

GAPSA Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 10th, 2008, Uptown Campus LBC 203 Stibbs – 7:00pm

I. Call to Order

- 7:03p.m.

II. Roll Call

- Please see attendance list below

III. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from October 27, 2008 approved unanimously

IV. President's Report (Jerina Pillert)

A. University Senate Committee Appointments

- President Cowen presides over the University Senate, which is the governing body of Tulane. GAPSA needs to fill positions on committees. Please see the handout for details on each committee.
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: How long is the term of service on these committees? President: Usually one academic year, with a committee meeting once or twice per semester.
- GAPSA members on the committees:
 - Academic Freedom and Responsibility of Students Committee—Guillermo Cancio
 - Athletics Committee—Cain McClery
 - Educational Policy Committee—Sara Lewis
 - Equal Opportunity and Institutional Equity Committee—Joyce Bennett, Camille Dizon
 - Informational Technology Committee—Brigham Hall
 - Libraries Committee—Scott Jared
 - Physical Facilities Committee—Katie Izenour, Rebecca Powers
 - Social Issues Committee—Brian Hambly
 - Student Affairs Committee—Tim Van Der Vecken, Sara Lewis, Jerina Pillert, Rebecca Powers, Laura DeBoer, Chris Stark

B. Update from Student Leader Dinners—Dr. Cherry and President Cowen

- Fundraising has begun for repairs on the Social Work building. An outside company is looking at the building and will make a recommendation for the repairs.
- The administration has no plans to improve graduate student housing. See the apartment finder on the GAPSA website and send the link to your schools.

V. GAPSA Division Reports

- A. *School of Continuing Studies*
 - Not present
- B. *Graduate Business Council*
 - No report
- C. *Graduate Studies Student Association*
 - Held a meeting on November 17, 2008.
- D. *Medical School Student Association*
 - No report
- E. *Public Health and Tropical Medicine Student Government*
 - Elections will be held soon. The Society of Young Black Professionals is holding a fundraiser on Friday in the Tidewater Building.
- F. *Student Bar Association (Law School)*
 - No report
- G. *Student Government Association of the School of Social Work*
 - Elections were held recently; transitions are taking place now.
- H. *Biomedical Sciences Student Association*
 - No report

VI. Executive Council Reports

- A. Executive VP: Erin Beyerstedt
 - i. *GAPSA Fall Semester Party – Nov. 14th*
 - Come one, come all. Publicize to your schools.
 - See October 6 minutes for party details.
- B. Administrative VP: Andrew Tuozzolo
 - No report
- C. Downtown Campus VP: Katie Izenour
 - i. *Update on meetings*
 - A meeting was held to discuss downtown parking, safety, space, and the shuttle.
 - A meeting was held with the university architect. There is a master plan, but there is no timetable for its implementation.
 - ii. *Upcoming Downtown Walkabout*
 - Dr. Cherry asked for a downtown walkabout, which will take place on December 15. We need some med student volunteers to accompany us.
 - Senator Vincenti, SPH: Will the walkabout include Demming? DVP: It should; the route is currently in the process of being approved. Issues of safety will be addressed.
 - iii. *Shuttle Survey*

- The shuttle survey has been completed and the data has been collected. Thank you to all who completed it.

iv. SGA - Botswana

- The SGA wants greater Tulane funding and support for its plan to bring in speakers from Botswana. See October 6, 2008 minutes for details on speakers.

D. Treasurer: Kourtney Thomas

i. Reserve Requests

a) Zhiye Li Conference Travel Request

- Presenting at a Computer Music Conference in Texas
- \$180 request for transportation (driving) and hotel expenses
- Finance Committee recommends approval
- Request approved unanimously

b) Tulane Entrepreneurs' Association Proposal

- Requesting GAPSA support for its business plan competition, speaker series, and technology. Total operational costs will be \$68,185. Has obtained \$13,000 from the GBC and \$12,000 from the Business School Dean.
- Requesting \$25,000 from GAPSA
- Finance Committee recommends \$15,185
- Discussion
 - Senator Wendt, SBA: How much has been requested? See above for answer.
 - Senator Wendt, SBA: What would \$15,185 cover? Treasurer: If GAPSA awards that amount, all of the operational costs except for the Business Plan Competition prize money will come from student funds.
 - Senator Hambly, MSG: Do we fund this each year? Treasurer: Typically, we have funded everything except prize money.
 - Senator Wendt, SBA: How many judges? See proposal on website for answer.

- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Was \$15,185 approved unanimously by the Finance Committee?
Treasurer: Yes
- Senator Vincenti, SPH: What is the membership in TEA?
Membership has tripled recently.
- Senator Hall, GBC: Can we amend the Finance Committee recommendation? Treasurer: Yes, you can propose any amount.
- Proxy Souza, SBA: How many entries do you receive for the Business Plan Competition? What is the prize money used for? The number of entries varies each year. The prize money is ideally used to start the winning team's business.
- AVP Tuozzolo: Motion to award \$15,185
- Senator Hall, GBC: Motion to amend and award \$25,000
- Senator Powers, GSSA: How much of a shortfall would be created if we gave \$25,000? If we gave \$25,000, TEA would have a total of \$50,000 and would need \$13,185 more.
- Senator Hambly, MSG: How will you raise the prize money? Private and corporate sponsorships.
- Senator Powers, GSSA? Why do we not fund the prize money?
Treasurer: The Finance Committee members thought that student funds should be for student use only.
- TEA speaker: We decided to give one grand prize so that we could actually give the seed

money for a business. That way, the Tulane name would still be publicized.

