

GAPSA Assembly Meeting Minutes

October 27th, 2008, Uptown Campus LBC 203 Stibbs – 8:00pm

I. Call to Order

- 8:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

- Please sign attendance sheet

III. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from October 6, 2008 meeting approved unanimously

IV. President's Report (Jerina Pillert)

A. ASB Meeting – Thursday Oct. 30th 6:30pm, Kendall Kram

- Please attend the meeting or send a proxy. Dinner will be provided. Without GAPSA members present, we will not have quorum at the meeting.

B. Health Insurance Committee – representatives from each school?

- Matt Austin will be chairing the committee. The goal is to have at least one representative from each school on the committee. If you are interested in joining, please contact President Pillert (jpillert@tulane.edu)

V. GAPSA Division Reports

A. School of Continuing Studies

- No report

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

- After six months of preparation, the outgoing president of Botswana has agreed to come to Tulane, along with his Minister of Public Health. The two will be discussing HIV and AIDS in their country.

F. Student Bar Association (Law School)

- Students will be participating in the Mayor's Halloween Party on October 31. Fifty students are needed, so please contact someone from SBA if you would like to volunteer.

G. Student Government Association of the School of Social Work

- No report

H. Biomedical Sciences Student Association

- Held a meeting earlier today

VI. Executive Council Reports

A. Executive VP: Erin Beyerstedt

i. GAPSFA Fall Semester Party – Nov. 14th

- Please see October 6 minutes for details
- Please publicize the party at your schools; a flyer for the party will be distributed to the GAPSFA listserv

B. Administrative VP: Andrew Tuozzolo

i. Update from Financial Associate Committee

- Brief history of the Financial Associate dilemma; see minutes from the September 15 meeting for details.
- Three options possible
 1. Tulane provides the funding for this position.
 2. GAPSFA, USG, Hullabaloo, and Media Board all pay a portion of the FA's salary through their reserve funds. We would have a board of people consisting of members from each of these bodies; that board would have hiring, review, and firing power.
 3. Do nothing, which would be bad for the students because nothing would get done.
- Please give suggestions for the duties of the Financial Associate; the FA will be a university employee but will be working for us.
 - Senator Swabacker, SBA: Could the FA rotate though the schools?
 - Senator Owhar, SW: Are we definitely going to hire somebody? AVP: No, but we need ideas now.
 - Senator Vincenti, SPH: Is there enough work for a FA? AVP: We are looking into it.
 - Senator Gilette, SPH: What would the salary range be? AVP: Approximately \$40,000 (salary plus benefits) split between all those hiring the FA.
 - Senator Swabacker, SBA: Could we hire a student worker.? AVP: There are privacy issues (see September 15 minutes). Senator Swabacker: Maybe hire a student worker for the administrative duties.
 - Senator Hua, GSSA: The salary for the FA is more than graduate students are paid. Can we

hire a graduate student and therefore give funds back to someone here? AVP: No students, graduate or undergraduate, can access the software.

- Senator Reily, SPH: Is there any way to play with the staff member/student line?
- Senator Cancio, SBA: How can we pressure Tulane to hire the FA? We are getting robbed of our student fees! AVP: ASB is a good venue to discuss a plan of action.
- DVP Izenour: Tulane currently does not take a percentage of student fees. If we do not fund the position, perhaps Tulane would do so. It sounds like cost recovery, but at least if will build the position ourselves, Tulane will not take a percentage.
- EVP Beyerstedt: Yes, it would be cost recovery that the students cannot vote on, and our percentage of the FA salary would probably be much less than Tulane would take from us.
- Advisor Bocage: After the cost recovery proposal failed, there was a “cost sharing” task force created. We learned that other universities typically take 5% to 10% of student fees.
- Senator Gilette, SPH: If we push, Tulane will push back. It would be nice if we had someone to take care of us.
- AVP: In committee, MSG had reservations. Please share them.
 - Senator Stark, MSG: A person named Rondell helps us.
 - DVP Izenour: Rondell has a p-card and helps with the needs of the students. The MSG President does not want to help fund the FA position because they have Rondell.
 - Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: BMSSA has someone who helps its students, too.
 - AVP: Social Work has reservations, too. Could we move forward? Could the Social Work Senators support hiring a FA? Senator Owhar, SW: We want to

know whether or not we will actually be able to control his position.

