Vance and Lara Oliver

They reviewed a presentation which is in this meeting's digest.

Eric Vance: The Young Trustee nominees for this year at Ben Kennedy, Joe Volpe, and Bill LeFew. Please review their applications which are on the GPSC website.

IV. Charter Revisions – Lara Oliver

She reviewed a presentation which is in this meeting's digest.

V. OIT Printing Quotas – Audrey Ellerbee

She reviewed a presentation which is in this meeting's digest.

VI. CIERD: Past Initiatives and Future Vision – Alexei Valiaev

He reviewed a presentation which is in this meeting's digest.

VII. CAPS – Gary Glass

He reviewed a presentation which is in this meeting's digest.

Gary Glass: The process of graduate and professional school is going from a broad view to focusing, which are the qualities that lead to success. It can take a while for someone to get out of habit of always focusing. There is also two frequent questions that come up about relationship issues: how am I ever going to meet someone living the life that I'm living? And, how am I

going to salvage the relationship I had when I started this program? CAPS is offering a new series called “Personal Growth” to help address such questions.

Wakoh Shannon Hickey: She is a campus chaplain and she has had very good experiences with CAPS. Thank you very much.

Heather LaBreche: What workshops are available for the non-partnered folks?

Gary Glass: There has been suggestions that those would be useful, but they have not yet heard from enough individuals to merit developing and offering one. If you, or know someone who is interested in such a workshop, please contact him at gdgl@duke.edu with the subject line “GPSC”.

VIII. President Duke Bar Association – Brettny Hardy

She reviewed a presentation which is available in this meeting’s digest.

Brettny Hardy: Historically and currently the Law School has struggled to fill all of their available GPSC spots because it has been relatively self-sufficient and does not rely on GPSC for much. She would appreciate ideas about how to encourage the Law School to become more involved with GPSC events.

Audrey Ellerbee: What does the ABA do and what is the DBA’s relationship with that professional organization?

Brettny Hardy: The ABA is the American Bar Association and is a professional organization for lawyer’s. DBA participates with the ABA by sending students to national conferences.

Nate Kundtz: How large is the DBA’s budget?

Brettny Hardy: This year it is about \$100,000 and that comes from annual student fees.

Nate Kundtz: Do a lot of Law student groups apply for group funding from GPSC?

Brettny Hardy: Some do, but this year there was some miscommunication about when the funding cycle was this year, so there were fewer.

Joel Schlosser: Do you have a sense of about how many Law students are in joint-degree programs?

Brettny Hardy: She can’t say for certain, but she would guess between 1/3 and 1/2 are in joint-degree programs with Fuqua, Public Policy, Nicholas School, or the Graduate School

IX. Presentations by University Committee Representatives

Chris Oishi: He is on the Facilities and Environment Committee. They approve everything from construction all the way down to sign placement and removal of dead trees. They recently approved the plans of the new basketball practice facility and renovations to the old theater and literature building on East Campus.

They have also been involved in the ongoing process of the planning for the Law School Commons renovation, the long term planning of the Medical Center, and the long term planning of Central Campus.

Nate Kundtz: Would the new forum website be a valuable way for exchanging information about upcoming construction and planning?

Chris Oishi: To an extent, but it would likely be most valuable for long term projects. For short term projects they can begin and end so quickly that there would be little time for dialogue, but for long term projects it could be useful.

David Kahler: Since Duke is the largest surface and underground polluter in Durham, are there efforts in the planned construction projects to decrease the impact on wetlands and decrease the amount of permeable surfaces?

Chris Oishi: Those will hopefully be a part of the plans.

X. Health Insurance Presentation – David Kahler

He reviewed a presentation which is available in this meeting’s digest.

David Kahler: There will a public forum to get more details about the plan on Wednesday, February 21 at 7pm.

Audrey Ellerbee: Since you said employees get a discount when using the Duke University Healthcare System, why don't students?

David Kahler: It isn't fair to say that employees get a discount—students are charged the same amount that employees are charged, but the employee health insurance policy reimburses the hospital at a different rate than the student plan does. Thus, employees end up paying less to use the DUHS than students.

Betsy Holmberg: She knows that previously Princeton went to a self-funded insurance policy that might have been against the law, how did they get around the legal issues?

Megan McCrudden: Princeton hired a group of lawyers to research if a self-funded insurance policy would be legal in their state. Some of the lawyers returned statements that they did not believe it was illegal, and other lawyers stated that they did not think it was legal. Princeton chose to take the risk and they have been operating a self-funded insurance policy since 1989.

Lauren Braun: Previously members of her program, MALS, were able to get the student health insurance plan, but this year they were not able to—any idea why?

Eric Vance: The students in MALS are non-traditional students, they are usually older and do not opt into the student health plan. The MALS program has chosen not to pay so that their students may use Student Health Services; in order to be able to register for the student health insurance plan they must have paid to use the Student Health fee. In order to avoid adverse selection, either a department has to opt in completely or out completely; individual students in MALS cannot pay the student health fee on an ad hoc basis.

Elizabeth Rach: What did you mean during the presentation when you said that students could negotiate with DUHS?

Megan McCrudden: It isn't students but rather Dr. Purdy on behalf of students.

Jacob Remes: Who is Dr. Purdy?

David Kahler: He is the Executive Director of Duke Student Health.

XI. Attendance Policy Bylaws Change – GPSC Executive Secretary – Josh Wilson

He reviewed a presentation which is available in this meeting's digest.

Jacob Remes: In the section about Executive Board attendance, why include pardoned absences if Executive Board members can simply give written notice?

Josh Wilson: The words "with written notice" are currently being reviewed and will likely be changed shortly, but in an effort to go ahead and get pardoned absences written into the charter, this is being ignored.

Move to amend the charter as presented.

Motion: Joel Schlosser Second: Patti Thomas

Motion Passes.

Adjourn: 8:37 pm