

**Graduate and Professional Student Council**  
**General Assembly Meeting**  
**11-13-2007 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

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Convene: 7:02 pm

**I. Approval of the Minutes from 10/30/07**

*Move to approve the Minutes from the 10/30/07 meeting.*

Motion: Jacqueline Moeller. Second: Claire Siburt

**Motion Passes Unanimously**

**II. Announcements**

**Gautham Pandiyan** – The Young Trustee Selection Committee has been advertising that nominations are currently being accepted. Please help us publicize this with your constituencies either by email or by posting some flyers (provided). Please email him with any questions about the process, etc.

Furthermore, four Duke representatives will be attending the national NAGPS conference this week. Recently, the idea occurred that perhaps Duke would be willing to host next year's national conference. This could provide great speakers, good national exposure, and a chance to meet people from the student governments of other schools. Please let him know by signing a list (provided) if you are interested in having this occur.

**Alethea Duncan**– The GPSC Student Life Co-chairs have an email: [gpscsocial@gmail.com](mailto:gpscsocial@gmail.com). If you have any ideas for events, send them to this email address because they're planning events for the spring semester. This Thursday is Thirsty Thursdays at the Cellar in Chapel Hill.

**J.D. Lubenetski** – He is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student from Fuqua and is the CFO of the Duke-UNC Basketball Marathon, which is a 26.2 hour marathon that raised over \$60,000 last year. The proceeds go to benefit Hoop Dreams, which is a basketball academy that aims to give sick children life skills through basketball. This year they're trying to get more interest from the GnP schools. Sign up on the provided sign up sheets if you are interested, or email him at [jonathan.lubenetski@duke.edu](mailto:jonathan.lubenetski@duke.edu).

**III. All of the Above**

**Kelley Akheimokhali** – *All of the Above* is a play by women for women about Duke life. It is a bunch of monologues written, performed, and directed by Duke women. It began after an editorial written about eating disorders, but not all of the skits relate to that. Not all of the monologues are from undergraduates. They are trying to reach out to GnP students to participate in the development of this production this year, with auditions occurring in the spring and the

performance on April 10-13. If you would like to write or perform in this production, please let her know.

#### **IV. Judicial Committee Elections – will take place at the next meeting**

**Yvonne Ford** – If you or any of your constituents may be interested in serving on the Judicial Committee, place your name or the name of any interested individuals on the slate of people running for the committee. The Judicial Committee will consist of 3 people in addition to herself (as chair) and has two main responsibilities: 1) to investigate charges of misconduct and 2) to help with bylaw revisions. Information about this committee can be found on the website.

#### **V. Representative Committee Service Obligation**

**Christie Eyler** – All Representatives are expected to serve on at least one GPSC-affiliated committee, per the bylaws (a University Committee or GPSC Internal Committee). There are many committees that are available and there will be a representative from each of these committees here to talk to you about the responsibilities and expectations. Please sign up on the list or contact [cee2@duke.edu](mailto:cee2@duke.edu) with any committees of interest or any questions.

**Crystal Brown** – The Social Action Committee will pursue policy issues that may not receive as much attention if it is just herself lobbying for them. Our Exec board is very ambitious this year, and there are a variety of issues we are lobbying for and would like some help from the Social Action Committee. People on the committee will each get one “project” to pursue. People on this committee will be given issues to pursue and will meet as a committee once a month, starting tomorrow at 6 pm. If you are interested, send her an email.

**David Kahler** – The Finance Committee has 2 roles: 1) to create the budget and 2) to approve the group funding amounts. This year specifically there are two tasks that he would like to move forward with. There will be a committee formed within the Graduate School to look at how stipends are paid in an effort to make the process more uniform. Also, there will be more accountability for the budgeting and finances, as requested within the last year.

**Ali Saaem** – There are still spots on various University Committees for people to join. There are these four committees (amongst others) that are open. The Academic Integrity Committee is looking for 2 more Reps. The Financial Aid Initiative Council accomplished a good deal last year and he would like to see this continued; they need one more Rep. The Transportation Advisory Committee only has 3 out of 5 GPSC-affiliated spots filled; it would be good to see the work that was completed last year continued. The Campus Sustainability Committee only has one of its spots filled (by someone in the Nicholas School); he would like to have another standby member of this committee. If you are on a UC and your committee has not met, please still respond to the survey tool that was sent out by him earlier.

**Alethea Duncan** – Join the Student Life/Social Committee.

**Christie Eyler** – Julie Roy could not make it today, but she would like to encourage all those who are interested to join the Community Service Committee. This is a committee that could use any help, no matter how small of a time commitment you may be able to make. Julie has revolutionized this committee and would like some more help. In addition, she is looking to involve someone who might be interested in learning how to run the committee in preparation for taking control of the committee as early as next year.

