

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Friday, May 9, 2003
The Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall
Minutes

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (chair), Jay Cawthome (PPSE), Greg Waltz (BioSci), Raluca Gera (Math), Jessica Baby (CECP), Peter Voice (GeoSci), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Craig Thomas (EUP), Coleen Harrington Barry (CECP), Nancy Greer-Williams (TLL), Emily Eads (OT), Carol Harris (OT)

Introduction:

Meeting was called to order. Minutes from April's meeting was approved.

Reports from the Chair:

GSAC chair Marcel Brouwers described the GSAC end-of-school-year dinner at McGinnis Landing on April 13 as being a fun event. He also said his meeting with Dr. Daniel Litynski, WMU interim president, on April 16, was productive.

Brouwers also represented GSAC at WMU's Senate Hearing at Central Michigan University on May 2.

He announced the decision of the Presidential Search Committee to name Dr. Judith Bailey to succeed Dr. Elson Floyd as WMU president. Brouwers said he looked forward to meeting the new president and letting her know of GSAC's mission and activities.

Report on Preparing Future Faculty (PFF)

Nancy Greer-Williams updated members about her internship to explore how other colleges and universities are developing strategies to nurture future faculty in higher education.

GSAC Sub-Committee Reports

Web Committee – Marcel said he continues to update the GSAC site with the help of a part-time Web manager.

E-Portfolio Development Workshops – Craig Thomas offered to organize a series of Web design workshops in order to assist graduate and professional students wishing to develop electronic portfolios.

Public Relations – Jessica Baby showed off new slogan and design for GSAC shirts and T-shirts that will highlight the University's centennial. She appealed for help in suggesting an appropriate theme for the GSAC float for the 2003 Centennial Homecoming. Theme suggestion: "Continuing the Legacy." She also encouraged members to assist with GSAC publicity – especially with special events.

University Councils – Greg Waltz reported the decision by the Campus Planning and Finance Council's Transportation Committee to require students to pay for parking permits for both the main campus as well as the soon-to-be-opened BTR Park campus. Shuttle service is expected to be provided at 10- to 15-minute intervals by Kalamazoo Metro Transit between the two campuses.

GFAC – Raluca Gera reported that the committee is working to refine language for granting students' request for funding to participate at professional conferences. Change in rules and regulations, if any, will be reported at subsequent meetings.

Interfolio – Dean Wiener updated members on contract talks with Interfolio, the for-fee service to warehouse graduate students’ electronic portfolio. He said the Graduate College initiative is being jointly supported by Career & Student Employment Services and GSAC.

Graduate Student Handbook – Brouwers reported that he has drafted an outline of the content for the proposed handbook. The intent is to help acquaint new graduate students to the campus and community, providing a sketch of what’s what and who’s who.

GSAC’s Centennial Gift – Brouwers reported that Landscape Services has yet to determine the exact site for the proposed gifts – a bench and trees. He reiterated the proposed wording for the gift plaque:

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.

CommUniverCity – Brouwers said GSAC will be represented at the tailgate party and encouraged members to help with set-up for the special event. The event is set for the first home football game on Saturday, September 6.

GFAC – During the summer, committee members are expected work to clarify rules and regulations for funding graduate students’ presentations at professional conferences and for Registered Student Organizations.

Graduate Assistant/Doctoral Assistant Orientation BBQ is tentatively set for August 21 with the place to be determined by the next meeting. Will try to avoid schedule conflict with other orientation sessions.

GFAC meeting set for June 12.

GSAC meeting set for June 13.

##