

## **GAPSA Assembly Meeting Minutes**

*December 1st, 2008; Uptown Campus LBC 203 Stibbs – 7:00pm*

### **I. Call to Order**

- 7:01 p.m.

### **II. Roll Call**

- Please see attendance list below

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from November 10, 2008 approved unanimously

### **IV. President's Report (Jerina Pillert)**

#### *A. Placards*

- Placards have been made for every senator. Please place your placard in front of you during every meeting.

#### *B. University Senate Committee Appointments*

- Need representative for Budget Review Committee
  - Davis Ogitani (MSG) volunteered
- Need representative for Physical Facilities Committee

#### *C. Other Announcements*

- March 2, 2009 GAPSA meeting will take place downtown at 2231 Poydras
- President Pillert with Tony Lauren, the CFO of Tulane. Now that GAPSA has doubled its fee, GAPSA members pay \$240 per year in student activity fees. Members of USG pay \$180 per year in student activity fees. However, when the student fees are divided, they are divided based on the student population in each group, regardless of how much money each group pays. The graduate and undergraduate populations are roughly equal now. GAPSA gives 10% of its annual budget to USG already.

### **V. GAPSA Division Reports**

#### *A. School of Continuing Studies*

- No report

#### *B. Graduate Business Council*

- Senator Hall is acting as the IT Committee representative and needs a proxy for the next meeting.

#### *C. Graduate Studies Student Association*

- No report

#### *D. Medical School Student Association*

- All is well in the med school.

#### *E. Public Health and Tropical Medicine Student Government*

- No report

#### *F. Student Bar Association (Law School)*

- No report

#### *G. Student Government Association of the School of Social Work*

- No report

#### *H. Biomedical Sciences Student Association*

- No report

### **VI. Executive Council Reports**

#### *A. Executive VP: Erin Beyerstedt*

- No report

#### *B. Administrative VP: Andrew Tuozzolo*

- No report

C. Downtown Campus VP: Katie Izenour

*i. Update on meetings*

- DVP met with Tony Lauren, who will look into funding and a route change for the Uptown/Downtown shuttle. Other options for parking downtown were also addressed at this meeting.

*ii. Downtown Walk About*

- Will take place on December 15, 2008 in the evening

D. Treasurer: Kourtney Thomas

*i. Travel Requests*

*a) Sara Lukens*

- \$205.18 request
- Approved unanimously

*b) Lowry Curley*

- \$500 request
- Approved 10—0—6

*ii. Reserve Requests*

*a) GAPSAs – Soc Furniture*

- \$17,548 request
- Discussion
  - EVP: USG paid for all furniture, supplies, and office space in the SOC; GAPSAs should contribute because we use the space and the resources.
  - AVP: Does everyone know where the SOC is? Basement of the LBC.
  - Senator Wendt, SBA: Can everyone use it? EVP: Yes, it is open to all members of GAPSAs for student government needs
  - Senator Nelson, GSSA: What about the 10% of the budget that we give to USG? How is it used? Adviser Bocage: It goes to campus-wide programming, club sports, and other events open to the entire student body. Capital improvements come from reserve requests.
  - Senator Wendt, SBA: Move to table this issue because the SBA senators are not here and will have something to say about this issue.
  - Senator Hambly, MSG: What is the \$60 difference between the student activity fees? Haven't we already contributed to the SOC? EVP: No, you have contributed to campus programming. Adviser Bocage: GAPSAs doubled its fee two years ago. Both GAPSAs and USG set their own respective fees. Jane Rushing codes the fees by school, and all graduate fees go to GAPSAs. Tony Lauren's explanation to President Pillert was incorrect.
  - Proxy Wysaki, MSG: How much of the requested funding would be going to previous purchases and how much to future purchases? EVP: Contributions to past purchases would include the GAPSAs office, the Reese

Room, and all SOC Technology. GAPSA would help with new furniture for the SOC.

- Senator Vincenti: This proposal seems sudden. Perhaps we have not thought about it enough.
- DVP: This proposal was included in the handout distributed at the ASB meeting. Everyone who attended the meeting has seen it before.
- AVP: What exactly would we be purchasing? EVP: The breakdown of expenses can be found on the funding request. The furniture is very expensive because we have no other option; the LBC must be furnished by a certain company.
- Senator Wendt, SBA: I would really appreciate tabling this request. It is not fair that we vote on it without the SBA senators.
- EVP: We would very much like to process this request before the end of the semester,
- Senator Powers, GSSA: Why are the SBA senators absent tonight? Senator Wendt, SBA: They are attending a thank-you dinner tonight, though some may be here later.
- Senator Hambly, MSG: I am concerned that we have already overpaid by giving 10% to USG.
- EVP: Please remember that this request is a *reserve request*. Unlike the 10%, it is not a budget item. The 10% and the SOC proposal are completely unrelated.
- Adviser Bocage: It does not seem like anything is going to happen tonight.

- Issue tabled, 12—3—0

b) *MSG – Capital Improvement*

- \$15,000 requested for a Medical School student lounge
- Finance committee recommendation: \$11,050
  - Proxy Kaplan, BMSSA: How would this funding help the Tulane community? MSG rep: The lounge would accommodate more than six hundred students. There is really no reserve request that will benefit *all* students. However, the lounge will help Tulane attract prospective medical students.
  - Senator Nelson, GSSA: Has MSG contributed to the lounge? Has the Medical School contributed? MSG rep: Last year, MSG gave \$13,000 back to the GAPSA reserve fund and hopes to get it back for this project. MSG has used some of this year's budget for the lounge; its contributions are listed on the request. People expect quality from the Medical School. The Dean's Office contributed to a student gym. Everybody is contributing.
  - Senator Cancio, SBA: The Law School students need a Dance-Dance Revolution game and a pinball machine! It is not our job to put money toward your lounge.

