

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Monday, November 27, 2017

Sun Room, Memorial Union

- I. Call to order 6:33 P.M.
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Statement of quorum
 - c. Minutes approved
 - d. Amendments to the agenda
- II. Open forum – Dr. Beth McNeill, University Librarian
 - a. Senator: Are you working on making some of the collections more accessible to students with disabilities?
 - b. McNeill: We are trying. One tenured librarian has been appointed to work on it (Susan Vega-Garcia), and we have improved equipment in one room, and are looking into a site license for some software. On HathiTrust, one of the "best" lawsuits was on allowing full-book access, so we can provide those as well.
 - c. Senator: Is there a way for us and our colleagues to get library feedback on journals we'd like digital access to?
 - d. McNeill: Absolutely – email me, your subject librarian, use a link on the library website to suggest.
 - e. Senator: How accessible would the data repository be? Downloadable/uploadable?
 - f. McNeill: As a library, we want to create something open. The federal gov't was, or on the way toward, requiring it. The VPR understands that there are data sets that can't be shared, so we're working with them on abiding by requirements, but we would like something as open as possible.
 - g. Senator: Why is the library not open 24 hours?
 - h. McNeill: It will be in dead/finals weeks. Aside from that (and I would like it to be), it's because it's very large, built in 4 additions, and have not been able to find a way to make part of it open and part of it closed while having restrooms and emergency exits available, so it's a staffing and safety issue. In dead/finals weeks, the daytime staff's schedule shifts so the whole library is open. We hope to do 24/5 when we're able to do a renovation that has more than one emergency exit available.
- III. Executive Reports to the Senate
 - a. President
 - i. Senator: I was talking to some people who had done their PhDs several years ago, who said that it used to be that stipends were not taxed. When they were, stipends were raised to cover the tax bill. Could that suggestion be made?
 - ii. Roberta Johnson: Yes, but it would still increase the tax you'd have to pay, and it also becomes a budgetary issue for the university. Then, tuition might be raised in order to support higher stipends, or a bigger proportion of grant funding would have to go toward stipends, so that possibility has challenges. Some well-funded institutions might pursue that, but ISU probably wouldn't, especially

since we hear that we will have a financially challenging year from the statehouse.

- iii. Senator: What type of tuition are graduate students assessed?
- iv. RJ: All students on assistantship are assessed the resident tuition rate. At the master's level, the tuition scholarship is proportional to the % of the appointment. At the doctorate level, twice that, and receiving a 1099T, and would have to pay taxes on scholarships that are above the level of tuition + fees. The House proposal is to tax the amount of your scholarship as income (added to wages).
- v. Senator: Would it be possible to reclassify the scholarships so they aren't taxed, like undergraduates?
- vi. RJ: They have the same problem, actually.
- vii. Senator: Is the college considering something with differential tuition?
- viii. RJ: I do not know; the president's office would be having that conversation.
- ix. RJ: The Senate removed the education provisions, but the bill has to go through a reconciliation process.
- x. Senator: So if it gets passed and becomes law, when would it be implemented?
- xi. RJ: Good question – would be really quick for IRS and people to make adjustments to make this happen in 2018, but it looks like that is when it would be in effect (Jan. 1).

b. Vice President

- i. Senator: Will you send out the time/place of the meeting with Dr. Graves so others might attend?
- ii. President: Whoever is interested, if you can send me an email I can arrange a meeting with everyone concerned.
- iii. Senator: Can we see the proposed chapter?
- iv. URLA: Yes, see the email I sent on Nov. 20.
- v. Senator: So in the version they were supposed to send, does it have the markup or is it just a new clean document?
- vi. VP: The one URLA sent out is the one from Graves, not passed.

c. Treasurer

d. Chief Information Officer

e. University Relations and Legislative Affairs Chair

f. Professional Advancement Grant Chair

- i. Senator: I suggest that the deadline for the Margaret Ellen White Award be extended.
- ii. VP: Motion for discussion?

IV. Discussion of extension of deadline for MEW Award

- a. Senator Krishnan: Perhaps the reason there were few nominations is that people didn't get the emails or it wasn't advertised well, so extend to send out more?
- b. PAG: Sent out 3 and is on the Graduate College website, but would consider it.
- c. Senator: Who makes the decision to extend or not? I may be wrong, but I understand that PAG works closely with Gr. Coll., so I think it would be good for the PAG Chair to consult the Gr. Coll. To make sure they approve the extension.

