



## **GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

### **March 19, 2013: 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook**

Presiding Officer: Shannon O'Connor  
Refreshments: Pan Wu

#### **6:30pm: Welcome and Call to Order**

Shannon O'Connor

#### **6:31pm: Invited Speaker: Student Ombudsman**

John Blackshear, PhD

- Ombudsman – a person that is held as an independent in an agency; helps with problem solving, conflicts, and working out resolutions; mediator for various issues (eg. staying in graduate school, funding for graduate school, authorship, dismissal, harassment, problems between students and between students and faculty).
- Dr. Blackshear works closely with the provost and institution of equity. He reports to them and his feedback is used to shape policies.
- Question (by Fumiko Chino, Medicine): What are some of the reoccurring issues?
  - Answer: Continuation and funding, supporting a student if their relationship with the PI goes sour, authorship, and just support throughout the dissertation process.
- Question (by Matt Panhans, Economics): How can people contact you?
  - Answer: Call him. Dr. Blackshear's phone number is (919) 673-2261.
- Question (by Brent Curdy, Sociology): What stage do people usually come to you and what stage would you like people to come to you?
  - Answer: Come early! Keep in mind that he does not have to report most things (everything is kept confidential).

#### **6:52pm: Officer Updates**

- On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a gender violence awareness event. Contact Bill Hunt (GPSC President) for more details.
- Shannon O'Connor (GPSC Vice President): Thank you for coming to retreat!!! ☺ Today is Shannon's birthday!! Abbe Labella ([abigail.labella@duke.edu](mailto:abigail.labella@duke.edu)) will be the chair of the committee that will continue the retreat ideas. Email her if you would like to join this committee.
- Chris Rowland (GPSC Communications Coordinator): He wants to revamp the GPSC website and streamline it. Email him ([crr13@duke.edu](mailto:crr13@duke.edu)) with your suggestions.

#### **6:59pm: New Issues/Announcements**

- Please contact Mark Bartlett ([mark.bartlett@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bartlett@gmail.com)) if you have feedback for the Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee.
- Bill H.: There will be another GPSC happy hour at Six Plates tonight!

#### **7:03pm: Executive Board Elections**

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Attorney General

4. Treasurer
5. Executive Secretary
6. University Affairs Coordinator
7. Academic Officer
8. Student Group Liaison
- 9/10. Two Student Life Co-Chairs
11. Community Outreach Coordinator
12. Career Services and Professional Development Chair
13. Communications Coordinator

- Eden Ellis, Public Policy MPP: Motioned to allow new members, who have not had the opportunity to attend three prior meetings, to vote. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.
- There was a motion to voice vote for single person nominations with no conversation. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.
- 2013-2014 GPSC Executive Board:
  - President: Amol Yadav
  - Vice President: Shannon O' Connor
  - Attorney General: Brad Hover
  - Treasurer: Eden Ellis
  - Executive Secretary: Betty Jiang
  - University Affairs Coordinator: Shanna Lehrman
  - Academic Officer: Yilin Liu
  - Student Group Liaison: Abbe Labella
- There was a motion to table the remaining four positions (Student Life Co-Chairs, Community Outreach Coordinator, Career Services and Professional Development Chair, and Communications Coordinator) until the next GA meeting. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

### **8:33pm: Reminders and Wrap-up**

-Approval of previous meeting minutes

- The previous meeting minutes will be approved at the next GA meeting.

### **8:33pm: Adjournment**

- There was a motion to adjourn. Motion was 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)