## VI. Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee (SHIAC) Report

**David Kahler** – They are looking for feedback on several issues because this year the SHIAC will be soliciting bids for the new student insurance carrier. The first thing to talk about is the possibility of a copay-based plan, though it looks like this is not going to be an option because the UB-92 may not allow this to work, due to the required facilities charge for all health services that would not be able to be wrapped into the copay. They will continue to look into the option for this. This brings up another point – if you have an alternative insurance to the student plan and it is based on copays, be aware that you may have to pay the Duke facilities charge in addition to your planned copayment.

They are essentially looking for feedback on a change to the benefits structure of the insurance plan. One option to gain a benefit is to assist those who do not use services much. We could try to get price options for 100/80% coverage (in- and out-of network, respectively), even though it's not likely that we'll be able to get this.

**Supriya Munshaw** – Currently we have an 80% in-network plan but she wasn't sure what the actual coverage was because she had a bill on which she was only required to pay 10%.

**David Kahler** – It may have seemed like only 10%, but with the difference between actual cost and the negotiated cost, it's likely that 20% of the negotiated cost was paid by you.

**Wadia Haddaji** – So we pay a deductible of \$150 at the beginning of the year for all services up to that amount. What is the relationship of copayments to this?

**David Kahler** – You would pay \$15 per office visit and the rest would be covered. These copays would also be part of this deductible. In this way, someone who only uses the services occasionally would have a benefit as well because they would not have to pay the whole deductible for one visit. In this system students would also be charged the negotiated rate rather than the actual rate.

**Elizabeth Rach** – If Duke self-funded the insurance plan, would copayments then be an option?

**David Kahler** – It would probably be difficult and it likely wouldn't change anything about these facilities fees. We would then likely be dealing with the same problem anyhow.

**Elizabeth Rach** – What is the advantage to a copay system and what are the alternatives?

**David Kahler** – We've never had a copay system; we've simply had plans that require us to pay 20% after the deductible is covered.

**Unidentified Speaker** – Does the amount paid for the deductible count for the whole year?

**David Kahler** – It counts for the whole policy year (Aug 17-Aug 16). You pay \$150 of the bill of the first accessed service, then 20% of all other bills up to the \$1500 limit. This is separate from any prescription drug plan benefit.

**Wadia Haddaji** – Do you have the numbers as to what the cost is to students for our current and/or any proposed plans?

**Eric Vance** – It ends up being cost neutral for all plans, but it is a matter for which students would pay the most and when they would pay.

**Laura Johnson** – One advantage of the copay system is that you are more able to spread out the fees you pay rather than getting billed for a large bill all at once.

**Supriya Munshaw** – Would there be price options for this (i.e. different premium prices for different plans)? For example would there be an option for students to pay extra so that more than 80% of the costs would be covered by the insurance plan?

**Patrick Palmieri** – That is very difficult. One of the reasons the copay system is there for is to programs keep people from going to specialists for unneeded reasons.

**Elizabeth Rach** – One of the benefits of the copay structure is timing. If a copay system is not an option, is there another way to spread the payments for services out?

**Eric Vance** – You get a bill from the Hospital and then you can likely negotiate with them for an appropriate payment plan.

**Heather LaBreche** – Is there any way to get more information about the UB-92?

**David Kahler** - We're getting the draft of the RFP in after Thanksgiving

**Christie Eyler** – One aspect of the copay system that she likes is the fact that it will not discourage students from going to the doctor for needed services that they might otherwise put off because of a price barrier.

**Unidentified Speaker** – Is it possible for us to get two insurance plan options to choose from?

**David Kahler** – In general, it will end up being the best price for all students if there's one option.

**Oliver Gjoneski** - Would some students be hurt by such a change? Such as the people who need healthcare coverage the most?

**David Kahler** – The people receiving the most services probably would not be hurt much by this due to the maximum out-of-pocket fee. The people that would probably pay more would be the people in the middle of the spending gradient.

**Elizabeth Rach** – So the copayment money would be put toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount if a copay were approved?

**David Kahler** – Yes, we would insist on this.

**David Kahler** - Duke has an insurance requirement that says that the health insurance of students who waive out of the Duke plan must be equal or better to the Duke Student Health Insurance plan. This policy will not be changed, but perhaps the enforcement of this will be different. Currently a student can waive out of the Duke plan online by going to ACES and filling out 2 lines of information. Essentially, if any information is put there, the student will receive the waiver. A few audits have shown that this information has been falsified on occasion. We need to encourage enforcement of this policy because it is critical that students should be able to access care if needed without ruining their credit. Another benefit is to decrease the cost for everyone by decreasing the overall risk to the pool of insured.

