

MINUTES
GSAC MEETING October 4, 2002
Walwood Commons, Walwood Hall

Representatives Present: Marcel Brouwers (Chair), Rodger Zanny (Computer Science), James Cawthorne (Paper Science), Kurt Hayden (IME), Peter Voice (Geosciences), Jennifer Smith (English), Hussam Al Khasawneh (Materials), Nancy Greer-Williams (Ed Leadership), Raluca Gera (Math), Greg Waltz (Biology), Dan Stauffer (HPER), Coleen Harrington Barry (CECP), Craig Tollini (Sociology), Carol Harris (MOT), Tom Owiti (MBA), Heidi Solberg Viar (History), Scott Viar (PEG), Sara Gabriel (CAS), Jessica Baby, Doris Dirks (Keystone)

Guests: Dr. William Wiener (Graduate College, Dean), Paula Boodt (Grad College, GSAC Advisor)

Report from Dr. Wiener:

Faculty Senate vote on transfer policy: normally Grad Studies Council (GSC) will present in Feb. – it may be possible to get on agenda next month. At least by Feb., for March meeting. He hopes to have put in place, expectations for good process, adjudication, grad leave, accelerated masters, and DA/GA compensation. There are many project but all are vital – others will have to wait.

Expectations for good practice: Policy was presented at last GSC meeting. Council had comments: needed additional statement regarding students (governance)

- Students must be allowed into committees;
- teaching assistants and their responsibilities;
- faculty must refrain from requesting personal work with or without appropriate compensation received many comments (rewritten): enhanced relationship. It is imperative faculty exclude themselves when there is familial and other conflict interest--reworked to dual relationships

DA/GA compensation: Grad college studied 20 peer institutions (and 14 competitors) and how they compensate? From the first group: 19 of 20 differentiate payments based on discipline. From the first group: WMU is below in the amounts for sciences, some right on, some above. There was a recommendation of raising compensation for hard sciences (no reductions to the rest).

- looked at tuition assistance--we pay 3/4--others pay all, for what they support.
- Debate about differential compensation: once grad students are paid differently, the behaviors in other ways will be affected. (huge discussion ensues about accessory issues) and there is consensus on tuition assistance, but split on the other.

Report by Paula Boodt: she will be here to serve GSAC (Dr. Wiener is policy, she is sounding board).

Report from the Chair:

- Marcel met with President Floyd
 - reminded President that GSAC is watching new insurance closely
 - discussed issue of relevance of the ombudsman
 - President agreed to increase student research and travel fund by \$15,000
- Marcel met with the Provost to discuss ombudsman
- NAGPS trip – Marcel announced who will be going to St. Louis in November
- Grad Tax Lobby – Doris Dirks will go to D.C. to lobby for tax exemption for stipends.

GSAC sub-committees

GFAC presented a budget that allocates more money to GSAC speakers.

- Allocated money for post GSAC meeting appetizers
- Discussion ensued but the allocation remains
- No proposals came to GFAC

Web Committee: GSAC hired Lou Ann Morgan. The site is up and shiny. Send personal stats to gsac@wmich.edu for the site! Submit to Marcel news items, which will be posted on the site.

-Listserve (Rodger): options presented: 1. massive list (6000 people) 2. each department has an internal list (Marcel would then be the only one to post to everyone). discussion of it being legal, etc.

- Motion to move to establish grad student list server (seconded) unanimous.
- Digital camera has been bought.

Public Relations (Nancy): 2 new projects for GSAC calendar

1. Social event at Miller
2. Expanding Get-It-Together program to a week for more than 50 students (professional development, resume, dress, etc). It will involve Grad College to prep grad students, for now and that time after graduation. There was some discussion of timing of events (bad to do it during finals or week before finals).

It was suggested to prep for coming year as much as possible for a social event in the beginning of the fall term.

UAC (Dan): Council liked expectations of good practice.

- no web page yet.
- North Central is coming, which raises accreditation issues.
- UAC wants another GSAC rep for council

Research Policies (Jay): institutional review boards must keep track of federal rules.

- emeriti research consistency to aid them.
- will research strengths of university cataloging (working on rating system).
- grad studies, grad assistant compensation mentioned
- will look at collaboration between colleges.

Campus Planning (Jessica): east campus/east hall campaign

- projected list of fixing Sangren, Korman, Chemistry, and then East Campus (east campus keeps getting bumped down.)
- the master plan is posted on-line.
- health & human services was ready, but on hold.
- engineering is ahead of schedule.
- Council is going to look at the circle in front of the birdcage.

Grad Studies Council (Marcel): new PhD program in Spanish and Ethno history certificate passed.

-GSAC proposed an amendment to allow another grad representative (Undergrad Studies Council has two undergrad reps).

Faculty Senate (Marcel): Continuing laptop initiative

-Stadium drive apartments will have Ethernet by winter semester

East Campus. Clean up with Hilltoppers Oct 19.

Grad program open house Oct 29.

-recruiting event (financing grad education and etc).

-Marcel called for volunteers for table and to get the word out in departments.

Potential GSAC speaker: usually broad and appealing across academic disciplines. Check out David Brin, sci-fi author (The Postman, Earth, etc). Marcel asked for other options (speaker would be here, Feb. or March).

Next meeting announced: Nov 1

Meeting adjourned