GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes

March 1st, 2011: Room 0016 Westbrook
Presiding Officer: Felicia Hawthorne

6:32pm: Call to Order
Officer’s Updates:
Dan – GPSC Facebook page has been formed. Reps are encouraged to “like” it.
Liz – Green Team –
   1. BikeDuke.com has been put together by the Green Team. There is information for persons who want to bike to Duke, put bikers in contact with each other, bike safety, biking routes from popular housing regions etc. Please pass the web address to your constituents.
   2. If you have ideas about the next project that Green Team can tackle please contact Liz.
Felicia – We have been working on updating the GPSC website. If anyone has suggestions about the website please contact Felicia.

6:40pm – Last meeting’s minutes passed with no changes.

6:40pm – Old Business
Finance Transparency – Jordan Eccles.
   - The reasons why particular groups get the funding that they get is not available upon request which some persons thought was the case.
   - Jordan therefore has three proposals for the GA (see attachment)
Discussion:
   - Is there any document that says that the reasons for funding are not open?
     o No. The request was simply denied.
   - For an auditing system it might be difficult to get the official records from all groups.
     o To start we can just request the receipts from the various groups.
   - There is some fuzziness in the decisions made – how much would the event impact the school etc. It is sometimes difficult to state what exactly these reasons are.
   - There might be a fear that if all the reasons were made available it will slow down the funding process if the procedure has to be redone due to a single error.
   - Would it not be very difficult to get the receipts from everyone’s events?
     o Receipts will not be requested from everyone. Just from a random percentage.
   - The Finance Committee has had several discussions on starting an auditing sub-committee.

Motion – To pass all three proposals. Seconded. Passed by a majority.
7:09pm Health Insurance & Smoking Ban– David Kahler
- Bids are being made for student insurance coverage.
- Anyone with questions/suggestions can contact David or anyone on SHIAC
- The DSG (Duke School Government) is in the process of suggesting new smoking bans. (see attachment).

Discussion:
- Smoking should be banned.
- If smoking is banned it should be applied to anyone.
- Have designated areas for smoking.
- Do we have any data on what percentages of students/employees smoke?
  - We only know that >70% undergrads are in favour of the smoking ban.
- Who actually enforces this?
- There are areas on campus where No Smoking signs are used and do work though there are no official enforcers.
- When Duke Hospital went smoke free what were the reactions? Is there any enforcement?
- Should we send out a quick link in GPSC News with a poll to get the views of the greater graduate and professional student body?
- It is likely that personnel from Facilities Management might be the group most likely affected. Will this smoking ban, if implemented, be used in the review structure for Facilities Management?

- David will take bring further information to the GA as it becomes available.

7:27 New Business

Student Legal Services
- Currently the undergrads pay for a lawyer who gives them legal services and advice.
- GPSC has considered this in the past but it was very expansive. The price has since dropped considerably. GnP students have however, been attending the undergrad’s lawyer and we have been approached to either pay or stop our students from attending.
- The Undergrads budget $4800/yr at $60/hr. We are considering matching that price.
- We can also use the rest of the semester to have the lawyer tally how many GnP students he’s receiving.

Discussion:
- We should also get some feedback on whether he’s good, esp. as he’s so cheap.
  - So far the feedback has been good from DSG. Having a feedback form would be something that we can advertise also.
- The consultations are ~20mins long.
- Are there any restrictions on the type of legal services? Are people using this for divorces etc?
  - No. This is more along the lines of: Should I get a lawyer for this? Reviewing lease contracts etc.
- Are there clear roles defined? So that roles do not overlap, for example, the Ombudsman etc.
- We will have to be clear that this is just a counseling service.
- What is the next step?
  - We are setting up a meeting to discuss it what we want to do for the rest of the semester.
  - GnP students have not been blocked so they are still using it.
  - If it passes in the budget for next year we’ll work out a contract with them.
  - If we are doing it we will then strongly advertise it.

7:42pm Amanda Pooler, Law
- With regard to parking, Amanda serves on the Parking and Transportation Committee and they are trying to get information about parking, alternative transportation etc available to students BEFORE they make their decisions for next year. The Transportation Demand Management Coordinator will be speaking to the Law School soon and Amanda recommends that other reps arrange with him to come to their schools.
- Liz - There is a freshman student who’s working on a Green Book – “How to Live Green at Duke”. Her first version will be completed shortly but she has plans to expand it to Graduate and Professional Students. The Green Team is interested in helping her expanding this and it might be a good resource to give to incoming students as they make decisions on parking and transportation.

7:47pm Next GA Meeting
- The next scheduled GA meeting (Mar 15th) falls during the second week of Spring Break for some people.
- Suggestion that we switch the GA meeting with the following Exec meeting which would result in back to back GA meetings but should not result in extremely long meetings.
- Motion made to switch and push back GA meeting one week to Mar 22nd. Motion seconded and passed by a majority.
- There will be a recruitment Exec event tonight at Tyler’s if anyone is interested.
- Note to new reps – all reps are required to serve on a University Committee. Please email Ali at ali.saaem@gmail.com for more information.
- Motion to end meeting. Seconded and passed.

Meeting ended at 7:50pm.