Right now there are a few options for new enforcement policies, including 1) continuing this loosely enforced online waiver system, 2) a more elaborate online waiver with or without auditors, 3) an online or paper waiver that requires a copy of a valid insurance card to be

submitted (with or without auditors), and 4) a countersignature form where a paper form would need to be signed by the manager of one's health insurance to verify that basic standards are met by the student's alternate health insurance plan.

**Claire Siburt** – She thinks the countersignature form would be unacceptable due to the difficulties it would place on families and students.

**Eric Vance** – Unless there are objections, we will be changing to a more extensive online form with questions about minimum levels of insurance coverage.

**Michelle Newman** - Why would an additional online form help when the personal information of each student is already available through ACES? It seems like this would cause a lot of personal information to be given to multiple parties.

**David Kahler** – It will make it so that your then your info will be able to be used by Student Health in case your insurance information is inaccessible.

**Alethea Duncan** – Her concern is that there are many graduate and professional students who are covered by their parents' insurance. Looking at the graduate insurance, it would be hard to get information that would be sufficient to complete such a comprehensive set of questions on an online form.

**Consensus** - You can look up a lot of this information online. Furthermore, it is good to know what insurance you have and we feel it's a priority that all people have a minimum level of coverage.

**Wadia Haddaji** – Your main concern is about information being falsified on the previous form. Will this still be a problem with the new online form setup? If you are asking difficult-to-answer questions, people may not fill it out. Perhaps we should have some way of auditing this information.

**David Kahler** – This is a good idea, but there are roughly 4800 students who waive out of the Duke plan so this would be cost prohibitive. We might be able to have more random audits of peoples' information.

*Move to approve extension of discussion of this agenda item by 5 minutes.*

Motion: Eric Vance. Second: David Kahler

**Motion passes.**

**Kat Mitchel** – What percent of GnP students waive out of the plan?

**SHIAC Members** – About 20%

**Kat Mitchel** – She would rather have money dedicated to the 80% of people who are participating in the plan, rather than the people who are opting out of it.

**Eric Vance** – We have to think about making sure that people who opt out are going to be able to get acceptable coverage in Durham, which is difficult.

About 80% of undergraduates end up opting out.

**David Kahler** – About 375 students end up enrolling dependents in the Duke plan. Most of the fees are done online by credit card, but there is a proposal to move the payment responsibility to the Bursar's office, which doesn't accept credit cards (though they can set up payroll deductions). This way it is easier for this amount to be put into cost-of-living adjustments for financial aid. Contact him if you have a strong preference against moving this to the Bursar's office.

In another matter, early on students were being denied coverage for the HPV vaccine when given by Student Health, but this should be fixed now since the billing is now being routed through Duke PDCs.

*Move to approve extension of discussion of this agenda item by 2 minutes.*

Motion made and seconded

**Motion passes**

**David Kahler** – Mental health issues are still on the radar, though they continue to get more and more complicated. Larry Moneta has been instrumental in trying to get improved access to these services and we hope that these efforts will pay off in the near future.

**Eric Vance** – Also there is a new dietician at Student Health that can focus on eating disorders.

**Alethea Duncan** – We talked earlier about the possibility of dental health services through Student Health. Is there any more information about this?

**David Kahler** – They are asking people to come with proposals for dental health next year. Please contact them with any input or feedback on any of these issues.

## VII. Safety Presentation from Officer Day

**Officer Day** – He works for the Duke Police Department (PD). He is here to talk about campus safety and security. For more information, see the website [www.duke.edu/web/police](http://www.duke.edu/web/police). There is good information here, with links and answers to a variety of questions. There is a crime map that you can access for Durham at [www.durhampolice.com](http://www.durhampolice.com).

In terms of calling the Duke PD, both 911 or (919) 684-2444 will connect you to the Duke PD dispatcher. However, if you dial 911 from your cell, it will route through to Durham Police, who often have a much busier dispatch load. If you put the alternate number ((919)684-2444) in your phone it can be used in both non-emergency and emergency situations to get Duke PD assistance immediately.

You can view Duke crime statistics at this site (it is mandated that all PDs report their statistics publicly). Numbers don't tell you everything – anything can happen at any time. Do not be too paranoid, but also do not think that nothing can ever happen. The Duke PD does everything possible to provide a safe environment, but they can't do it themselves – they need students to be proactive about maintaining a safe environment. Larceny is by far the biggest crime they deal with here at Duke – some of the most frequently stolen items are: laptops, cell phones, iPods. Keep your valuables with you to prevent them from being stolen

Lock your doors even while you are at home. There have been incidents where peoples' houses have been broken into while they were at home.

