GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2011: Room 0016 Westbrook
Presiding Officer: Felicia Hawthorne

6:29pm: Call to Order

6:29pm: Officer Updates:
Miles – April 30th is the GPSC Spring Formal at Spice Street.
Alana – Gifts for perfect attendance for reps.

6:35pm – Basketball policy changes – See attachment.
Question – There was a policy topic brought up by the WEMBA students. What happened?
A - The committee decided that the present method of deciding individually on exempts should be maintained rather than giving exemptions to groups. This group of students is not the only groups that are away over that weekend and the Basketball Committee does not wish to have all groups submit group exempts. The exemption policy stresses the over-submission of documents.

Dan – What’s the procedure for people who had an exempt if they are not able to pay within the 2 hours? Answer – Your proxy can do it.

Motion made to accept the changes proposed. Seconded. Motion carried.

6:43pm – Budget allocations for the upcoming year 2010-2011. See attachment. Changes in blue are still to be decided but will be at least as high as last year.
In an attempt to decrease the surplus we’re aiming to increase club budgets as well as increase the amount spent at campout and increase awareness of the GPSC brand within the GnP population.

- One possible suggestion is to possibly save the surplus each year and take it to the Administration as incentive for a Graduate Student Center.
- Q – As there is a surplus has there been a discussion about not increasing or possibly decreasing the fee? A - There has not an increase in the student activity fee for the past few years.
- Suggestion that perhaps the GA can look at the Funding By-laws to change the rules so more money can be given back to the students.

Motion made to approve the budget. Seconded.
A – Lifetime membership for the NAGPS for $10,000 while yearly payments are $500. Should be use the surplus to get lifetime membership?
Ali – The National GPSC has been helpful in the past regarding policy issues, visa issues etc. Right now we pay $500 to be a member. If we pay $10,000 we get a stronger voice in NAGPS and it would be a good investment.
Dan – Duke is a leader when it comes to GPSC. Lifetime membership will be an injection to the NAGPS and will establish Duke even more.
Q – But are there tangible benefits to lifetime memberships?
A – NO but we will have a stronger voice.
Q – What other schools have lifetime members?
A – MIT etc etc
Q – How long have we been part of this organization? And will the organization will be around 20 years in the future?
A – At least the past 8 years. Yes, the org will be around.
Ali – Caveat though. Before handing over $10,000 over to NAGPS we should use it as an incentive to hold the National Conference at Duke in the next couple years.
Motion remade to approve budget as given with the caveat that next year’s GA will address the possibility of having lifetime membership in the NAGPS. Motion seconded and carried.

**7:06pm By-law Changes.** See attachment.

i. ‘University’ to replace the word ‘Community Affairs’ in one section of the by-laws.
ii. The proposed amendment takes the language of the Executive Handbook (see attachment). The proposal is to add it to the By-laws.
Discussion:
- This seems appropriate for a handbook but perhaps not suited for the by-laws.
- Motion made to change the language to remove “General practice has been for Executive Board members to withhold comment” to “Executive Board members should withhold comment”. Seconded.
  - Discussion:
    - Language should be left more malleable.
    - It was in the handbook but clearly was not followed and so should be in the by-laws.
    - Having this in the by-laws will be penalizing those who have taken on leadership positions.
    - This proposal as stated only addresses closed discussion so would it even solve the problem?
- Voting on whether to pass into the by-laws. Motion did not carry.
  - Q – If it’s not in the by-laws, then where does it belong so it is known?
  - A – Perhaps this can go out in the mail about Elections so everyone will know what the suggestion is.
- The Executive can work on the Handbook over the summer and bring it to the GA in the Fall.
- Motion made to have the Executive designate a keeper of the Handbook over the summer and that said Handbook should be updated and made public. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

**7:27pm Voting for Board of Trustee Standing Committee.**

*Academic Affairs (2):*
Nominees: Dan Griffin, Viresh Thusu, Yang Yang
Selected: Dan Griffin and Yang Yang

*Business and Finance (2)*
Nominees: Olgun Kurker, Viresh Thusu
Motion to vote by acclamation. Motion seconded and passed.
Selected: Olgun Kurker and Viresh Thusu
Facilities and Environment (2)
Nominees: Liz Bloomhardt, Kris Voss
Motion to vote by acclimation for all elections that are limited with the number of candidates that there are slots. Motion seconded and carried.
Selected: Liz Bloomhardt and Kris Voss

Institutional Advancement (2)
Nominees: Pan Wu, Miles Crosskey, Fallon Ukpe
Selected: Fallon Ukpe and Miles Crosskey

Undergraduate Student Affairs (1)
Nominees: Andrew Barnhill, Steven Schmulenson
Selected:
Andrew Barnhill

If reps have questions and concerns over the summer the GPSC Executive meets over the summer so please feel free to contact them.

9:01pm Meeting adjourned.