

Graduate Student Association  
Assembly meeting agenda  
November 28, 2012

- I. Call to order 6:02
- II. Speaker Damon Sims- Here to respond to comments or questions from graduate students about his work and broader issues at the institution that may influence graduate students.
  - a. Largest turnout he has seen for GSA in the years that he has been here. Hello to Andrea Dowhower our GSA Advisor. There are some good things coming out of the difficulties the institution has been experiencing. One of them is transparency. It is because student leadership and the administration seek this. Student leaders have been great advocates. Commends GSA for the town hall forums. UPUA CCSG and GSA have pushed for those and changed the tenor between students and the administration. Hopes for continued advocacy from our student governments. David Simpson asks about how changes from the Freeh report have had affect on families and spouses of PSU students from using facilities. Answer: Best practices are coming into play here; previously young children were left alone. Now taking the extreme position in the opposite direction on these issues, and he thinks this will temper out over time. With regard to recreational facilities, the community no longer has access to these facilities, include Mr. Sims. We will lead the way nationally on these specific issues, but we will tend back in time to some of the former access, without compromising safety and security. With reaction to what has happened here, the institution has to take aggressive steps but will gradually mediate back to something more reasonable. Wanika Fischer asks about forming a smoke free environment at PSU: Answer: Came from another big ten institution that was smoke free. Has spent sometime with other administrators advocating for smoke free environment but has not had a lot of success. We have a president for the next 19 months who is for a smoke free campus. May not get us all the way there but he will push for this. May have to reduce employee benefits, may have some employees who think this is a right that is taken from them. Most of the senior leadership wants to see this happen. Kimeka Campbell asks will health coverage and smoking secession be linked? Answer: yes and have to find creative ways to keep health costs low by promoting wellness. Wanika Fischer: Recreational Sports Program at Penn State: We do not have one in relation to our counterparts in the Big Ten System. We have parts and components but not the whole program. 3 million dollars for new IM fields, paid for by students, students got a promise that cars would not be parked on those fields. But this is happening. But not on the other fields that are varsity such as Soccer. Some institutions in Big Ten have this Rec Sports program reporting to Student Affairs. There may be a push for this. Downsizing the admissions pool in the law school concerned? Yes. Concerned with the downgrade in applications, but there are institutions where applications are up. However, the undergrad numbers are still soft, and not as strong as they would like them to be even

though they are still strong. Will be committing money from the university for scholarships. Extremely important that we keep enrollment strong here because we are dependent on undergraduate enrollment. He can't imagine that we would be in bad shape for two long, given the issues that the institution has been through in the last 18 months.

- III. Approval of the Minutes: 11/14/12 Minutes approved (one Abstention)  
Contention over whether or not the minutes were posted
- IV. Executive officers report
  - a. Wanika Fisher- President
    - i. Board of trustees, Penn State rec program (see PowerPoint). Graduate Cup- Delegates please encourage college to sign up: [www.pennstategsa.com/graduate-cup.html](http://www.pennstategsa.com/graduate-cup.html). Why is it important to sign up early? Coordination will be affected and the commission will be swamped with planning. Law School, College of Medicine, Plant Pathology are currently signed up. Will not get a tee shirt for the bar Journey if team is not signed up. Welcome video for GSA. No one has emailed Internal VP as yet. Please email Robbie if you were interested. Where has Wanika been? (Power Point). Penn state is in full compliance with the MSCHE, and accreditation is intact. MS Degree in counselor Ed is being dropped in college of Ed. Changed name of INSYS to instructional design and tech. New office Manager- Divya Ganti. Appointments: Student Legal Services Advisory Board Evelyn Miller Intermediate Executive Secretary: Kimeka Campbell. Upcoming events: Thon Team. If you need a GSA Polo, Please see Wanika. Office paper available in the office. If you are interested in Political advocacy, starting to plan Capital day, please see Wanika about this as well.
      - 1. Brian Aynardi -Honor Code- presented the honor code (see attachment) not GSA specific. Brianna Serrano Talia Carroll also helped with the wording of the honor code. (See PowerPoint). At some institutions, this is on the syllabi. Will this go there? Wanika: There is some talk of a universal code. Provost will commission group to further discuss this. Wanted to get out in front of what an honor code may look like before bringing it before a big committee. Making the statement more inclusive and not exclusive. Making grammatical corrections? Not for the meeting please send to Brian via email. Is there some other code that we are talking about here? What is the difference between an honor code and a conduct code? One is a contract the other is...? (I still don't quite understand how to word this distinction...KGC) Bryan's view: We need to have an honor code that should be higher than the other big ten schools because of our position in the big ten. A large discussion ensued about who was confused about honor etc.
- V. Robbie Fraleigh- Executive Vice President

