



**Graduate Student Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, February 9, 2007, 3 PM  
Room 204, MLK Room, Bernhard Center

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*Representatives Present:* Rosana Alsaud (Chair), Kelly Daniels (Vice Chair), Birkin Gilmore (English), Folashade Ogunleye (Finance & Commercial Law), Emily Shrimpf (Social Work), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Science), David Shoup (History), Erich Sommerfeldt (Communication), David Zwart (TAU), Sarah Stangle (LGBT Student Services). Jennifer Messana (Public Affairs and Admin), Amy Noack (Geosciences), Jonathan Thurn (History), Roy Henry (Poly Sci), Laiza Ashraf (Finance), Mustafa Sanver (Computer Sci)

*Guests Present:* Casey Nelson (Educational Leadership), Yogesh Datar (Chemistry), Beth Sodr (Chemistry), Janice Kapik (Social Work), Ben Karle (Social Work), Dr. Pyenson (Grad College), Janice Quakenbush (Student Affairs)

1. Call to order: 3:08
2. Introductions
3. \*Approval of Minutes from 1/12/06: Jen has volunteered to take Erich's place on the CPFC. Moved by Eric, seconded by Jen
4. Report from the Chair
  - a. Presidential Search Advisory Committee: meeting with a consulting firm. Have received about 50 nominations so far. Interviews will start in March at a distant location
  - b. Dinner with the President was canceled. We would like him to know that we are interested, but were just too busy with classes
  - c. Meeting with the President: spoke of a panel presentation workshop, and the President offered to hire someone to help with events, so GSAC hired Deondra
  - d. NAGPS Legislative Action Day: we are lobbying for the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act; also, cutting student loan interest
  - e. NAGPS Regional Conference (Midwest) 3/22-3/25, Cleveland, OH: Rosana can't go, but anyone else interested should contact GSAC
5. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: Many new pictures, new event and news items
  - b. Public Relations – Folashade Ogunleye: no news to report, but there needs to be more participation, better communication
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal (Hilltop Review) – Roy Henry, Ali Fhadel, Jason Olsen: 21 very good submissions in all disciplines. Selected eight or nine papers for the fall issue, and the spring CFP will go out over the weekend. Fall issue will begin the peer review process.
  - d. University Councils
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski – Needs one representative!: Amy Noack is in attendance, but she hasn't had the chance to go to a meeting yet
      1. Research Day – 4/20, at the Fetzer Center, shaping up nicely
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Rosana Alsaud & Erich Sommerfeldt: we have 4,615 graduate students, 3,127 on campus, the latter of which is GSAC's constituency. Created a sub committee to review the guidelines for dissertations
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Jen: has not had the chance to attend yet
    - iv. International Education Council (1) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto: spring enrollment is up by 100%! Not back to pre 911 levels, but we getting closer
  - e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
    - i. Proposals
      1. \* Alternative Spring Break (ASB) – GFAC recommends funding \$2,500 for Spring Break events, and \$500 for operational costs. Moved by Erich, seconded by Jason. Motion carries

2. \* Master of Social Work Student Organization – Recommends \$2,000 for hooding ceremony. Discussion ensues about location. Moved by Erich, seconded by David. Motion carries
3. \* History Graduate Student Organization – recommends \$1,500 for speaker fee, and the remaining \$1,000 if the HGSO moves to a larger venue. Moved by Jen, seconded by Roy. Motion carries
4. \* Pakistan Student Association (PSA) – recommends funding \$500 for PSA night. Moved by Fola, seconded by David. Motion carries
5. \* Chem. Graduate Student (CGSA) – recommends delaying funding until the event is more fully planned, and other funding sources are explored.
- f. MLK Committee – Deondra Ramsey
- g. CAB representative –
- h. WSA representative – Jo Lau: not in attendance
6. Unfinished Business
  - a. Anti-Racism Panel 2/24: moving ahead. Thanks to Ron Riecki
  - b. Diane Rehm Talk 3/13: College Republicans are bringing John Ashcroft at the same time. Dr. Pyenson offers the use of the Graduate College website
  - c. Bus trip to Chicago 3/31: going well, but we have close to half of each bus left. So tell your friends
  - d. \* Vice-Chair Search Proposal – Dr. Pyenson: Rosana summarizes present rules. Dr. Pyenson proposes that he solicit candidates, and GSAC interviews candidates. Dr. Pyenson: WMU is facing financial difficulties, and they won't get better any time soon. Grad College would like to add to the half time funding to the Vice Chair position, and the Graduate College would like to use this position to target the university's best interests. Dr. Pyenson suggests offering several possible candidates. Dawn moves that we change the rules to accept Dr. Pyenson's offer, seconded by Kelly. The vote is 9 for, 5 against. Roy suggests that it is not legal to change our rules without going to the Faculty Senate first. Issue is tabled
  - e. \* Constitution and Bylaws: we are working on changing our "Rules..." into a Constitution and Bylaws. Formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the issue
7. New Business
  - a. Graduate Research and Travel Fund. Needs rep!
8. General Announcements & Briefs
  - a. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – David Zwart: wear your buttons. The team is negotiating a new contract
  - b. Announcements for the Good of the Order
  - c. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: March 16, April 20
11. General Discussion "The State of Graduate Schools"
12. Adjourn