

University Graduate Student Association
Box 7111, D.H. Hill Library
Raleigh, NC 27695-7111

March 26th, 2007

Minutes of UGSA Meeting

Attendees:

Heather Shay (President)
Pratik Mehta (Vice President for Internal Affairs)
Ling Xiang (Vice President for External Affairs)
Carrie Smith (Secretary)
Karl Jicha (Treasurer)
Beth Rueschhoff (ECO)
Brandy Benedict (TTFA)
Dr. Rebeca Rufty (Advisor)

Chapter Representatives in Attendance: Accounting, Animal Science, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Botany, Business Administration, Chemistry, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, College of Textiles, Communication, Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Computer Science, Crop Science, ECE, Economics, Entomology, Functional Genomics, Genetics, Higher Education Administration, History, Horticultural Science, Industrial Engineering, International Studies, Marine Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Microbiology, Natural Resources, Nuclear Engineering, Operations Research, Physics, Plant Pathology, Poultry Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Soil Science, Statistics and Biomath, Training & Development

I. Call to Order 7:04

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of February 26th minutes

IV. Presentation by Josh Weeks (candidate for student body president)

- Josh is a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He has been involved in PR and funding efforts for Wolfpack Motor Sports.
- He believes the role of the student body president is to be an advocate for students. It is the president's job to come to organizations such as the UGSA to get out there and listen to the students. They then should take any comments or concerns to the administration, to the public, or wherever it is appropriate. It is important for the president to be respectful, which hasn't always been the case in the past.
- Graduate students make up a large portion of the student body and are important to the University. He wants to insure that when tuition and fees increase, graduate student stipends also increase.
- Question (Beth Rueschhoff): How do you plan to educate yourself and your government about graduate student life so that you can be an effective leader of graduate students. Answer: He would come to ask what we need and would not try to make assumptions as to what are needs were. He hasn't been

in our shoes, so he doesn't know our needs from experience.

- Question (Beth Rueschhoff): What about the senate and the senators? We have some representation through graduate student senators, but most of them don't report back to us. Answer: He can't make them report back, but would certainly encourage them to. He would like to look into having an open forum once a month for graduate students to voice opinions.
- Remember to vote before the 27th at midnight!

V. **President's Report (Heather Shay)**

- University Council Update
 - Kannapolis research campus – A campus is being built in Kannapolis, NC (just outside of Charlotte) as a collaboration effort between NC State, UNC, Duke, outside companies, and others. Our building will be 80% NC State, 10% flux, and 10% Dole. The focus is on agriculture and life sciences. There will be greenhouse space and the largest mass spec in the world. They are looking into some sort of housing facility to house students and faculty if you need to go and utilize their facilities. It should be ready by April 2008.
 - Energy briefing – Ironically it is currently freezing in the UGSA meeting because the air conditioning is on too high. The University has a \$31 million utility bill. The water usage is down, but cost is going up. We currently have a 1.5 million deficit due to increase in energy costs. There are installing meters to keep track of use to see where we can cut back. There is a challenge to reduce our utility bill by \$1 million. If we each decrease our usage by 15 cents a day it would work. It just amounts to turning the light off when you leave, shutting down computers, etc. All buildings are under steady temperature control because of equipment, but not all buildings need this kind of regulation. Question (Beth Rueschhoff): Who do we report problems to? For example, if you see sprinklers on when it is raining out? Answer: Jack Colby in facilities would probably be a good person to contact.
 - All incoming students will be required to read the book Colors of the Mountain by Da Chen.
 - Barbara Honeycutt is acting as the director of the faculty senate for teaching and learning since the current director is stepping down.
 - UNC tomorrow – Some high-powered political figures, corporates, and administrators will be here on May 9th to see how the UNC system can help people in NC. They want to ask about extension and how we contribute back.
 - The Achieve Campaign – We are now the 19th in the nation for fund raising, which is a great success. We are 2nd in NC behind UNC. We rank 8th in the nation for corporate funding.
 - They are looking to hire people to maintain the new University website.
 - The boards of governors for the UNC system is working on a

guaranteed book buy back system or book rental for introductory courses. They are doing a trial with 15 introductory courses. They want to make sure that this will not limit instructors on what materials they can use to teach.

- The College of Textiles is trying new funding approaches by getting money from governments of foreign countries. They are not necessarily students from the sponsoring countries. Sri Lanka and Turkey are participating so far.
- Since there was opposition to the Catalanno pavilion, he has decided to donate money for a seminar series for the college of design. This donation is the same amount of money he was originally looking to donate.
- Student Government Elections 3/26 & 3/27 (<http://students.ncsu.edu/vote>)
 - We can vote for all the main appointments and graduate student senators.
 - It is important that the student body president and the student senate president can work with the UGSA.
 - Only 3 students are currently running for graduate student senate positions.
 - There are 5 candidates for student body president: Josh Weeks his platform is transportation. Adam Compton (current treasurer) – creation of wolf prowl bus line to transport students downtown at night. Mitch Stanforth – online polling system. Kate Luckadoo – accountability: monthly forums for students to talk with their government. Bobby Mills – use of debit cards to pay for food on campus.
 - 3 candidates for student senate.
 - 2 candidates for treasurer.
 - 2 candidates for chief justices.
 - If you want more information ask Heather after the meeting.
- Administrative Board of the Graduate School Update
 - NC State has received 1000 more application since last fall, which is a big increase.
 - There was a faculty meeting for graduate education. There was a lot of discussion and debating.
 - The program in advanced analytics was finally approved, which is good because students are coming for the program this fall.
 - There will be 2 task forces on interdisciplinary programs and reviewing graduate programs. There will be discussions in the future on how to manage funding, etc.