- Senator Powers, GSSA: Does anyone have records of how much money each school returned to the GAPSA reserve fund?
- Adviser Bocage: Approximately \$70,000 total was returned to the reserve fund, but I cannot tell you how much each school returned.
- Proxy Souza, SBA: Is it customary for GAPSA to give money to things like this? Secretary Holt: In Spring 2006, GAPSA contributed more than ten thousand dollars to redo the SPHTM student lounge, which was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. There is a precedent for contributing to student lounges.
- DVP: The SPHTM lounge is open to everyone. Unlike this request, the GAPSA contribution was used for floors, windows, desks, etc...
- Senator Nelson, GSSA: Motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation.
- Senator Cancio, SBA: The Medical School is segregated from the rest of the schools. I would be in favor if all students could have access to the lounge.
- Senator Reilly, SPHTM: There are facilities at all of the schools that can only be used by that school's students.
- Proxy Kaplan, BMSSA: The BMSSA students work out of a closet.
- \$11,050 approved, 9—4—4
- c) *USG – Crawfest 2009*
- \$25,000 request for Crawfest operating expenses
- Finance Committee recommendation: \$25,000 contingent on using at least one-third of the marketing budget to advertise to graduate students, particularly those downtown.
- Discussion
  - Marketing plan presented in order to address contingency
  - Senator Cancio, SBA: How many graduate students attended last year? Crawfest rep: We did not keep a count, but I have spoken to several graduate students who attended.
  - Senator McClary, MSG: Is there drinking at this event? Crawfest rep: No. The Tulane alcohol policy prevents it, and the administration has vetoed all attempts to have alcohol at this event in the past.
  - Motion to approve Finance Committee recommendation
- \$25,000 approved, 12—1—3

E. Secretary: Megan Holt

- No report

## VII. Committee Reports

A. Health Committee (Matt Austin)

- Austin: The committee has been doing research, and Tulane ranks very low on cost vs. quality. Ron Peterson says that 39% of graduate students have Tulane

insurance. The rest do not because the policy is not worth the expense. Risk Management needs to meet with us to fix the insurance problem. We need to see what Risk Management will do before we make a move. We have a goal of a two-tier system. We are getting testimonial letters from Tulane University Hospital who state that they cannot treat students. We may aim for grater coverage for those who use the university systems.

- Senator Hall, GBC: Why do we have Tulane insurance? Austin: It is legally mandated that all universities offer insurance. Aetna needs to see if it can make money from Tulane. Right now, Aetna covers 80% of the bill, but it is insufficient. The cost of one operation is roughly equal to one yearly stipend. Please talk to people about the policy and what they would like to see and get back to me at [maustin@tulane.edu](mailto:maustin@tulane.edu).
  - DVP: I know Tulane's insurance does not cover injections of synthetic hydrolaunic acid.
  - Austin: Great! Write down your experience. We are compiling case studies.
  - Senator Hall, GBC: Would you push for a high-level plan? Austin: Hopefully there will be two different plans to choose from.
  - Senator Reilly, SPHTM: Why exactly are we at the bottom of the statistics? Austin: We are at the bottom in terms of cost vs. coverage.
  - AVP: Is the cost the result of the pool size or bad bargaining? Austin: It is the result of a combination of bad things that have happened in the past. Right now, 1,720 out of 4,408 students are enrolled in the Aetna plan. The pool consists of graduate and undergraduate students. We cannot be put on the faculty and staff plan because we cannot be labeled as faculty, but we could look into the possibility of creating a pool of graduate students and staff.
  - Senator Cancio, SBA: I like the idea of giving discounts at the Tulane University Hospital. I do not understand why Tulane does not do so. Austin: Most schools pay 90%-100% for a negotiated rate at the university hospital.
- B. Grad Club Committee (Marc Blainey)
- No report

#### **VIII. ASB President's Report (Tim Cullen)**

- No report

#### **IX. USG President's Report (Margaret Walker)**

- No report

#### **X. Adviser Report (Jered Bocage)**

- No report

#### **XI. Old Business**

- No old business

#### **XII. New Business**

- No new business

#### **XIII. Open Forum**

- Senator Hambly, MSG: I voted for the Medical School student lounge in hopes that other schools can get lounges.
- DVP: SPHTM has no space for a good lounge, and most other schools do not as well.

#### **XIV. Announcements**

- Please leave the placards here

#### **XV. Adjournment**

- 8:25 p.m.

## **Attendance**

### **GSSA**

Jeremy Nelson  
Lisa Hua  
Scott Jared  
Rebecca Powers  
Joyce Bennett

### **SPHTM**

Marco Vincenti  
Laura DeBoer  
Katie Reilly  
Tamala Gondwe

### **MSG**

Cain McClary  
Chris Stark (proxy John Wysaki)  
Bryan Hambly  
Davis Ogitani

### **BMSSA**

Matthew Comeaux (proxy Bryan Kaplan)

### **SBA**

Camille Dizon (proxy Brandon Souza)  
Guillermo Cancio  
George Wendt

### **Social Work**

Evelyn Owhar  
Timothy Van Der Becken (pxy Singleton)

### **GBC**

Brigham Hall