

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Friday June, 13, 2003
The Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center
Minutes

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (chair), Jay Cawthorne (PPSE), Greg Waltz (BioSci), Raluca Gera (Math), Jessica Baby (CECP), Peter Voice (GeoSci), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Jennifer Smith (Engl), Grace Manguba (Statistics), Angela Prater (Comm), John Burns (CTE)

Guests: Paula Boodt (Grad College), Janice Jaroneski (Student Affairs)

Approval of Minutes:

GSAC did not approve the minutes from May's meeting; they were not present at they meeting to be voted upon.

Report from the Chair:

Interfolio

Marcel reported for Dr. Wiener concerning developments with the Interfolio venture. The contract with Interfolio is prepared and ready to be signed. Interfolio is not charging WMU to co-brand with them. Co-branding involves a link from the Graduate College's website to Interfolio. When WMU students send documents from Interfolio, the documents will have WMU's logo as well as Interfolio's on the sent information.

There was \$1500.00 earmarked for co-branding with Interfolio, however since this money was not used, it was suggested that the money be used to pay the \$12.00 registration fee for one year for 250 graduate students.

GSAC, the Graduate College, and Career Services will promote the Interfolio program.

GSAC's Centennial Gift

Marcel talked with Landscape Services about where to locate the gift. GSAC representatives made suggestions that the gift should be placed between Dalton and Moore Hall, or Kanley Chapel and MacCracken Hall.

The proposed language for the GSAC gift plaque is as follows:

In honor of Western Michigan University's Centennial Celebration. The Graduate Student Advisory Committee offers this gift (the bench and trees) to the entire university community to use and enjoy. Have a seat. GSAC August 2003

GSAC representatives approved the language proposed by Marcel for the gift.

Stadium Drive Apartments

Marcel toured the apartments with Bob Beam and Dr. Litynski. The endeavor to improve the apartments, or tear them down and build new ones, was initiated by Dr. Floyd. At the time of this initiative, there was money available to take action on the apartments; however, this is no longer the case. The tour revealed that Stadium Apartments are the least filled of the WMU residence buildings. Mold is the biggest problem in the apartments. Despite all the problems with the apartments, the team made a pleasant discovery. Housed in the apartment complex is a Health Center area. The Health Center offers free massages, and acupuncture for students.

Meeting with Mike Mooney, New York Times

Marcel and Jessica met with Mr. Mooney and discussed a marketing proposal involving GSAC and WSA. It would not be possible for the two student government agencies to provide newspapers to students at WMU everyday. However, it would be possible for GSAC and WSA to put links on their websites and direct students to the student rate for the NYTimes. This action would then allow WSA and GSAC to request from the NYTimes prominent writers to speak at WMU.

Young Alumni Grad School Presentation

Paula organized the event and Marcel spoke at it. Forty students attended, many of which were MBA students.

President Bailey's Reception

Marcel attended the reception and chatted with the new President. Marcel will be sending a letter of introduction to Dr. Bailey's office requesting meeting times with her.

Graduate Student BBQ

The date for the BBQ is set for August 21, 2003. It will start at around 5:00 pm. The place for the BBQ will be at either the Intermural fields or the Goldsworth Valley Pond and Gazebo area.

CommUniverCity

Marcel ordered tickets and is still working on catering.

GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

MLK Committee

The Committee is asking for volunteers for the 2003 Planning Committee.

Web Committee

Marcel is working on creating a listserv for graduate students.

Public Relations

Jessica is working on the new GSAC brochure. A draft should be available in mid-July

University Assessment Committee

Heidi was not present to report

General Education Sub-Committee

Craig reported that the Committee will use a C-Base general education exam on 600 freshmen and 600 seniors. The test will measure general education skills and knowledge base of these two groups. Comparisons will be made between what freshmen's skills were when they arrived at WMU to when they graduated. In addition, departments are being encouraged to have an faculty aptitude test for technology skills.

Legislative Affairs

Jessica had nothing to report

University Councils

Research Policies Council

Jay reported that faculty members are being limited to their funds for travel. He also reported that the state gave WMU one-year funding for a Pfizer Life Science Building. Jay feels that this project will be a no-go because there will only be one year of funding and WMU will not be able

to support the project after the funding disappears. Jay feels that this funding was a political movement by the western side of the state.

The new chair of the committee, Ralph Tanner, is very interested in hearing from graduate students concerning research issues students may be having at the University. GSAC representatives noted that not being able to access cars in Waldo library or signing out study rooms longer than two hours was a hindrance to their research. Copying fees at the library are also causing many graduate students financial hardships. Students also made a suggestion to have workshops on how to apply for federal research monies.

Technology and Operations Council

Ralucca reported that email regulations on campus have now changed. Work email accounts are not to be used for personal or outside business activities. WMU cannot guarantee that email is private. The Committee was concerned that email was not private on this campus. It was mentioned at the meeting that an employee can pay to have their email totally private at WMU.

Graduate Studies Council

Marcel reported that the Committee focused on the issues they would like to tackle for the upcoming academic year. One specific issue they wish to tackle is graduate student and faculty diversity.

Dr. Wiener is developing a study that will assess quality indicators of graduate education. The Committee will also focus on better defining a research tool requirement for graduate students. They need to standardize how departments run research.

Campus Planning and Finance Committee

Greg reported that university professors are still considering implications of shared parking with students at the Parkview campus. Professors are concerned that they will not have adequate parking and will be late to their own classes.

The University budget is still up in the air. The K-12 budget is \$200 million short and may have an impact on University funding for 2003. The Michigan House of Representatives has recommended WMU receive only a cut of 5.95% instead of the "across the board cut" of 6.75%. The Michigan Senate still has to review the proposed percentages. At the next meeting there will be a proposal budget that addresses: raising the cost of tuition, budget cuts in academic non-teaching areas similar to library funding, and allocation recommendations from CPFC on campus.

The Construction update noted that the Parkview Engineering campus construction is on schedule. The Icon for the Parkview campus will be setup on July 7th. College of Health and Human Services is on schedule and the foundations are almost completed. At the Cooley Center, the fourth floor was finished in the downtown Grand Rapids campus and only took six and a half weeks. There will be 12 to 18 students taking classes at the center. In addition to this project, the University and the City of Kalamazoo are looking into future development on W. Michigan Ave. between Howard and Drake.

GFAC

Ralucca, Marcel, and Jay reported on the new language for conference funding. RSO's will no longer be able to apply for funding for conferences. Jay motioned to amend the rules with the proposed language, Ralucca second.

Jay suggested that Marcel draft a letter to all Graduate Student RSO's suggesting what events and activities graduate students organizations are able request money for.

Old and Continuing Business

Graduate Student Handbook

Marcel prepared a draft of the handbook. The cover will be the same as the cover for the new brochure.

New Business

Budget Cuts and Graduate Students: Sufficient faculty? Sufficient voices

Marcel brought up the ramifications of budget cuts on graduate students. He suggested that RSO's demand to have a representative present at all faculty meetings.

Faculty are required to dedicate 60% to teaching and 40% research. There seems to be a lackluster of education. Dr. Wiener is acting on graduate student concerns and is prepared to take financial concerns all the way.

Homecoming Float

Ideas are needed. The theme: Continuing the Legacy.

General Announcements and Briefs

Office Assistant

Marcel noted that GSAC budgeted money for an Office Assistant, and a student may be very helpful to him.

Next GFAC meeting – July 10

Next GSAC meeting – July 11