



## **GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes October 30, 2012: 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook**

Presiding Officer: Shannon O'Connor  
Refreshments: Amol Yadav, Brad Hover

### **6:30pm: Welcome and Call to Order** Shannon O'Connor

### **6:31pm: Invited Speaker: Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Duke Parking and Transportation Services** Brian Williams

- See powerpoint slides (2-21). Highlights from powerpoint:
  - Students who live near 15-501, Duke Villa, and Campus Walk have a lot of transportation options while those who live farther away from Duke's campus (eg. Croasdaile) have limited options and suffer disadvantages (eg. productivity/time lost).
  - The transportation options include GoPass, biking, carpooling, and WeCar:
    - GoPass is free for all Duke students and it prevents you from having to bring your car to campus. A GoPass can be obtained from either the parking office on Campus Drive or Duke South. A quarter of all graduate students have GoPasses.
    - Biking is a fast way to get to campus if you live 1-2 miles away. Plus, you can get free daily passes for when you have to drive. There are 370 total graduate/professional bike commuters.
    - Lots of graduate students carpool (there are 397 total graduate/professional carpoolers)! Students can go to [parking.duke.edu/carpool](http://parking.duke.edu/carpool) to fill out an application and find out where there are parking spots specifically reserved for carpoolers.
    - WeCar is a great option, especially for international students. For more information about WeCar and how to register, visit [wecar.com/duke](http://wecar.com/duke).
  - Students can check out [parking.duke.edu/housing](http://parking.duke.edu/housing) to find housing and see what other students have said about these areas.
- Question: The PG-3 parking lot is far away and not safe to walk to at night. The PG-9 parking lot permit is very expensive and most of her constituents cannot take advantage of these transportation options because of their schedules. Would it be possible to subsidize the parking fee for PG-9 specifically for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students? (Betty Jiang, Medicine)
  - Answer: The parking is already subsidized, the rates for PG-9 will probably not go down and his office cannot offset those costs. As far as PG-3, the medical students could use Duke vans. (Betty stressed that Duke vans are not convenient and would probably not be a good option for the volume of students that would need it.) The medical school could meet with Parking and Transportation Services to discuss alternatives.
- Question: Some of the bike routes around campus are not well marked. What can students do to help create more bike lanes? (Scott Kleiman, Fuqua MBA)
  - Answer: Students can talk to the Durham city council (Mike Woodard and Diane Catotti). However, there are lots of limitations and barriers. In places where they cannot do anything about the bike routes, they have pushed to have lower speed limits.
- Question: How can student advocate for additional sidewalks? (Isaac Arten, Divinity)
  - Answer: Contact Dale McKeel and cc Brian Williams (Brian's email address: [bpw3@duke.edu](mailto:bpw3@duke.edu)). One rule that Dale implements is making sure that sidewalks are put down when expansion occurs.

- Question: Is the Bull City connector being discontinued? Why did Duke change from Zipcar to WeCar? (Matthew Panhans, Economics)
  - Answer: The Bull City connector is not being discontinued. Duke re-upped for another year. Parking and Transportation Services were getting a lot of requests for Zipcar to do things that it didn't do (eg. overnight rentals, variety of cars that were offered, approval process that international students had to go through). WeCar could offer better options.
- Question: As a bike commuter, he notices that some of the bike racks are jammed. Are there any plans to install more? (Scott Winton, Environment)
  - Answer: Yes, there are plans to purchase and install more. The cost to do so is \$1500-2000 per rack. One will definitely go near the Nicholas School right outside the Blue Express but people will only be able to load it from one side. The main problem is that there is not a lot of space to put them and there is a balance between aesthetics and where they should go. Brian has been advocating for more budget money to purchase more racks.
- Question: GoPasses are awesome!!! ☺ Thank you! (Chris Marsicano, GPSC Attorney General)
  - Answer: Thank you. Go passes were seen as a cheaper alternative to building another parking garage.
- Question: What plans are in place to repave Duke/Durham roads?
  - Answer: The city of Durham has a link where people can submit road requests and pictures of bad road online.
- Question: She has noticed that there are motorcycles/scooters in front of Divinity school. Is there ticketing for this? Isn't this damaging to landscape and trees? (Laura Paul, Economics)
  - Answer: Yes, it is troublesome when people park their motorcycles/scooter near bicycle posts and not in parking spots. Brian is advocating for some parking spots to be replaced by scooter parking.

### 7:10pm: Introductions from the GPSC Reps

- See powerpoint slides (22-30). GPSC reps that presented:
  - Isaac Arten: 1<sup>st</sup> year Divinity student
  - Liang Chen: 3<sup>rd</sup> year Immunology student
  - Joshua Connor: Master of Management Studies student
  - Eden Ellis: 1<sup>st</sup> year Masters of Public Policy student
  - Robert Flowers: 3<sup>rd</sup> year Divinity student
  - Claudia Gonzalez: 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Environment (Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health) program
  - Abbe Labella: 2<sup>nd</sup> year in University program in Genetic and Genomics
  - Alan Todd: 6<sup>th</sup> year in Religion program

### 7:21pm: NAGPS— This Week!!

Chelsea Gaw, Bill Hunt

- The NAGPS Conference is this weekend (Nov 1-4) at Duke! Visit here to see the schedule: <http://nagps.org/nationalconference>. Everyone can still register for it and volunteers are still needed for Nov 1-3. Go to the google doc to sign up ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SY1ZtkwICCI Mt\\_S06nkwLLcnPjUSQSYUHP2BPDVhd6c/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SY1ZtkwICCI Mt_S06nkwLLcnPjUSQSYUHP2BPDVhd6c/edit)). Email Chelsea with any questions that you might have.

