

**MINUTES**  
**GSAC MEETING December 6, 2002**  
**Walwood Commons, Walwood Hall**

**Representatives Present:** Marcel Brouwers (Chair, English), Rodger Zanny (Computer Science), Peter Voice (Geosciences), Jennifer Smith (English), Raluca Gera (Math), Greg Waltz (Biology), Coleen Harrington Barry (CECP), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Carol Harris (MOT), Heidi Solberg Viar (History), Scott Viar (PEG), Jessica Baby, Doris Dirks (Keystone), Abubakar Alhassan (Communications), Erik Knedgen (Biological Sciences), Nancy Greer-Williams (TLL), Fodei Batty (Political Science)

**Guests:** Paula Boodt (Grad College, GSAC Advisor), Janice Jaroneski (SA Business Manager)

**Report from the Chair:**

*National Association of Graduate Professional Students (NAGPS):*

- Raluca, Rodger, Marcel, Doris, Abu and Jessica attended the conference from November 6-10, 2002
- A new business partner of NAGPS is researchtogether.com – a website that allows scholars from any discipline all over the world to communicate with one another.
- Jessica was elected as Vice-President for the organization and hopes to put together a letter writing campaign for GSAC to participate in concerning NAGPS' tax-exempt campaign and funding for higher education.
- On a side note, Nancy announced that she will be attending Howard University in Washington D.C. for the winter semester. While Nancy is at Howard, she will be completing an internship for the Graduate College that involves developing a "Future Faculty" program and implementing it at WMU.

*Campus Visits:*

- Marcel, Dr. Walker and Dr. Wiener traveled to the regional centers at Battle Creek, Grand Rapids and Traverse City to talk with graduate students.

*Meeting with the President:*

- Last meeting with Dr. Floyd before he leaves for Missouri
- Discussed the Presidential Search Committee – at this time there is no graduate student that sits on the committee; there is only one undergraduate student who sits on the committee.
- Marcel and Doris plan to attend the Board of Trustees meeting to discuss putting a graduate student on the committee.

**GSAC Sub-Committees:**

*Web Committee:*

Report from Marcel

- GSAC has hired a web assistant who will work two hours a week on the GSAC website.
- He reminded each department representative to post their graduate student events on the GSAC website as well as the Student Events Calendar ([www.salp.wmich.edu/events](http://www.salp.wmich.edu/events)).
- The web designer is also working on developing a program that will count the number of hits GSAC receives on the website.

*Public Relations:*

Report from Nancy Greer-Williams

- Reminder of the Graduate Student Social on December 13, 2002 at Miller Auditorium. The Murder Mystery is entitled “Ph.D. Prescription for Murder.”
- Professional Development Week for graduate students will be Monday, January 27-Thursday, January 30, 2003 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. each evening in the Bernhard Center.
- The Committee decided to entitle the week of events: “Looking Forward to Your Future: A Week Long Series of Events for your Professional Development.”

*University Assessment Committee:*

Report from Heidi

- The committee is looking at different methods of assessment at several universities, such as: Winona State, University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan.
- The committee’s goal for the assessment is to look at the university as a whole and to review the department assessment plans for accreditation purposes.

*Research Policies Council:*

Report by Rodger

- The committee discussed the research travel fund for faculty, and the amount allotted for each faculty member. This amount is dwindling and faculty may only be guaranteed one professional trip.
- The committee also discussed the difficulties this university has in bringing in grant money. Rodger presented figures on the professors who have brought in grants to the University and how much grant money they are awarded.

*Technology and Operations Council:*

Report from Ralucca

Meeting was canceled

*Campus Planning and Finance Committee:*

Report from Jessica

- The committee discussed the future plans for West Campus and the new WMU Visitors’ Center. Construction on W. Michigan will begin in March when the University will be constructing new pedestrian walkways and a roundabout.
- The CPFC also began recruiting new members of the transportation and parking systems sub-committee. Greg offered to be the representative from GSAC.