- a. Great job to committees! End of semester reports due Friday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Executive Secretary Official will call for nominations now through Wed Jan 9 2013. Each nominee will give a brief spiel at the beginning of the Jan9<sup>th</sup> assembly meeting followed by a vote of the assembly.
- VI. Dave Rench External Vice President
- a. Free Advisory Council: to review recommendation from the Freeh report and decide on actions: (see attachment). Went over Recommendation 1.1. Next meeting tomorrow afternoon with Tom Poole VP of Admin, and Paula Ammerman. Hub Advisory Board: Met yesterday, met with Michael Pilato. Mural artist. Wants to install murals in the HUB. (see PowerPoint) Next meeting not scheduled. Is there anything that we can do gear use toward graduate students to use the HUB?
- VII. UPUA- not much to report but came to show support.
- a. Bus lines and white loops extensions. Was a three-year long process. First they initialized contact with CATA had to say they would sponsor the bus, and have someone sit on the bus from 10pm to 2am. Tried to have the same thing happen for a bus to stop by the business building, but did not get the same reception. Paid 23k to extend white loop every year from facilities budget.
- VIII. UPAC Jesse- UPAC policy meeting to be held next week
- IX. Sanding Committee Reports
- a. Community Service and THON-
    - i. Raffle tickets are on sale for THON Thonvelope party is coming on December 5· 129A HUB. Bracelet Sale from 11am-5pm can anyone be there from 11-12? Please email Nicole. Bring another thon donation box from the GSA office for Mellena science complex. Male calendar need replies. Tweet for thon, please commit to this! Contact [Gsa.ftk@gmail.com](mailto:Gsa.ftk@gmail.com). Is there a thon page? It is on the community service page. If you go to thon.org, it will take you to the GSA webpage. Can email Nikki to sell bracelets. Please do at committee meetings happy quarters to donate to THON.
  - b. Internal development committee- if you have resolutions always happy to assist with it. Also need to create a log of all the incoming resolutions
  - c. Human Diversity- Check out their page they are doing a lot of great things
    - i. Professional Development- Bill Dusch and Melisa Ziegler. Investment workshop Event Date March 18<sup>th</sup>. Another event. Dissertation Boot camp March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have a schedule if you are interested in helping, please sign up. Dr. Foley has offered to pay for Professional Development so email Wanika the cost. Are there Boot camps during the summer? Will discuss with the committee. What will be done to promote this to graduate students before it happens? And what if more than 50 people want to attend? Answers forthcoming.
  - d. Programming committee: Antwain Hunter an Stephanie Wilson

- i. Friday will attend a potential mixer spot- the Duo-. Doing an event for graduate student mothers both expecting and present moms. May want to call it parents' day and hold an event between both holidays.
  - e. Publicity Committee-
    - i. Please send them anything, events, and GSA happenings that need publicized. Also, Like the GSA Facebook page! Facebook having issues with GSA page Tag photos? It can be fixed
  - f. Student concerns met with student transportation services
    - i. Was willing to talk about making the bus more affordable for graduate students. Had a very positive meeting. Survey will be done in June for Universal bus ridership. From all that they know they are struggling for money right now.
- X. Judiciary Report- No report
- XI. Liaison Reports
  - a. Health insurance committee
    - i. 1078 people down in the medical plan, 10 percent children, 8 percent students, 133 percent in international persons. Encourage students to go to AETNA. Changing waiver requirements. We are no longer going through the bursar account for medical. Flu shots are covered. There is a pharmacy at Hersey. You can get safety glasses out of the plan. Accidentally sent out new cards in an incorrect fashion (UHS-Aetna?) What happened? And what repercussions were taken because of this issue? Will look into this issue.
  - b. Committed Couples
    - i. Met on Monday. Had 10 married couples, met with Dr. Alan Booth. Relationship issues and work life balance. Did not have any couples that came with kids. Do not know if they know about childcare. Encourage them to come, and to come early. Planning to meet next month. Looking to January to have a family in graduate school. Working on an event for December.
  - c. Student Tech Advisory Committee:
    - i. Members of STAC now have access to a survey. If you would like the results of the survey contact Dave. Dave will forward questions to STAC
  - d. Movin On' concert series for the spring
    - i. Having issues with top headliner. Also reported some financial issues
- XII. Delegates Report- Have a social forum on tomorrow all are welcome.
- XIII. Open Forum- Happy Holidays from Wanika
- XIV. Adjourn 7:26.