

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
8-8-03

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (chair), Jay Cawthome (PPSE), Greg Waltz (BioSci), Ralucca Gera (Math), Jessica Baby (CECP), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Craig Thomas (EUP), Fodei Batty (Political Science), Kurt Hayden, (IME), Debbie Glowacki (OT),

Guests: Janice Jaroneski, (VPSA, Business Manager)

Report from the chair:

a. Board of trustees meeting

The Board announced that tuition would be increased 12.4% and the student development fee would now be \$100.00. The Board also announced that the new Seelye Center would now be officially known as the Seelye Center.

Full time status was lowered to six credit hours and part time dropped to four credit hours.

b. Meeting with President Bailey

Marcel welcomed her to the University and discussed new Graduate Student policies with her. She was surprised that WMU does not offer full student tuition remission right now. (The Faculty Senate approved full tuition remission for graduate assistants this past spring if there were enough funds.) Marcel also mentioned to the president that since tuition was increased 12.4%, this in fact made graduate students even poorer than in the past since their assistantships are used to pay for tuition.

The President mentioned to Marcel that although she is not excited about having an Ombudsman, she will be looking to hire one soon.

President Bailey also mentioned that she plans to meet students, staff, and faculty through town hall meetings in each area of the university. During the second semester she will ask certain groups to host meetings that she will speak at and answer questions.

c. Programming Consortium

Upon invitation Marcel attended a meeting of the University committee of programming practitioners. The purpose of this committee is to consolidate all programming groups on campus to help target students better without duplicating efforts or programming over each other's events. This committee is also in charge of marketing the Student Events Calendar, which will hopefully become the main source for students to check out what is going on around campus.

Sub-Committees and University Councils

a. Web Committee

Marcel reported that he commissioned our Web designer to create a listserv for GSAC on the website. It will be completed soon.

b. Public Relations

Jessica reported that the new GSAC brochure was at the printers and should be ready for the GSAC BBQ.

The first annual GSAC BBQ will be held at the Goldsworth Valley pond and gazebo on Thursday, August 21st at 5:00 p.m. Food and games will be provided.

Jessica also encouraged members of GSAC to think of ideas for the Homecoming float. The members did not seem very enthusiastic, so Jessica offered to invite the 2003 homecoming coordinator, Beth Berry, to next month's meeting to discuss ideas for GSAC Homecoming parade debut.

- d. University Councils did not meet in the month of August, however last year's representatives agreed to remain on the same faculty senate committees. Also, Marcel asked for students to sit on the new International Education Council, which meets the third Thursday of every month.
- e. GFAC
 - 1. The Crew Club of WMU
This club was started by a WMU graduate student.
They are raising money on their own, but requested \$500.00 in operations.

Motion was made by Greg and seconded by Craig
Unanimous vote in favor of GFAC's proposal.

Marcel also announced that he is drafting a letter to all RSO's about how to apply to GSAC for money.

- f. MLK Committee did not report

Old and Continuing Business

- a. PFF/Interfolio
Dr. Wiener is working on a grant to the NSF and he should be notified in the next few months at to the proposals success.

Paula, Dr. Wiener, Marcel, Lynn Kelly-Albertson (Career Services) and Jessica are presently working on developing a trial study for Interfolio. It will officially be launched in January to all graduate students.

- b. National Tax-Exempt campaign
Right now there are two competing bills in the hopper, but in reality the campaign is shooting to pass the bill with the 2005 Reauthorization of the HEA.
- c. GSAC centennial gift to WMU
Marcel signed for it and it is ready to be put in place
The bench and plaque will be placed by the greenhouse (near the Wigwam, Dalton and Kohrman halls) facing the library. In early October they will break ground on this project.
- d. University wide GA training
Marcel asked for volunteers to speak on a panel for the TA and DA's
8-20-03 at 11:15 a.m.
- e. Graduate and Non-Traditional Fair
The fair will be held on 8-20-03, volunteers are needed to "man" the GSAC booth and help Paula with last minute details.
- f. Origination BBQ – please come
- g. CommUniverCity – to be held on 9-6-03- members are needed to help set up at the tailgate tent around 3:30 p.m.
- h. Graduate Student Handbook
Marcel reported that the handbook is done and should be printed in the next week or so.
- i. NAGPS National Conference in D.C. 11-5 to 11-9-03. GSAC can send five members to the conference – if interested please let him know.

General Announcements

- a. Next GFAC meeting will be held on 9-11-03
- b. Next GSAC meeting will be held on 9-12-03