

MINUTES
GSAC MEETING January 10, 2003
Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (Chair, English), Carmen Cornieles (Educational Studies), James Cawthorne (Paper Science), Coleen Barry (CECP), Greg Waltz (Biology), Erik Knedgen (Biology), Peter Voice (Geoscience), Jennifer Smith (English), Heidi Solberg (Hist / Am studies), Carol Harris (Occupational Therapy), Craig Thomas (Ed Tech), Tom Owiti (F&CL), Raluca Gera (Math), Doris Dirks (History), Fodei Batty (Political Science), Jessica Baby (CECP), Kurt Hayden (I&ME).

Guests: Dr. William Wiener (Graduate College, Dean), Paula Boodt (Grad College, GSAC Advisor), John Knowles and Mitzi Grier (WSA), Angela Sillmon (student representative, Presidential Search Committee), John Burns (CTE), Bonnie Benson (CECP).

Report from the Dean:

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program

- PFF program first established in 1994 by a foundation due to graduates indicating a need for a program that prepares students to become faculty.
- WMU has started a small program of 8 students; emphasis is on university policies, procedures and politics.
- Areas WMU might include in the future: private, public and community college visits; budgeting, teaching, and job search information.
- Howard University in Washington, D.C. is partnering with WMU; Nancy Greer-Williams will bring back information on their program.
- Orlando Taylor and Dr. Reilly of Howard U. will visit WMU on Jan. 24, 12:00 noon, at the Emeriti Lounge of Walwood Hall. Dean Wiener would like GSAC input; please RSVP at GSAC@wmich.edu.

A motion by Jay Cawthorne was seconded and passed to approve the minutes of 12.6.02.

Comments from guest:

- John Knowles, WSA President, commended graduate students for their contribution to the university and invited students to contact him.
- Mitzi Grier, vice president of WSA, and Angela Sillmon, student representative of the Presidential Search Committee, were introduced. Angela will attend the first committee meeting on Monday and will convey GSAC concerns to the committee. GSAC members voiced the following areas a new president should focus on:
 1. Follow through with recruitment of biotech and other similar companies.
 2. Continue President Floyd's research focus.
 3. Full tuition for graduate students; enhancement of student life.
 4. Focus on all areas of graduate student education.
 5. Revisit the issue of social security number as student ID.
 6. Emphasize WMU commitment to the arts and humanities; be committed to funding in support of these students and to multi-year funding of DA/GA positions.
 7. Committee should also delve into candidates' perception of the role of graduate students at WMU.

Report from the Chair:

- Board of Trustees Meeting 12.13.02: request by GSAC for a seat on the Presidential Search Committee was rejected. Reasoning was that GSAC has not participated in the past; also, there is a set number of members.
- Marcel is developing a White Paper for BOT.
- Shelly Sorbeck will be on campus 1.14.03 and Marcel will meet with her. Per Mitzi Grier, she represents a consulting search firm; also, there will be opportunities for student input during the search process.
- GSAC Social on 12.13.02 was a success as a trial event and GSAC will revisit the idea in the future.
- MLK Convocation on 1.12.03 will be in Miller Auditorium; GSAC sponsored speaker is scheduled for 1.24.03 at 2:00-3:30 pm, Dalton Recital Hall.
- Dissertation Proposal Conference is set for 1.29.03 to 1.31.03. Contact Marianne DiPierro for more information. Per Dean Wiener, students at the beginning stage of dissertation process would find this useful.
- It is now university practice to subtract money given to students for travel expenses from financial aide. Marcel would like to see this changed.

GSAC Sub-Committees:

Web Committee:

Reported by Kurt Hayden and Marcel Brouwers

- Board meetings are now on web site, calendar; getting 50 visits per day.
- Messages from India give evidence that the search engine is working. Gradients has been replaced.
- Suggested improvements: more pictures, make it more interactive.

Public Relations:

Reported by Jessica Baby and Paula Boodt

- Flyers distributed to GSAC committee for Professional Development Week: 1.27.03 – 1.30.03
- Event will be publicized through campus e-mail and every means possible except a direct mailing.
- The Kalamazoo Gazette and WMU newspaper have been notified of the event.
- This Professional Development event will be on a much larger scale than in the past and very useful.

