Graduate & Professional Student Council
General Assembly Agenda
February 6th, 2018 5:30
Koldus, Rm 144

I. Call to Order
Quote of the meeting: ‘Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today’ –Malcolm X, 1964, founding rally of OAAU

GPSC History: "In 1999 GPSC helped create the position of Ombudsperson for Graduate Studies; the ombudsperson is an informal, neutral, and confidential resource for graduate students to discuss questions and concerns related to their graduate experience."

II. Procedure and Governance

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Speaker’s Podium
    Dr Dannebaum and Dr Fish, -Student Health Services
    ODSL Assistant Director, Stefanie Baker Intro

Student Health Services
-Current funding: student health fee (SHF) – 70 %, 30 % is fee per service charge
-Budget 9 million/year
-Current fee: 72.50 per semester (cap is $75.00 – set by Texas Government)
    -significantly lower than peer institutions
    -Cap hasn’t increased since early 90s

-SHF will increase to 75.00 starting fall 2018

-Need to find new construction projects from revenue or savings
-SHF cap will need to be raised by Texas State Legislature
-Student referendum required if cap raise is more than 10 %

-Beutel was built in 1973 (18,000 students enrolled)
-Expanded in 1986 (36,000 students enrolled)
-Currently have double the students as in 1986

-4 million over past 5 years in internal renovations

-Explored moving EMS operations: too costly

-12 million in extensive replacements and maintenance due in next 5-10 years
60% of Buetel visits are graduate students

-New Facility:
- expand existing services
- Add new services
- Expand capacity and efficiency
- Expand partnership with TAMUHSC Colleges
- Expand parking

Questions:

Comment:
Brenna: we will present two resolutions regarding student health services at the next GA meeting

What does the University of Texas do? Lumped sum

Have you thought about weekend service: Yes, look at that (costs to bring in staff)

Revenue stream from pharmacy?

V. Pending Business
Logo Resolution – Francisco Birk

Resolution: passed (voice vote)

Bus App Update Follow up – Chris Nygren

Interested in bus app update – talk to Chris

VI. New Business
Aggies Commit Fellowship winners recognized by Awards Chair Pritishma – group photo
GA Live Stream Resolution – Courtney Dickie and Sarah Hartman

Resolution: passed (voice vote)

Bill Flores Thank you Resolution – Brenna Lin

Resolution: passed (voice vote)

VII. Voice Reports
a. Committees
Rellis Bus Update – February expansion, Transportation speaking March 20th
-RELLIS bus update: transportation to Rellis campus from main campus
- Connect campus to Texas Transportation Institute

  b. Department, Program, or Organization Announcements
  SAFAB Chair Update – Francisco Birk
  Chair search: Chair selected
  Application open for SAFAB members: due next Wednesday (need grad student representation)

  Biophysical Society at A&M (just started!) – Sarah Hartman
dbrook@tamu.edu (Dakota Brock – president (Graduate Student) for more information
dkurouski@tamu.edu (advisor)

  Physics and Engineering Festival, Saturday April 7th, Mitchell buildings
  Contact etanya@physics.tamu.edu to volunteer, more info at http://physicsfestival.tamu.edu/

  BGSA is sponsoring events for Black History Month: February 15th @12:45 pm – Federal Prison Tour
  (Departing TAMU at 1 pm)
  On Feb. 25h – Breaking Bread – African American Museum – business casual attire

  WISE: Annual Conference on Feb. 24th (Deadline to register Feb. 19th)
  - Some departments pay for registration fee

VIII. Standing Committee Reports
  a. Awards
  b. External Legislative Affairs
     i. Graduate Student Tuition Waiver Tax update
        Thank you for advocacy: Graduate Student provisions were removed from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
     ii. DACA Recipients

  SAGE: Call to action in support of DACA recipients – this Wednesday

     iii. HEA Reauthorization (Prosper Act)

  Higher education act has been reauthorized – prosper act
  Impacts for graduate students
  - eliminating grad+ and parent+ programs (putting borrowing limits on that)
  - Federal work study
  - Eliminate public service loan forgiveness act (work for certain number of years (10 years) – forgive those loans (usually lower paying jobs)
  - loan limits

     iv. Immigration (H1B Visa Reform)
v. SAGE trip - SAGE application due 2/11 EOD

-Accepting applications until the end of the week
-Priority given to those who want to be more involved this year or have been involved in the past

c. Internal Legislative Affairs
d. Marketing and Communications
e. Recruitment
f. Diversity and Inclusion
g. Programming
h. Quality of Life
i. Research
   i. https://goo.gl/forms/OadiJbZ3s0VcD7I32 - IRB survey
      -Fill out the survey, forward to departments
      -Fill out ASAP

ii. AAAS in Austin next month http://meetings.aaas.org

j. International Student Affairs

X. Special Committee Reports
a. Student Research Week -Drew (marketing director)
   -Registration is open!
   -Registration closes Feb. 18th!
   -Advertise to your departments
   -Find FB page (through the GPSC FB page)
   Update

b. Grad Camp
   Director Position is open until Feb 11 2018, apply now!

XI. Officer Reports
a. Vice President of University Affairs
b. Vice President of Information
   Website and Attendance update
   Delegate vacancies
c. Vice President of Finance
d. Executive Vice President
   i. Second Semester Internal Committee Projects
   ii. 2018-2019 leadership, consider a position
e. President
   i. Day of Action Update
We had a day of Action on Dec. 6th
   -gave out 2,000 flyers over 8 hours (4 flyers per minute)
   -worked with other student organizations
ii. GPSC Fall Review and Spring Direction

iii. GPSC Writing Group

- Today we started writing group at 4 pm: Dr. Goodson came and spoke to the group today
- We will be starting an email list for writing group participants
- Week 1: Tuesday at 4-5pm in Koldus 144
- Week 2: Wednesday at 6-8 pm in Evans 612 (snacks)
- Week 3: Tuesday 4-5 pm in Koldus 144
- Week 4: Wednesday at 6-8 pm in Evans 612 (snacks)

-Vote Rec: proposing increase of $39 (starting in 2021 – with Freshman class, however all grad students will have to pay in 2021)
-Below peers in terms of rec fees
-Build by 2020
-Increase student fees in 2021
-Vote on the voting days

XII. Advisor Comments

XIII. Administrative Comments

XIV. Announcements

Internal Committees

XV. Adjournment

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Advocacy | Community Building | Research