

MINUTES
GSAC MEETING February 14, 2003
Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (Chair, English), Craig Thomas (Ed Tech), James Cawthorne (Paper Science), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Greg Waltz (Biology), Raluca Gera (Math), Peter Voice (Geoscience), Tom Owiti (F&CL), Carol Harris (Occupational Therapy), Heidi Solberg (Hist / Am studies), Scott Viar (PEG), Jessica Baby (CECP), Abubakar Alhassan (Communications), Fodei Batty (Political Science),

Guests: Dr. Elise Jorgens (Interim Provost), Jeff Breneman and Chris Donathan (Legislative Affairs), Mitzi Grier (WSA), John Burns (CTE), Bonnie Benson (CECP), Janice Jaroneski, (Business Manager), Shannon Anderson, Matt Doloof, Angela Prater, Vishal Lodha, Juan Eloauns.

Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Jorgens was introduced and spoke briefly to the group.

Marcel explained the absence of GSAC advisor Paula Boodt; Paula is on a one-month leave.

Mitzi Grier announced her candidacy for WSA president to the group.

- Jeff Breneman, Vice President for Legislative Affairs, gave a presentation on state funding to universities. A 2% cut in university funding was passed in December and another 1½% cut will be voted on next Wednesday by the state legislature. Jeff suggested GSAC members can help gain support for WMU by joining the Bronco Legislative Network and by staying informed of legislative issues. He invited everyone to the “Meet and Greet the Legislators” event next Monday at 5 pm in Fetzer Center.

Report from the Chair:

- Marcel and others spoke on topics discussed on 01.13.03 at the dinner with Dr. Litynski: the general “belt-tightening” at WMU; ISIS update is on hold; progress in classroom technology marked by new additions in Brown Hall; concerns regarding security issues and stolen computers.
- The presidential search committee has come out with recommendations and have placed fiscal issues as the #1 concern. Marcel met with search consultant Shelly Storbeck and conveyed GSAC’s criteria for a successful candidate. He spoke of rumors of a corporate president as opposed to someone from academia. Marcel will list the criteria of an academic background in his white paper.
- Dr. Litynski promised to check out the student housing on Stadium Drive in the meeting with Marcel on 01.22.03.
- The PFF discussion on 01.24.03 with Dr. Orlando Taylor of Howard University was a success and many GSAC members were in attendance.
- Dr. Jorgens agreed to the designation of “Graduate Appreciation Week” in the meeting with Marcel on 01.28.03. Marcel will take the issue to the university president.
- Marcel commented on Dr. Litynski’s state of the university address in regards to the need to balance graduate and undergraduate programs.

- Faculty Senate actions from the meeting on 02.06.03 included: the merging of behavior analysis departments, transfer credit rewording regarding thesis credits, leave of absence for military duty, GA/DA resolution for improvements, resolution to get another graduate seat on the senate.
- A handout was distributed to GSAC members entitled *Annual Progress Review of Graduate Students*. The Graduate Studies Council developed these guidelines in response to a request by the Faculty Senate. This proposed policy will be presented 02.27.03.

Proxy Report from the Dean:

Reported by Marcel Brouwers

- The 20% increase in doctoral graduates should help the new Carnegie classification for WMU; also there has been a decrease in PTG students.
- Some reductions that may occur due to budget issues: reduced graduation dinners, elimination of some GA/DA training and DA dissertation program. GSAC budget is secure and the committee may want to take up some of the slack.
- Preparing Future Faculty presents an opportunity to teach at another university while completing a degree at WMU. PFF is being designed as a two or three tier program. The higher level would include a 12 -15 credit hour certificate while the lower tier would only require attendance in 10-12 workshops. Both programs would include design of an electronic portfolio. Craig Thomas emphasized the importance of electronic portfolios and spoke of the opportunities at WMU to create one. Copyright issues associated with electronic portfolios are being researched per Jessica Baby, as well as questions on what will be accepted during a university application process. A show of hands indicated about half of those present are interested in a faculty position.

GSAC Sub-Committees:

Web Committee:

Nothing new to report per Marcel Brouwers

Public Relations:

Reported by Jessica Baby

- T-shirts will be available to GSAC members; samples will be brought to the next meeting.
- Professional Development Week was a success. The Career Fair Workshop was well attended by international students.