University Assessment Committee:

Reported by Heidi Solberg

- The assessment plan for the faculty center has been approved.
- Department assessments have begun on a voluntary basis.

Research Policies Councils:

Reported by Jay Cawthorne

- Travel fund for faculty is now frozen; faculty can still apply but will only receive a percentage of their expenses.
- Pharmacia will be donating \$1.5 M in depreciated equipment to biology, chemistry and engineering depts.

Technology and Operations Council:

Reported by Ralucca Gera

Committee has not met yet this month.

Campus Planning and Finance Council

Committee has not met yet. Jessica Baby will not be able to attend; Greg Waltz will take her place.

John Knowles volunteered information on a possible plan for East Campus. He reported that Bob Beam has indicated there is an interest by alumni to use this site as a column burial and permanent memorial; John will meet with Bob Beam on Monday at 3:00 to discuss this.

Transportation and Parking Committee:

Greg Waltz has not attended a meeting yet; Jay Cawthorne will take Greg's place if needed.

Graduate Studies Council

Reported by Marcel Brouwers

Committee has not met yet. Marcel will ask for another seat on this committee for GSAC. Jay asked that GSAC concerns regarding full tuition reimbursement be brought up at the meeting.

GFAC:

Reported by Marcel Brouwers

- Only two members were present at the committee meeting so no action taken.

Budget Line Item – GSAC lobbying & conferences

- In the past, travel and conference funding for GSAC members has been the same as the RSO process.
 - Since two members have already requested funding, there is a need to increase the allocated amount.
- The topic of creating a budget line item for lobbying was opened for discussion.

A motion by Jay Cawthorne was seconded and approved to create a budget line item for lobbying and to form a legislative lobby committee. Jessica Baby will serve as chair. Marcel reported that this action is not outside of the GSAC charter and suggested the Office of Legislative Affairs be used as a resource.

Budget Line Item – Professional Development Week

A motion by Jay Cawthorne was seconded and approved to allocate \$1,000 for Professional Development Week.

Funds will be used for refreshments, placards and advertising per Marcel.

Proposal – GSAC gift to university

Marcel suggested GSAC make a landscaping gift of trees and benches to the university in commemoration of the centennial. He will pursue this with campus services.

Old and Continuing Business:

- GSAC Speaker – Heidi Solberg proposed a film entitled “This Obedience” which deals with issues of the LGBA community and was viewed recently at a student ministries council. The documentary could be brought to campus for a cost of \$1,250.

The topic was opened for discussion. Heidi Solberg made a motion, which was seconded and approved to explore bringing the documentary to campus.

New Business:

- GSAC dinner with Dr Litynski, Interim President – 1.13.03 at 6:00 pm, 1219 Short Road. Marcel suggested all read the letter by Dr. Litynski that was published in the Jan. 8 issue of the WMU newspaper.
- Jessica Baby clarified a question regarding the appointment procedure for WMU trustees. Since WMU is considered a regional college, trustees are appointed. The three largest public colleges are considered statewide, thus trustees are subject to voter approval.
- Graduate Professional Appreciation Week is April 7-11 per Jessica Baby; she wishes to promote this at WMU.
- Other issues suggested by members for the meeting with the Interim President:

1. Issue of cost over runs on the Don Seelye building; is the deficit being funded with tuition?
2. Interim President's position on graduate studies, research; topics of individual departmental issues.

General Announcements and Briefs:

- John Knowles asked for graduate student involvement in the production of the yearbook that will be published as part of the centennial celebration; 25 pages will be devoted to university history. The books will be presold and distributed next January. He invited all to a meeting Monday at 8:00 pm in the Keva Room.
- The Dean of Arts and Sciences, Elise Jorgens has been appointed Interim Provost per Craig Thomas. Marcel will visit her.
- Next meeting of GFAC - 2.13.03
- Next meeting of GSAC - 2.14.03

The meeting was adjourned.