

GAPSA Assembly Meeting Minutes

March 2nd, 2009, Downtown Campus Poydras Room 2231 – 7:30pm

I. Call to Order

- 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

- Please see attendance list below

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approved unanimously

IV. President's Report (Jerina Pillert)

A. ASB Elections

- Will take place March 10 and 11
- Three candidates
 - **Jimmy Ghallager** – Cell and Molecular Biology Major – Understands that graduate and undergraduate students have different needs – the 2/3 (USG), 1/3 (GAPSA) financial split for events is sometimes unnecessary – would like USG and GAPSA to operate independently but still collaborate when necessary – please e-mail me with questions
 - **Elizabeth McCoy** – USG Senator for two years – working on Masters of Accounting and undergraduate Business degree at same time – because of dual enrollment, can best represent both graduate and undergraduate students
 - **Tim Clinton** – Double major in music and biochemistry – Accepted to Tulane Medical School in the fall – Currently TUCP President – TUCP bringing Lupe Fiasco to campus on March 12

B. GAPSA Reserve Fund Information

- Please see attached information
- Senator McClary, MSG: Are we on pace to allocate more than we should? How does this year compare?
- President Pillert: I cannot say if we have allocated more than in the past. We are still working on compiling those numbers and should have them by the next meeting.

V. GAPSA Division Reports

A. School of Continuing Studies

- Will present budget later in the meeting

B. Graduate Business Council

- No report

C. Graduate Studies Student Association

- No report

D. Medical School Student Association

- No report

E. Public Health and Tropical Medicine Student Government

- Rock-n-Bowl mixer with BMSSA on March 5
- First minority health speaker in our series coming up

F. Student Bar Association (Law School)

- Won an award from ABA for greatest improvement
- Reaccredited this week
- Finalizing Dean search
- Contact Guillermo Cancio if you are interested in a boat tour

G. Student Government Association of the School of Social Work

- No report

H. Biomedical Sciences Student Association

- Crawfish boil on March 20
- Dodgeball team doing well

VI. Executive Council Reports

A. Executive VP: Erin Beyerstedt

i. GAPSA Elections

- Will take place at the March 30 meeting, but EVP, who is to run the elections, cannot be present
- Please e-mail current exec with questions about positions if you are interested
 - a) *Appoint a Senator to Run Elections*
 - Senator Bennett, GSSA, volunteers

B. Administrative VP: Andrew Tuozzolo

- We need to figure out the voting procedures for reserve requests. Do we need a simple majority or a super majority to overturn the Finance Committee's recommendations?
- Senator Vincenti, SPHTM: The Finance Committee knows the rules and asks questions not asked by the Assembly. A simple majority should not be enough.
- AVP: I will put a visual representation of each situation on the website.

C. Downtown Campus VP: Katie Izenour

i. Downtown Safety Commission Report

- The Fall 2008 report is written. There is a copy of it in your agenda packet.

ii. Expanded Safe Rides Shuttle Services

- The e-mail sent to all students about expanded Safe Ride Shuttle services promotes services not offered downtown. Take the offer of expanded services with a grain of salt.

D. Treasurer: Kourtney Thomas

i. Budget Request

a) School of Continuing Studies

- Would like approval for a \$44,740 party budget
- 200-300 people attend; only event school holds each year
- Approved, 19-0-4

ii. Conference Reserve Requests

a) B. Hall – Texas Investment Portfolio Symposium

- \$187.51 request
- Approved unanimously

b) B. Pierson – American Association of Physical Anthro.

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

c) G. Murray – Regional Identity in Times of Globalization..

- \$295 request
- Approved unanimously

d) N. Stockton – 8th Conf. on Southern Women's History

- \$450 request
- Approved unanimously

e) S. Phillips – American Association of Physical Anthro.

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

f) K. Marden – Soc. for American Archaeology Annual Meeting

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

g) S. Johnson - Soc. for American Archaeology Annual Meeting

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

h) M. Holt – Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society Convention

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

i) J. Echevarri – 62nd Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conf.