VI. Executive Officer Reports

- a. Vice-President for Internal Affairs' Report (Pratik Mehta)
 - No report.
- b. Vice-President for External Affairs' Report (Ling Xiang)
 - No report.

- c. Secretary's Report (Carrie Smith)
 - No report.
- d. Treasurer's Report (Karl Jicha)
 - Money is really starting to come out of the budget. Karl is going to try to have the honoraria processed by the end of the month for executives and committee chairs. It should be included in your mid April pay. There may be a slight hold up in the process because Karen is on extended leave, but someone is there and trained for the position.
- e. Travel/Thesis Fund Administrator's Report (Brandy Benedict)
 - No report.
- f. Electronic Communications Officer's Report (Beth Rueschhoff)
 - Please double-check your chapter info on the website to make sure it is accurate. Email Beth with any corrections or updates.

VII. Advisor's Report (Dr. Rufty)

- They have decided who will replace Dr. Rufty as UGSA advisor. She is in Biology and is very involved in international issues. She is working on organizing a free yoga class for stressed out graduate students! She will hopefully be at the meeting next month.

VIII. UGSA Committee Reports

- a. Social
 - There will be a picnic held on Friday, April 13th at 12:30pm. Ali isn't currently here but he should be here later in the meeting to report details.
- b. Teaching Effectiveness
 - The top 10 TAs were chosen and then they were narrowed down to the 6 that will receive an award. The ceremony is on the 23rd of April.
- c. Academic Policy
 - The research symposium was very successful. There were 77 posters presented. They hope to expand the symposium next year to have more participants.
 - Dr. Rufty: If you haven't been in the past, you should really try to go next year to see the amazing diversity in research here at NC State.
 - The committee is working on the LANGURE conference.
- d. Financial
 - They will be reading the budget later in the meeting.
- e. Judicial & Legislative
 - They will be reading several bills later in the meeting.
- f. Political Action
 - No report.
- g. Publicity
 - The August issue of the M&O has been put together for orientation.
 - Hard copies of the latest M&O issue are available and have been sent to the Graduate School as well as departments who want to send them out to prospective students.
 - A link to the electronic version will be posted on the website.

IX. University Standing Committee Reports

- No report.

X. Old Business

- Second reading of and discussion of 2007-2008 UGSA Budget
 - Tonight there will be a discussion, but we won't vote until the next meeting.
 - To sum up the changes to the constitution, the majority of the things that were removed from the budget weren't being used. This was done to be more in line with our revenues we receive.
 - Question: as the number of students increase, it would be nice if the number of nominated student could increase for the TA awards. Heather: not sure if the student numbers will increase.
 - Question: could the block grants be reduced? Heather: They had been reduced last year and we have used \$3,500 of \$5,500 so far this year so it will probably all get used.
 - It was suggested that the money allotted for student service awards be moved to the TA awards. Karl made the motion and the group voted in approval of this change.

XI. New Business

- First Reading of Bill #3: Resolution of Removing Officers' Duties Related to the Orientation Panel Session
- First Reading of Bill #4: Resolution of Removing the Academic Policy Committee's Duties Related to University Standing Committees
- First Reading of Bill #5: Resolution of Allowing the Vice-President of External Affairs to Appoint Representatives to University Standing Committees
- First Reading of Bill #6: Revision of Political Action Committee's Service Activity Planning
- First Reading of Bill #7: Resolution to Change Political Awareness Committee to Political Action Committee in the UGSA Constitution
- First Reading of Bill #8: Revision of Teaching Effectiveness Committee Duties
- First Reading of Bill #10: Constitutional Amendment Giving Guidelines for Committee Meetings
- Closing of Nomination for 2007-2008 UGSA Executive Board
- Candidates give brief speeches.
- Ballots were given to chapters in good standing.
- Votes were tallied:
 - President: Heather Shay (8 votes)
 - Carrie (Jacobus) Smith (3 votes)
 - Rebecca Klossner (1 vote)
 - Faith Bartz (1 vote)
 - Karl Jicha (1 vote)
 - Vandana Bhagtani (1 vote)
 - Justin Shows (1 vote)
 - Josh Weeks (1 vote)

- JB Clark IV (1 vote)
 - VP of Internal Affairs: Pratik Mehta (31 votes)
 - VP of External Affairs: Ling Xiang (31 votes)
 - Treasurer: Alex Capaldi (31 votes)
 - Secretary: Magen Eller (31 votes)
 - ECO: Cat Beck (31 votes)
 - TTA: Brandy Benedict (31 votes)
- Heather was temporarily voted in for president, but she really doesn't want to do it. She is looking for someone to volunteer.
- The new executives will take over in the April meeting.
- In order to be nominated for President, you must be in the UGSA currently or nominated by an executive board member.

XII. Open Floor

- The social committee will be hosting a picnic at Pullen Park. They tried for Centennial, but there were too many issues.
 - What is the parking situation there? It won't be a problem
 - What about having it on Sunday so that more families can attend?
 - Would it even be available on Sunday?
- The committee will look into the availability and will make a decision.

XIII. Adjournment 8:58pm

Next Scheduled Meeting, April 30th, 2007