



## **GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes February 12, 2013: 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook**

Presiding Officer: Shannon O'Connor  
Refreshments: Andrew Schicho

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

### **6:31pm: Invited Speaker: Dean of the Graduate School** Dean Paula McClain, PhD

- Dean McClain's main concern: fundraising and disparity in equity of fellowships in different graduate programs
- There will be an offer of \$5000 to the next incoming class for summer support. Hopefully, this will help cut the time to the degree and allow more time for research in summer.
- The first stipend for a graduate student appears September 25<sup>th</sup> and they cannot be funded before that. To help incoming students, starting this summer (2013), they will be able to apply for a loan (with a cap of \$1000, a small interest rate, and the requirement that it will be paid back in a year).
- A new dean for professional development was hired recently. They want to focus on different pathways for use of the doctorate (not necessarily for academia).
- There are workshops to provide training for graduate students to get their research out there.
- The Distinguished Alumni award will be given for the first time this year at the hooding ceremony in May.
- Initiating next year: inclusive excellence award for success in recruiting and producing underrepresented groups.
- Hopes to increase annual fund and the contributions people make to Duke (found that students are more likely to give to their undergraduate institution).
- Question (by Scott Kleiman, Fuqua MBA): How do you support different collaborations across different schools?
  - Answer: It starts with the deans and faculty willing to encourage this and be collaborative. It is difficult to get professional students together with graduate students. Ideas stem from the students (eg. child policy care). Please email Dean McClain with your ideas.
- Question (by Bill Hunt, GPSC President): Can you say a little bit about your background?
  - Answer: She graduated from graduate school in 1977, came to Duke in 2000, has a background in Political Science (concentration in ethnics and minorities), and has a research team that consists of 3 graduate students. She is also a mom ☺

### **6:48pm: Introductions from the GPSC Reps**

### **7:15pm: Young Trustee Elections**

Andrew Barnhill  
Kate Duch  
Chris Marsicano

- Question (by Samantha Brody, Fuqua MBA): How many applications were received?
  - Answer: It was on par from last year (22 applications were received last year).

- Fumiko Chino, Medicine: Motioned to approve the Young Trustee (YT) election procedure. Motion seconded. All were in favor.
- The three YT candidates, listed above, each gave 5 minutes speeches that were followed by a brief question and answer period.
- There was a motion to close the session for discussion. Motion seconded.
- There was a motion to amend the previous motion to include Scott Kleiman in the discussion. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- There was a motion to extend the time for discussion by 5 minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- There was a motion to vote. All were in favor.
- Kate Duch is the new (graduate student) Young Trustee ☺

### **8:00pm: Bylaws Changes (continued from last meeting)**

#### Judicial Committee

- There was a motion to pass the bylaws as they were presented at the last GA meeting plus the amendment from Scott Kleiman. Motion seconded.
- There was a motion to close the discussion and vote. Motion seconded. All were in favor.
- There was a motion to pass the bylaws by showing placards. All were in favor. The bylaws were passed ☺

### **8:04pm: Retreat Information**

#### Shannon O'Connor

- The retreat will be two weeks from today in the Thomas center in Fuqua from 6-9pm. All reps and executive board members are invited. Please RSVP ASAP even if you cannot come. There will be a team building exercise and we will be brainstorming GPSC issues (eg. mission statement, how to reach out to people who do not come to GPSC related events). Please email Shannon O'Connor (GPSC Vice President) if you have more ideas. Dinner (vegetarian friendly) and dessert will be at 7pm. There will be an email sent out about parking.
- Ideas from GPSC reps: how to get reps to come to the meetings; how to foster interdisciplinary action between the different schools; better organizations for community service and sports teams.

### **8:15pm: Officer Updates**

- Alexis Mann, GPSC Student Life Co-Chair: For the GPSC formal, please register or pay at the door. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be beer tasting. TBD: speed dating and march madness bracket.
- Bill Hunt: He is keeping in contact with alumni affairs and working on getting graduate students to donate. The Veteran's Affairs group needs leadership. There will be a speaker at a future GA meeting about gender conflict among graduate students.
- Shannon O'Connor: She received money for the retreat.

### **8:19pm: New Issues/Announcements**

- Scott Winton, Environment: He is confused as to why there is a fee for buying tickets for Duke performances over the phone or the internet.
  - Apparently, it is done because it is a 24 hour convenience.

### **8:21pm: Reminders and Wrap-up**

- Approval of previous meeting minutes
- Retreat instead of next meeting: 6-9pm, Feb 26, Thomas Center
- Six Plates gathering after the meeting!

- Shannon mentioned we could do the "Meet The Exec" presentations now or at the retreat.
  - There was a motion to do it at this GA meeting. Motion seconded. Motion did not pass.

- The previous meeting minutes were approved.

### **8:24pm: Adjournment**

- There was a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded.

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

January 15

January 29

February 12

February 26 (Retreat: 6-9pm)

March 19

April 2

April 16

April 23 (tentative)