



GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes November 13, 2012: 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook

Presiding Officer: Shannon O'Connor
Refreshments: Andrew Schicho

6:32pm: Welcome and Call to Order Shannon O'Connor

6:32pm: Introductions from the GPSC Reps

- See powerpoint slides (3-14). GPSC reps that presented:
 - Janett Aguilar: 1st year in the Physician Assistant program
 - Grant Blumberg: 1st year Law student
 - Devin Bridgen: 4th year in the Biomedical Engineering PhD program
 - Fumiko Chino: 3rd year Medical student
 - Jaime Guy: 2nd year in the MSN Nursing program
 - Sydni Hagens: in the Divinity Master's program
 - Autumn Hamit: 2nd year Law student
 - Betty Jiang: 3rd year Medical student
 - Ming Hsiao: 2nd year in the Nursing program
 - Steve Schmulenson: 3rd year JD/LLM student
 - Danli Song: 2nd year Law student
 - Nimasha Weliwitigoda: 1st year Law student

6:59pm: Basketball Ushers updates Chris Rowland, Mary Johnson

- See powerpoint slides (16-17). Highlights from the presentation:
 - For the Men's basketball games, walk-up line admission (that begins 20 minutes prior to tip-off) is FREE!
 - There will be a tailgate on November 18th at 4:30pm in the grass field next to the Yoh building – FREE beer and food!

7:01pm: Community Service announcements Daniel Brown

- See powerpoint slides (19-21). Highlights from the presentation:
 - Some of the past events that the Community Outreach chair has done: Habitat for Humanity, Durham Urban Food Ministries, Durham Museum of Life and Science.
 - Some of his upcoming events include Project Share (sponsor a family), Habitat for Humanity, and Durham Literacy Center (book drive). Daniel wants to have more GPSC sponsored and religious events.
 - Visit the facebook page (look up Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council Community Outreach) to check out the calendar of events! Tell your constituents!
 - There is going to be a Community Outreach committee meeting on Thursday November 29th at 6pm (location – TBD).
 - The Race Home 5K was this past weekend. There were 100 registered runners. GPSC donated \$1000 to this event and 100% of the funds went to the refugee resettlement agency.

7:05pm: Officer Updates

- Bill Hunt (GPSC President): The NAGPS conference was on Nov 1-4. He is pleased to announce that Duke is the "Southeast Region Member for the Year". He is looking for someone to serve on the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee.

7:06pm: Student Fee Increase Proposal

Amol Yadav, Finance Committee, Exec Committee

- See powerpoint slides (24-26). Highlights from the presentation:
 - Amol (GPSC Treasurer) gave examples of underfunded events from the fall student group funding cycle with a breakdown of how much money the group requested, how much money GPSC gave, and how much the groups were underfunded. An increase in the student activity fee will allow GPSC to give more money to these types of events next time.
 - Amol showed how budget cuts affected the amount of money given to certain executive board positions (ie. Student Life, Group Funding, Community Outreach). The total budget decrease from last year was 15.23% (2011-12: \$159,250; 2012-13: \$135,000).
 - A student activity fee increase for the 2013-14 academic year was proposed to the GA: \$1.25 increase = 3.8% = ~\$10,000. This money could be used to support career and professional development initiatives, more community outreach events, and student group funding.
 - Nick Brandley (GPSC Career Development Chair): His current budget is \$1500 and he would like extra money to do a lunch series on alternative careers for 1st and 2nd year PhD students and bring in alumni to speak and give advice about jobs to graduate and professional students.
- The floor was opened up to discussion:
 - Scott Winton, Environment: Motioned to approve \$1.25 student fee increase for the 2013-14 academic year.
 - Liza Schillo, Nicholas School Student Council: Her constituents are comfortable with the fee increase but how much money is going to undergraduate versus graduate students? Answer: All of the money will go to GPSC (none will go to DUU).
 - Brent Curdy, Sociology: Taking into account the budget decrease (discussed earlier), this fee increase will not cover this. Is this increase enough? Answer: This (amount) is an increase that the GPSC executive board knows the trustees will pass.
 - David Yao, Fuqua MBA: Just to clarify, this is not a deficit but a decrease? How do we make sure this goes to student groups? Answer: Yes, it is a decrease. In order to ensure that, it would require a by-law change.
 - Joshua Rose, Biochemistry: Called to question the previous motion.
 - Viresh Thusu, ECE: With the increase, how much would it be per semester? Answer: .625 cents per semester
 - Wei Han, BME: Does GPSC have to give anything to DUU for not giving them anything (or are there any consequences for not giving any of the increase to DUU)? Answer: GPSC will have to absorb the cost to send the DUU email blast to graduate and professional students (which is ~\$500).
 - 1 was opposed to closing the discussion, everyone else was in favor
- There was a motion to approve the motion on the table (to approve the increase). Motion passed.
 - Scott Kleiman, Fuqua MBA: Motioned to guide the GPSC Attorney General and judicial committee to think and see what options there are about placing restrictions on how the money from the increase is spent. Motion seconded (by Sam Brody, Fuqua MBA)
 - Eden Ellis, Public Policy Studies (MPP): He does not think it is necessary to have restrictions on how the increase money will be spent because the GA approves the budget.
 - Jesse Colman, Nicholas School Student Council: Is there not a specific percentage breakdown in the by-laws about this? Answer: No.
 - Devin Bridgen, BME: The GA can always vote yes or no on the budget.
 - Joshua Rose: Called to question the previous motion.
 - Scott Kleiman: Motioned to have the judicial committee explore guidelines and options concerning how the money from the increase will be spent. Motion passed.

7:38pm: New Issues/Announcements

- Claudia Gonzalez, Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health: She is on the transportation committee. Let her know if you would like to join the committee and also if there are any problems about parking that you would like to have addressed.
 - Fumiko Chino, Medicine: She noticed that there were changes to the bike commuter's policy. More specifically, the parking vouchers were just given out before but now you have to print them the day before you drive instead of bike. This is very inconvenient.
- Ankit Mehta, Fuqua MBA: Spread the word about Dropbox. The more people that join, the more space you get. There is also a link in the GPSC news about this.
- Bill Hunt: There is a Diwali event this Saturday. Look out for an email from him about it.
- Eden Ellis: Thank you to everyone who came to the Sanford election party last Tuesday!
- Jesse Coleman: He is trying to figure out a system where student's comments about classes that they have taken can be made public. Does anyone have any experience with this? Answer: There is ratemyprofessor.com. On ACES, there's an option for something similar to this but it might just be for looking at numbers and not comments. Fuqua just came up with a comment system like this (Sam Brody).

7:46pm: Reminders and Wrap-up

-Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Fumiko Chino: Motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion seconded (by Scott Winton). Motion passed.

7:46pm: Adjournment

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 (tentative)