- d. PAG/VP: That would occur. We are trying to ensure that the senators are on board with an extension.
 - e. PAG: I combined the announcements about PAG awards and
 - f. Senator: Can you send out an email specifically on the award so it can be forwarded?
 - g. PAG: Yes, but now I need to talk to the Graduate College, since they are the ones who set the deadline.
 - h. Senator: I think the deadline should be more than two weeks from now, at least a month.
 - i. Senator: The website says that GPSS has to provide the submissions to the Gr. Coll. by Feb. 1, so can't we have until then?
 - j. PAG: [explanation of process]
 - k. Senator: Do we have the applications from last year that were not forwarded? I recall they were ranked. Is it OK if we give them the 7th/8th applications from last year?
 - l. PAG/President: No. Some people already submitted, and it would be unfair.
 - m. Senator: It won't be unfair.
 - n. President: If you wanted the best, should have already submitted, so it isn't fair to them.
 - o. Senator: Based on website-listed procedures (and FAQ), until GPSS submits the 6 nominations to the Gr. Coll., it seems that GPSS has control, so is there a need to ask the Gr. Coll. to extend the deadline?
 - p. [discussion – need to keep good relationship with Gr. Coll., they would almost certainly approve an extension]
 - q. Senator: The 4 nominations that have been submitted, those nominations are not necessarily finalists, right?
 - r. Board: Correct. There could still be disqualifying errors.
 - s. [no opposition on a motion to extend the deadline]
- V. Officer reports (continued)
- a. Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference Chair
 - b. Graduate Student Government Senators
 - i. SGS: The City would limit the number of lessees of a house to the number of bedrooms and parking spaces, with maximum of 5. Children aren't counted in this. SG passed a resolution against this. Perhaps GPSS can pass a similar resolution.
 - c. Special Committees
- VI. New Business
- a. SB F17-06: Revising the GPSS Constitution
 - i. [Summary of changes – consistency and formatting; expectation of office hours for senators; sending of reports; CIO duties re: reporting attendance issues for purposes of allocations and PAGs]
 - ii. Amendment to strike "sit on the Provost Budget Advisory Committee" from the URLA Chair's duties approved
 - iii. Voting: 98% Aye, 0% Nay, 1% Abstain
 - b. SB F17-07: Revising the GPSS By-Laws
 - i. [Summary of changes – abbreviations, explaining acronyms, numbers; senators no longer have to notify VP (only CIO) that they will be gone and substitute;

- academic programs with two seats that fail to send someone to a whole meeting in 6 months are disqualified from allocations/PAGs; executive council quorum is now majority (not 4); executive council delinquencies, rather than having someone automatically expelled after 2 excused absences, up for a vote]
- ii. Treasurer: What will happen to interdepartmental programs that are not represented?
 - iii. VP: Point is about programs that have at least 2 seats, so this wouldn't be applicable to them.
 - iv. Senator: I'm in an interdisciplinary program and a departmental program, and at least in mine we're supposed to be in a home department, so would get representation there.
 - v. Senator: Don't interdepartmental programs belong to a department, which represents them here? Would it matter?
 - vi. Senator: When applying for PAGs and such, people apply from their program. However, everyone in the program I'm here from has a home department.
 - vii. PAG: People from interdepartmental programs apply from their home department.
 - viii. Senator: To clarify, does this mean that programs with 1 seat are not affected?
 - ix. VP: Right.
 - x. Senator: How can you guarantee that all students are informed about this fact, that if there is no representative there is no PAG possibility?
 - xi. VP: These emails also go to DOGEs, who need to pass them on.
 - xii. Voting: 95% Aye, 5% Nay, 0% Abstain
- c. SB F17-08: Revising the GPSS Standing Rules
- i. [summary of changes – annual review of rules (not after first meeting); time for clarification questions; speaking time --> 3 minutes; bill authors have right of first rebuttal if opposed to an amendment]
 - ii. Voting: 95% Aye, 2% Nay, 3% Abstain
- d. SB F17-09: Special Allocation for 2018 GREBE Symposium
- i. Motion to consider as read, objection, voting – ayes have it
 - ii. Senator: Why did home department senators not let you know about the allocations?
 - iii. Speaker: Former president didn't forward them and I wasn't added as president yet. We first had to go through the university approval process for student organizations.
 - iv. [extension of time by 10 minutes]
 - v. Senator: Question to the Treasurer – Would this have passed regular allocations? Do we have the funds for this?
 - vi. Treasurer: Yes to both. We will apply the same proportion of the request that a club that applied for regulars did.
 - vii. Senator: Have you begun the process of getting officially recognized?
 - viii. Speaker: Yes, we are now recognized.
 - ix. Voting: 92% Aye, 6% Nay, 2% Abstain
- e. SR F17-02: Allowing the Display of Hoods for Master's Students during Commencement

- i. [motion to extend time – 10 minutes, carried]
- ii. Passes by unanimous consent

VII. Senate Forum

VIII. Roll Call and Announcements

IX. Adjournment at 8:49 p.m.

Approved