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

j) T. London – Trauma, Critical Care, & Acute Care Surgery

- \$500 request
- Approved unanimously

k) D. Baer – International Dispute Resolution Competition

- \$1,950 request

- Approved unanimously
- l) *S. Smith – ABA Criminal Law Trial Conference*
 - \$3,000 request
 - Would take six people to Chicago to participate in a worldwide competition
 - Approved unanimously
- iii. *General Reserve Requests*
 - a) *M. Vincenti – Public Health Distinguished Speaker Series*
 - \$3,195 request
 - Dr. Tu, the Minister of Health for Botswana, will be the keynote speaker
 - Advertising to all schools; anyone interested can attend
 - Senator Cancio, SBA: Why is the flight so expensive? Senator Vincenti: Because she is a minister, the State Department told us she had to fly business class. Also, she needs a larger seat.
 - Approved unanimously
 - b) *S. deLaneuville –Undoing Racism Training*
 - \$2,000 request
 - Workshop would take place March 13, 14, 15
 - The money would purchase ten seats for grad students who would like to attend; hopefully, some of those will be Social Work students.
 - Senator Cancio, SBA: Are other universities contributing?
 - deLaneuville: Southern University, yes (see attached budget). Other universities do not have any money to contribute. The funds requested would be for the exclusive use of Tulane graduate students.
 - DVP: Motion to amend to \$3,500; Social Work never requests money
 - Motion passes, 19-1-0
 - Approved, 19-1-0

E. Secretary: Megan Holt

- No report

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Grad Club Committee (Marc Blainey) – **Grad Night March 5th 7pm!**
 - Free food, band, cash bar. PLEASE COME OUT!! Please RSVP to Marc Blainey (mblainey@tulane.edu). Bring your Tulane ID.
- B. Health Insurance Committee Update (Matt Austin)
 - Heard from Risk Management; some good news and some bad news.
 - Bad news: We will not be part of the bid process this year. Tulane is going to keep Aetna as the student health insurance provider.
 - Good news: Matt Austin will be at the meeting with Aetna about the policy renewal, so the student voice will be heard when the new policy is decided upon. Prior to this meeting, the committee will meet to discuss what *should* be changed. We will be looking particularly at general health, women’s health, and vaccinations.
 - The next step will be meeting with Brian Mitchell, Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, to get involved on a larger scale so that Risk Management cannot avoid including us in the bid process. He will help us set up the committee next year.
 - We are working on getting better deals at Tulane facilities and analyzing exactly what happens at the Student Health Center, which is supposed to function as a primary care facility but is not equipped to do so.
 - We have pushed back the student survey because it will not have any impact on the bid process.
 - AVP: It sounds like Risk Management is trying to short-circuit us. Try to make Aetna look bad and gain some leverage. Drag them through the mud. MA: Andy Schroeder from Risk Management is the one person who makes decisions about the policy, and he has been dodging us. We finally went over his head to the provost. He cannot dodge us next year.
 - AVP: Is the renewal done annually? MA: The last time it was analyzed was 2005, and students were included.

- AVP: Get unsolicited bids from other providers next year.
- President Pillert: Why is the student insurance policy not voted on by the University Senate like the faculty insurance? MA: We are proposing joint bids with the faculty and staff next year. Other companies asked Tulane to bid this year and were turned down. PP: It is very important to bring the policy before a voting body.
- Senator Bennett, GSSA: My department chair wants to support this effort. How can we get involved? MA: We have three weeks to get any and all support that we can. E-mail me (maustin@tulane.edu).
- Senator Swabacker, SBA: I think it would be good to get input from a wider range of students. Could you set up a table at Grad Night? MA: We could do a survey, but with Aetna as the definite choice, it will not be so helpful. Swabacker: Concrete numbers would be helpful.

VIII. ASB President's Report (Tim Cullen)

- The Crawfest website is up and running. The lineup includes the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Kermit Ruffins, and the Radiators. I am going to a meeting tomorrow about the possibility of beer at Crawfest. Maybe we will donate the proceeds from the beer to charity. I will pass out stickers and other promo items at the March 30 meeting.
- Two years ago, changes were made to the alcohol policy without approval of the University Senate, which means that the current alcohol policy may not be an actual policy at all. Senator Misra: How were they able to do that? TC: They just did, and nobody said anything.

IX. USG President's Report (Margaret Walker)

- We have elected new officers

X. Adviser Report (Jered Bocage)

- The Office of Student Programs is collecting data about groups within all the schools. We want all groups to register.