University Assessment Committee:

Reported by Heidi Solberg

- The committee met in January but the February meeting was cancelled. \$30,000 has been budgeted for the university assessment. Voluntary assessments have already begun and required procedures will begin in March. Marcel has met with Dr. Delene and has asked for a student-centered approach as WMU goes into the university assessment process.
- The general education subcommittee meeting is scheduled for the 19th or 20th of the month.

Legislative Affairs Committee:

Reported by Jessica Baby

- A draft of a letter to Gov. Granholm was distributed to GSAC members. This letter was written in cooperation with WSA and asks the governor to support the state's universities.
- A recommendation for Congress to restore the 1986 tax-exempt status for graduate students will be distributed electronically. GSAC members should send this to Sen. Stabenow and Sen. Levin and forward this to graduate students across the nation.

Research Policies Council

Reported by Jay Cawthorne

- Issues discussed included collaboration in research and criteria for decisions on which research is of greatest importance.

Technology and Operations Council:

Reported by Raluca Gera

- Purchases have included laptops, projectors, and projector screens.
- Issue of what is legal on the internet was discussed.
- A proposal to increase server storage from 10 to 50 megabytes, not including e-mail was discussed at the council meeting; the proposed increase might be allocated by department rather than per person.

Tom Owiti asked for clarification on length of time one can maintain a WMU computer account after graduation. Per Craig Thomas, this time limit is one year. Then information can be downloaded to a CD and transferred to a private server.

Campus Planning and Finance Council

Reported by Greg Waltz

- A summary of the 01.21.03 meeting was distributed to GSAC members. East Hall renovation is on hold until 2007. Construction of the new West End building and road work will begin in March.
- Transportation and Parking Subcommittee met on 01.16.03. A geography class is working on the problems. 250 faculty parking spots will be lost due to construction of the new West End building. Parking is a big issue and there is a need for several campus service departments to work together.

GFAC:

Reported by Raluca Gera

Pakistan Group

- \$1000 was requested for a Pakistan Night event to cover a portion of the food and beverage expense. It was motioned by Jay, seconded by Heidi, to approve this expenditure.

A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve \$1000 for Pakistan night.

PME

- This math honors society requested \$900 for operations. Per Jay, GSAC has a \$500 limit for operation allocations. Jay moved to approve \$500, seconded by Craig.

A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve \$500 for PME operations.

- Three graduate students from PME have requested \$1000 to attend a conference. A discussion ensued on the topic of funding presenters and attendees to conferences and the issue of precedence set during this academic year.

A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve \$1000 for three PME students to attend a conference.

- PME requested \$1500 to bring in a guest speaker. Craig moved to approve; Peter seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve \$1500 for a PME guest speaker.

GSP in SA

- Nine students requested \$560 to attend a conference.

A motion to approve the request failed.

Heidi motioned and Craig seconded to table the request. Motion passed.

Malaysian Group

- Request was for \$500 for a portion of the food and beverage expense for Malaysian Night. Jay moved to approve the request; the motion was seconded.

A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve \$500 for Malaysian Night.

Old and Continuing Business:

- GSAC Speaker – The topic of bringing a film entitled “THIS Obedience” on an issue of social justice to campus with GSAC as the sponsor was opened for discussion. The film being considered is the story of Reverend Anita Hill. A web site, thisobedience.org, can be viewed for information per Heidi.
- Heidi Solberg made a motion to approve \$1,250 for the film and producer, Dawn Mickleson plus \$125 for use of the little theatre. Craig seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed to approve \$1,375 for the film and guest presenter.

New Business:

- NAGPS conference in Cincinnati is scheduled for 04.04 – 04.06.03 and GSAC members are encouraged to attend.
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week is being planned for 04.07 – 04.11.03. Give ideas to Marcel.
- Graduate Student Appreciation event on 04.09.03 will include food and a band.

General Announcements and Briefs:

- Next meeting of GFAC - 3.13.03
- Next meeting of GSAC - 3.14.03

The meeting was adjourned.