### 7:24pm: Student Fee Increase Proposal

Amol Yadav, Shannon O' Connor

- Amol Yadav (GPSC Treasurer) handed out a worksheet ("Student Activity Fee Discussion") which provided basic information about what other schools pay for their activity fee, our fees and budget, our student group funding, and an example for what a \$1 fee increase would mean.
- The decision made by the GA needs to be approved by the Provost and Board of Trustees. The max increase stressed by the administration is 3.9% (\$1.25).
- Please keep in mind that the GPSC executive board does not have an agenda and wants to leave it to the GA to decide what type of increase there should be (small, large, or no increase).
- The floor was opened up to discussion:
  - Liz Bloomhardt, EOS: The choice of schools on the handout needs to be looked at. There needs to be discussion about how some of these schools do not pay fees out of pocket.

- Akshay Raut, ECE: It must be kept in mind that the grad school population of each school is different. GPSC should make an agreement with DUU that 3 events out of the year be geared towards graduate/professional students if we do not want to take the \$1 away from them.
- Eden Ellis, MPP: He helped Amol put together the information on the handout. GPSC should take advantage of the agreement that if GPSC decides to increase the activity fee, none of it will go to DUU.
- Issac Arten: Would this increase help budget new GPSC positions? Answer: Yes, especially the career outreach and community service positions. Also, the social chairs would be able to host more events and student funding could fund more events.
- Viresh Thusu, ECE: Are DUU events attended by graduate students?
- Bill Hunt (GPSC President): Let him know if you do not receive DUU emails. As far as a deadline for making a decision, he will let the administration know when to expect GPSC's decision.
- Scott Kleiman: Is there a mechanism in place that says a certain percentage of this money will go towards "X" cause? Answer: No, but an amendment can be put in place.
- Liz Bloomhardt: The most important thing is funneling money back to student groups.
- Chris Rowland (GPSC Communications Coordinator): The freewater movies, \$5 tickets, and music in the gardens are all events funded by DUU. He tries his best to educate graduate students about DUU through the GPSC news.
- Viresh Thusu: Motioned to extend discussion by 10 minutes. Motion seconded (by Isaac Arten).
  - 22 were in favor, motion passed.
  - Betty Jiang is a DUU representative.
  - Jonathan Haldeman: Incremental increases as opposed to a one time increase? Answer: Incremental increases would be more effective but at the same time they are complicated and the GA would have to talk about it every year.
  - Scott Winton: How about implementing not raising the activity fee in the future? Answer: That is a possibility depending on what we want our budget to be but the GPSC executive board would like the GA to make these goals/decisions.
- The GA would like the breakdown (dollar amounts) of which events were and were not funded and of those that were not funded, what would have wanted to be given. Show specifically what events (4) could be funded with the extra money from a fee increase —the finance committee would be in charge of doing this. The GA believes this (along with a presentation) would be helpful in making the decision. It would be ideal if this information could be given 1-2 days before the next GA meeting.
- Jonathan Haldeman: Motioned for a 3.9% fee increase. No second.
- Jesse Colman, Nicholas School Student Council: Motioned to table discussion until the next GA meeting. Motion seconded.
  - All were in favor.
- Please discuss this idea of an activity fee increase with your constituents to get their feedback!

### 8:23pm: Officer Updates

- Bill Hunt: There will be a speaker from the sexual conduct board at a GA meeting in the future. Let him know if you would like to be a rep on the sexual conduct board.
- Nicholas Brandley (GPSC Career Development Chair): On November 15 at UNC, there will be a Master's and PhD career fair (collaboration with NC State and Duke). This will be good opportunity for people looking for careers not in academia.
- Chris Rowland: Keep in mind that students without season ticket cards can still gain admission to basketball games via the walk-up line which is FREE. Please be aware that athletics might start downsizing the graduate/profession student section due to low attendance (At the last game, only 260 out of 725 ticket holders attended.)

### 8:25pm: New Issues/Announcements

- Chris Marsicano: There will be an Election Night party at the Sanford School of Public Policy on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 8pm-12am.
- Isaac Arten: There will be an interview with Professor Luke Bretherton and Journalist David Crabtree titled "Faith and Politics in the Election Season" on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30-9:30pm in 0016 Westbrook.
- Wei Han, BME: The Mahato Memorial Event will be on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Schiciano Auditorium.

**8:27pm: Reminders and Wrap-up**

-Approval of previous meeting minutes

**8:27pm: Adjournment**

- Eden Ellis: Motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes and adjourn the meeting.
  - All were in favor.

**GA meetings, 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook:**

4 September, 2012  
18 September, 2012  
2 October, 2012  
30 October, 2012  
13 November, 2012  
27 November, 2012  
11 December, 2012