XI. Old Business

A. Flex Account Proposal – Medical School

- Senator Wendt, SBA: When do we get to vote on the proposal? President Pillert: At the next Finance Committee meeting, there will be a proposal to change the bylaws. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation, and you all will vote on March 30.
- Treasurer Thomas: Would the money only be used for capital improvements?
- ASB President: How would people get money from the Flex Accounts? Senator Stark, MSG: Only the treasurers from each school would get to ask.
- Senator McClary, MSG: We are guaranteeing that funds would be returned to the Reserve Fund.
- ASB President: Maybe you all should stop spending the Reserve Fund on student travel.
- President Pillert: The schools would not be able to touch the money in their budgets set aside for the reserve, even if it is the only money left in their accounts.
- Senator Powers, GSSA: Are we in the red? President Pillert: No, our constitution prevents us from going in the red.
- Senator McClary: We WILL go into the red eventually, because the Reserve Fund is going to shrink.
- Senator Nelson, GSSA: You do not know if it will shrink. You cannot predict that.
- DVP: Hopefully, enrollment will increase over the next few years.
- Proxy Do, GBC: Does the Reserve Fund earn any interest? President Pillert: Yes, 2.5%.
- DVP: How would you all feel about funding things through the Reserve Fund for a school that still had money in its Flex Account?
- Senator Nelson, GSSA: How is it any different from schools earmarking funds?
- Senator Wendt, SBA: We can change ideas about what the Flex Account should be.
- President Pillert: There could be issues with what a school's officers want if they disagree with what the rest of the students want.
- Senator Stark, MSG: Why shouldn't we do what we want with the money that we donate to the Reserve Fund?
- Matt Austin: If your plans are not supported by the students in your school, why should GAPSAs support them?

- DVP: With the current proposal, there is nothing to stop officers from each school from carrying out plans that the students do not support.
- Senator Swabacker, SBA: It is the same money, but the proposal would allow for long-term planning.
- President Pillert: The requests to access Flex Account money would have to go through the EXACT same process that we have now – the Finance Committee and the Assembly would still have to vote on the requests.
- Senator Wendt, SBA: I do not get it. Why can't we put money aside for each school? President Pillert: Because we cannot subdivide the Reserve Fund, so all Flex Account requests would still be Reserve Fund Requests.
- Senator Powers, GSSA: Couldn't schools list capital improvements as line items in their budgets? Or is the aim of this proposal to guarantee that you will have access to the money from the previous year.
- Senator McClary, MSG: We put money in the Reserve Fund last year and then did not get it back when we asked for it.
- Senator Swabacker, SBA: Could we compromise? 50% of funds returned could go to the Flex Account, and 50% could go to the Reserve Fund.
- President Pillert: Regardless of the rules, there is no guarantee that the Assembly would vote in favor of Flex Account requests.
- Senator Swabacker, SBA: There is animosity at GAPSA toward proposals that are just for one school. We cannot protect our money for long-term projects.
- Matt Austin: General approval of what the proposal entails will help long-term projects.
- Senator Cancio, SBA: We need more specifics on how it would work. We need a VERY detailed proposal.
- Senator Kaplan, BMSSA: What if a school chooses not to have a Flex Account? President Pillert: This proposal is all or nothing – no school can opt out if it passes.
- Treasurer Thomas: When we say "earmark," what exactly do we mean? President Pillert: We still have to figure that out.
- Secretary Holt: Who would be in charge of keeping track of how much money is in each school's Flex Account? Senator McClary, MSG: The GAPSA Treasurer would be in charge. SH: I worry that the GAPSA Treasurer will get overwhelmed with the GAPSA Budget, the Reserve Fund, and eight different Flex Accounts to manage. Just managing one account as a school treasurer takes about eight hours every week. This proposal could seriously impede the GAPSA Treasurer's ability to do a good job.
- Matt Austin: Maybe someone could be appointed to help the treasurer if this proposal passes.
- Awkward moment.
- Senator Wendt: Move to close this discussion
- Motion passes unanimously.

XII. New Business

- Senator Cancio, SBA: I just decided to run for ASB President. Please vote for me.

XIII. Open Forum

- Nothing

XIV. Announcements

- A. Grad Night March 5th 7pm!
- B. Admiralty Law Lectures, April 11-15.
- C. Human Rights Film Series this week
- D. Billy Collins on March 16 and Joan Didion on April 6.

XV. Adjournment