- Senator Hall, GBC: I am Vice President of TEA. We need to use the funds to further the reputation of Tulane.
- Chris Koski—Is it the students' responsibility to further the reputation of Tulane?
- Senator Wendt, SBA: Would you still seek funding from other sources if you got \$25,000? Yes, but the \$25,000 would give us a head start and help us organize.
- Senator Van Der Becken, SW: Tulane has a marketing budget; the marketing department should be responsible for publicizing Tulane.
- Senator Powers, GSSA: Publicizing Tulane is to some extent our responsibility, but I am not sure funding prize money falls under publicity.
- Senator Hall, GBC: We (TEA) extend services to all schools; we encourage universities to come to us.
- TEA speaker: We have received a lot of good press this year. Investment in us is a year-long commitment. Our ranking is now 17 because of the funding we have received.
- Senator Lewis, SBA: Are you worried about getting funding this year because of the economy? It is not yet an issue.
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Point of information—How much is the GAPSA mixer? \$20,000

- Motion to award \$25,000 fails, 5–12–2
- Proxy Souza, SBA: Motion to award \$15,185
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Can all students participate? Yes.
- Motion for \$15,185 passes, 15–2–1

E. Secretary: Megan Holt

- Please announce your name and school when you speak

VII. Committee Reports

A. Financial Associate Committee (Andrew Tuozzolo)

- Tulane is not going to fund the FA position.
- We have to decide whether or not to fund it. The committee recommends that we fund it so that Tulane will not take a percentage of our fees.
- We would create a board for the oversight of the FA.
- We need feedback from you all.
- We would have a timeline for review in the new FA's contract.
- We will also make it clear that Tulane SHOULD fund the position in the future.
- Senator Hua, GSSA: Department secretaries get paid less than \$40,000. AVP: The \$40,000 includes benefits.
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Did Tulane ask for this position? AVP: Student programs has a deficit; something will happen if we do not supply the funds. Tulane did not ask, but the issue came up because of cost recovery.
- Secretary: In a way, Tulane did ask because the FA's salary was built into the cost recovery request.
- President: We need to take initiative so that we have control of the position.
- Senator Vincenti, SPH: I am skeptical about whether or not we will actually have control.
- Chris Koski: The committee is very concerned about that issue. We will make it clear that the FA will be responsible to us; the FA will be an employee of the students.
- President: I asked the provost how we could take control of the position. The provost would allow a governing body that includes students to manage the FA.
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: What would prevent Tulane from asking us to hire more people?

- Chris Koski: Student Affairs says that the FA position only exists because of the student governments and their activities. We should pay for the work that we generate.
 - AVP: We would like you all to tell us what you think that the duties and requirements should be.
 - Senator Stark, MSG: Would the position be full time or part time?
 - Secretary: Before Thanksgiving, please send all recommendations to the AVP.
 - Motion for a vote of support for hiring the FA passes, 18–0–1
- B. Grad Club Committee (Marc Blainey)
- See last meeting's minutes for the proposal.
 - The committee has met and has brainstormed, but we are not sure where it will go. We have a December 8 meeting with the university.
- C. Student Affairs Committee Update (Jerina Pillert)
- The RAT is open 11am–4am. The menu is WOW Wingery and beer. Senator Cancio, SBA: It is more expensive, but there is better food.
 - The Papillon is being renovated. Nobody will have to move out during the renovation process. The balconies are currently deathtraps.
 - Senator Nelson, GSSA: Has there been any progress on the health insurance issue? President—The University is open to changes, but there is no way to get on the faculty insurance.

VIII. ASB President's Report (Tim Cullen)

- ASB Chief of Staff Ghallager: Are you all available for a meeting on December 2? Several senators are available.
- ASB steering committee will discuss duties and the ASB agenda prior to the ASB meetings.
- ASP will be submitting a reserve fund request for Crawfest. There will be a GAPSA seat on the Crawfest committee.

IX. USG President's Report (Margaret Walker)

- EVP USG Koski: We will be rewriting parts of our constitution. We would like to learn more about how GAPSA operates.

X. Adviser Report (Jered Bocage)

- No report

XI. Old Business

- None

XII. New Business

A. "Take an undergrad to work day" – Lisa Hua

- I would like to start an initiative to encourage domestic undergraduates to apply to grad school. Undergrads interested in our fields would shadow graduate students. Is there any interest in taking this idea to the deans?
- Senator Cancio, SBA: Undergraduates should read Ph.D. comics. Law students want to jump off a cliff for lots of reasons.
- AVP: I think that this is a great idea, especially for SLA and SSE students.
- DVP: We may not be as exciting because of already-existing programs.
- Senator Comeaux, BMSSA: Is there a research component to the undergraduate degree? It varies by department.
- Senator Cancio, SBA: I advise undergrads and it is very rewarding for me. My undergrads are awesome!
- AVP: Maybe there should be a body-sponsored letter to the deans to coordinate the schools.

XIII. Open Forum

- USG Senator Cooper: USG is trying to restructure and get more organized. Do school meetings make GAPSA issues easier?

XIV. Announcements

- Do not forget the party on Friday! Plenty of food and \$1 drinks at Generations Hall!

XV. Adjournment

- 8:40p.m.

Attendance**GSSA**

Jeremy Nelson
Lisa Hua
Scott Jereb
Rebecca Powers
Joyce Bennett

SPHTM

Marco Vincenti
Laura DeBoer
Katie Reilly
Tamala Gondwe

MSG

Cain McClary
Chris Stark
Bryan Hambley

BMSSA

Matthew Comeaux (proxy Bryan Kaplan)

SBA

Melissa Swabacker (proxy Brandon Souza)
Camille Dizon
Guillermo Cancio
Sara Lewis
George Wendt

Social Work

Evelyn Owhar
Timothy Van Der Becken

GBC

Brigham Hall