*Graduate Studies Council:*

Report by Marcel:

- The transfer credit proposal was not passed by the Faculty Senate and was sent back to the GSC.
- Budget cuts are affecting the amount of money the Graduate College can award Ph.D. students. The College is able to fund 138 DA’s, but this year the College has received 221 requests. The Graduate College hopes to be able to maintain the status quo. Marcel noted that it is very disappointing that we cannot fund our students.
- Students need to push to be funded by grants
- The GSC passed the curriculum for the Ph.D. program in Higher Education Leadership.
- The Adjudication policy also passed out of the GSC.
- Dr. Wiener proposed two new classes: Grad 745 – a practicum for Teaching in Higher Education, and Grad 740 – Teaching in Higher Education.

- The Leave of Absence proposal presented to GSAC caused a small debate. Should graduate and research assistants be able to return to the university with the same position they had when they left? Some GSAC representatives noted that research assistants would have a difficult time returning to their previous position because they would have missed out on months of research, in addition someone else has been painstakingly trained to take their place.

*GFAC:*

- Introduction of new Financial Advisor, Janice Jaroneski.

American Humanics Society

- Two graduate students will be attending the organization's national conference.
- Total given was \$700.00

A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously

Association of Graduate English Students (AGES)

- Asked for an Operational budget of \$160.00
- Asked for a Special events budget that included a reading and workshops by John DeFraai and a workshop series in the fall semester of 2003.
- The total amount asked for was \$2260.00

A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

African Student Association

- Their proposal was presented to GFAC once again with the corrections GFAC asked for at their last meeting.
- The ASA asked for an Operational budget of \$460.00 and GFAC suggested that GSAC award them \$380.00
- The ASA also asked for \$1000.00 to support a "pick-up service" they provide for African students who cannot get a flight into Kalamazoo and must fly into Detroit or Chicago. The committee agreed that this service only benefited these particular students and therefore GSAC could not fund this endeavor.
- ASA's Special Events budget included a speaker, Sister Isatu Rashid, a leading member of the Pan-African Union of Sierra Leone in West Africa.
- The total amount GFAC proposed GSAC to fund was \$870.00.

A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously

Music Graduate Students (MUGS)

- Requested \$200.00 for Operational Expenses and \$200.00 for Guest Speakers.
- MUGS also asked for \$150.00 for their awards banquet at the end of the year. Discussion was held on whether or not GSAC should fund their banquet. It was decided to fund the organization this year, but to further discuss the debate within GFAC.
- The total amount GFAC proposed GSAC to fund was \$550.00

A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously

Doris

- Requested \$700.00 to fly to and stay in Washington D.C. for the NAGPS lobby days in February.
- Doris is an essential member of the lobbying committee and could not attend the lobby days if GSAC does not aid financially.
- Doris will act as a representative of WMU at the lobby days.

- Janice noted that by supporting Doris financially, GSAC is supporting the lobbying efforts she is making. The representatives of GSAC do agree with the tax-exempt campaign NAGPS is lobbying for and therefore supports Doris's efforts.
- Janice also suggested that GFAC and GSAC might want to consider adding a lobbying line item to their budget.

A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously

- Further discussion took place on encouraging more graduate RSOs to apply for funding from GSAC. GSAC may also want to discuss further opening up who they fund.

**Old and Continuing Business:**

- GSAC Speaker – David Brin

**New Business:**

- GSAC dinner with the interim-president, Dr. Litynski – January 13, 2003
- Anyone interested in being an opinion columnist for the Western Herald – all you need to do is write 850 words and send it to the paper.
- Doris announced the events for MLK day – see posters for details
- Doris also announced the reincarnation of the History Graduate Student Organization.

**General Announcements and Briefs:**

- Next GFAC meeting will be January 9, 2003
- Next GSAC meeting will be January 10, 2003