- Secretary Holt: Who would train the FA? AVP: Tulane would be responsible for the training, but the FA would be responsible to the students.

C. Downtown Campus VP: Katie Izenour

i. Update from Downtown Safety Commission

- We are launching a shuttle survey in order to obtain feedback on the uptown/downtown shuttle. Please fill it out. We are also preparing the fall semester report.

ii. Announcements

- Attended the student leaders' dinner at Dr. Cherry's house. The administration is not putting a lot of thought into the needs of graduate students.
- Setting up a meeting with the campus architect to discuss the 10-year plan for downtown.

D. Treasurer: Kourtney Thomas

i. Updated Finance Committee Info Sheets

- New guidelines have been written. Please see the updated information sheet in your packet.

ii. Reserve Requests

a) Shi Conference Travel Request

- Requesting \$500 for travel to the Association of Asian Studies conference, where she will present her original research. Request approved unanimously/

b) Law Vis Moot Court Team

- Requesting \$5,000 for six students and two coaches to travel to Hong Kong to compete in the Vis Moot Court Competition. Tulane has been participating for five years. Usually, the team receives funds from a donor, but because the donor cannot be reached this year, the team is making an emergency request from GAPSA.
 - Senator Hua, GSSA: What is moot court and how is the competition structured? Moot court is mock court; the competition has several rounds .
 - Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Do you all receive credit for competing? There is no class, but we do receive credit.
 - Senator Hall, GBC: How long is the competition? The about a week.

- Finance Committee recommendation:
Approval of the \$5,000 request.
- Approved: 23–0–1
- c) *ABA Negotiation Competition*
 - Requesting \$2,974.94 to attend negotiation competition in Omaha, Nebraska. Tulane has participated and has done very well in past competitions.
 - Senator Swabacker, SBA: Only accredited law schools can compete, and Tulane has always done well.
 - Senator Hambly, MSG: Is there an SBA or a Law School fund for this program? It is difficult to petition for funds, but placement helps argue the case for funds.
 - Senator Nelson, GSSA: How much funding are you requesting?
 - Approved: 23–0–1

E. Secretary: Megan Holt

- Please state your name and school before speaking so that I can take accurate notes.
- Please sign the attendance sheet.

VII. ASB President's Report (Tim Cullen)

- Meeting on October 30, 2008—Please attend—Dinner at 6:30; meeting will begin at 7:00

VIII. USG President's Report (Margaret Walker)

- No report

IX. Adviser Report (Jered Bocage)

- No report

X. Old Business

- None

XI. New Business

- Graduate/Professional Student Club/Lounge
 - Marc Blainey: The Lounge would be somewhat of a cross between a library and a bar, a space for food, beer, and intellectual conversation. It might be the right time for the lounge because of all the moving on campus. I would like to form a committee to work toward this goal.
 - Senator Wendt, SBA: Motion to create the committee.
 - Motion passed: 23–0–1
- Downtown Vice President
 - Senator Reily, SPH: Proposal to dissolve the position of Downtown Vice President by May 2009.

- President Pillert: The schools are now working together. We may need to have an Uptown Vice President in order to encourage the kind of collaboration that we are now seeing downtown.
- DVP Izenour: The DVP does not do anything that the school cannot do themselves. I have been getting a lot of pressure from the administration, but as a student there is not a lot I can do.

XII. Open Forum

- Social Work Diversity Speakers Series, "Can You Hear Me Now." Event taking place on October 28 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- There may be a debate between Helena Moreno and William Jefferson taking place at the Medical School on Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

XIII. Announcements

- If we have no business to discuss, the November 10 GAPSA Assembly meeting may be canceled.

XIV. Adjournment

- 9:00p.m.

Attendance

GSSA

Jeremy Nelson
 Marc Blainey
 Lisa Hua
 Scott Jared
 Rebecca Powers

SPHTM

Marco Vincenti
 Michael Gilette
 Laura DeBoer
 Katie Reilly
 Tamala Gondwe

MSG

Davis Ogitani
 Chris Stark
 Bryan Hambly

S&E???

Geovana Rodriguez
 Heidi Connahs

Continuing Studies

Josh Barnett

BMSSA

Matthew Comeaux

SBA

Camille Dizon
 Guillermo Cancio
 Melissa Swabacker
 Sara Lewis
 George Wendt

Social Work

Evelyn Owhar