Duke PD has a “mutual aid” agreement with the Durham PD so that the Durham PD can act in Duke and vice versa. In general, the Duke PD focuses their off-campus efforts in areas with more students, such as Trinity Heights, etc. Whenever there's a Duke person involved, the Duke PD will go with the Durham PD.

According to the NC general statute – the most powerful law enforcement power is the elected Sheriff, who likely won't participate in on-campus issues. The Durham PD has jurisdiction on our campus (i.e. there's no barrier to them coming on campus), but there is an understanding or professional courtesy that they won't come on campus to do things without notifying the Duke PD first. In extreme circumstances, they will come on without saying something first. Durham PD works with Duke PD and the Duke PD works with the Durham PD.

For escort services, call 684-2020 (Medical Center, 24/7) or 684-SAFE (on campus, 5 pm to 7 am). For safe walks, call 684-WALK.

Here are some personal safety tips (keep in mind that some of these are culture dependent):

- Make eye contact when walking near people
- Stay in well-lighted areas
- Avoid isolated areas
- Be aware of locations and situations that will make you more vulnerable to crime
- Report threats, obscene or harassing phone calls, letters and emails immediately
- Report crimes and/or suspicious persons immediately

Here are some tips for securing your home

- Don't hesitate to report suspicious people
- Lock your doors/windows
- Do not open your door to anyone you do not know or were not expecting
- Keep your keys in your possession
- Increase exterior lighting
- Trim shrubbery and trees
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle
- Install deadbolt locks
- Get involved in Neighborhood Watch

Here are some tips if you are a victim of domestic/relationship violence

- Let your supervisor know (if it is at the workplace)
- Provide a picture and a copy of any paperwork to the Duke PD (if you've filed a restraining order)
  - o Then if the person is on campus they could be considered as trespassers

Please do not hesitate to contact the Duke PD with any concerns – do not feel that it is a bother to them because your information could make the difference.

*Move to approve extension of the meeting and the discussion by 5 minutes.*

Motion: Eric Vance. Second: Patti Thomas

**Motion passes**

**Eric Vance** – What are the key points to bring back to our constituents?

**Officer Day** – The Duke PD cannot do it all on their own – do things to proactively prevent yourself from becoming a victim. For example, lock your doors, keep your valuables with you, think ahead, get someone to walk with you, call the Duke PD with any concerns. Let them know about the website.

**Kim Novick** – She lives 2 blocks off of campus. If she has a problem, would it be a better idea to call the Duke PD or the Durham PD?

**Officer Day** – The Durham PD is very busy and so it is frequently the case that the Duke PD may be able to get to calls more quickly, though they always call the city as well. If it's an extreme emergency (medical, fire), call 911 but if it's another concern (e.g. suspicious person), it might be faster to call the Duke PD.

**Cong Jin** – Is there a plan to increase the number of help phones on campus?

**Officer Day** – They would love to do this, but cannot because of a financial concern. It would be more effective if students began lobbying for these.

**Elizabeth Rach** – She had heard that though Mace is good, sometimes attackers are actually able to use the victim's Mace against the victim.

**Officer Day** – This is true, Mace has different effects on different people and there are cases of assailants who have not been affected by Mace and have been able to use it against the victim. In any case, Mace is intended as a mechanism to buy time so you can get out of there. Use whatever you can to get away from your attacker.

*Move to approve extension of the meeting and the discussion by 5 minutes.*

Motion: Alethea Duncan. Second: Claire Siburt

**Motion passes**

**Ali Saaem** – If a call to the PD is made from within a school building, can it be traced?

**Officer Day** – Yes, they can pinpoint the location of the phone, as long as it is not a cell phone. The cell phone number is available, but they don't have the technology to pinpoint these yet (though progress toward this has been made by some municipalities).

**Peggy St. Jacques** – Do you have any tips for people working late in buildings on campus?

**Officer Day** – Utilize SafeRides and the Duke Police. They have never had any incidents in the buildings themselves. The card reader systems work pretty well. Just make sure you are aware of your surroundings and consider having someone call you to check on you if it is late at night.

**Elizabeth Rach** – Do you have any statistics comparing Duke to Durham or other places/colleges?

**Officer Day** – He does not have them immediately available, but this information is available for all police departments.

**Jacqueline Moeller** – What kinds of things do you do to keep students who live in the Swift Avenue dorms and Central Campus Apartments safe.

**Officer Day** – These areas pose more problems and there are more access points from the community. Lighting is also a more serious issue than in other areas on campus. He recommends walking around at night with a buddy. Tell your roommate if you are going out and where you are going. Lock your doors and don't open the doors for unexpected or unfamiliar guests. Report suspicious people – this has helped the Duke PD stop crimes in progress before.

Adjourn: 8:43 pm