

GSC minutes from Sep 25th, 2006 Meeting

- I. Call to order: 5:05 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Addition of an item -MTU Sailing Club Discretionary Funds Request by Adam Durant in the New Business
  - b. Agenda approved as amended.
- III. Approval of minutes from Sep 11, 2006: Approved
- IV. Officer Reports:
  - a. President - David Tobias
    - i. Speakers please introduce yourself for proper minute taking.
  - b. Vice-President - Nick Nanninga
    - i. Wanting to get relieved of University senate liaison responsibilities. Willing candidates are welcome to take on this responsibility. The University senate meets every other wednesday. First meeting of the fall semester was held on Sep 13. New CIO Walt Milligan reported on the survey he conducted to identify the issues associated with IT on campus. One of the issues identified - lack of communication on campus.
  - c. Treasurer - Emily McCarthy
    - Excused absence.
  - d. Secretary - Rajalakshmi Krishna
    - i. Physics and EE departments are short of one rep each.
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Academic: Fall poster session - Niranjan
    - i. Allocation of Reward money- 10 cash awards to be given out. The split is one overall best and 3 awards each for poster, presentation and CWS. Added that having many cash awards this time may create shortage of funds for Sigma-Xi and will have to request GSC for more funds.
    - ii. Center for Water and Society (CWS)- Dr. Alex Mayers, director CWS, has announced a competition for posters pertaining to water related studies as part of the Graduate Student Poster Session. The CWS will offer cash awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best posters on the same. The CWS welcomes posters on water-related topics from any discipline, including engineering, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

David T - Welcomed the idea of co-sponsoring the GSC poster session with CWS.

Dr.Huntoon - Best overall award recipient can be given a travel grant to present the poster elsewhere.

Casey R - Insisted upon a condition that split the award money to \$175 cash and (remaining) travel grant.

Jill W - Forestry department poster session competition has 10 awards( 2-\$500 and 8-\$100). Can GSC awards match with that?

David T - GSC does not have budget for this for the time being but is planing to take some positive steps in this direction.

Dr.Huntoon - Suggested the possibility of forestry joining the GSC poster session next time.

Madhana S - Departments should contribute so that we can give attractive prizes.

Casey R - Can Discretionary funds be used?

David T - They are meant for funding student groups but if we still have money left we can use it .

b. Social - Brian Ott

i.Requested input from the council on having a bar social or a family oriented social at D.H and also may be a softball pick up game at softball fields.

Katie G - Suggested on having a philanthropic event and then a social.

David T - Most of the GSC social activities are not tailored for people with family. So organizing an event at heights would be nice alternative. Also softball trophy can be presented at this social.

Iman B - Suggested on having a bonfire.

c. Orientation - Aaron and Julio

Aaron T - Kewenaw star cruise was a success with 106 students attending the event.

David T: Thanks to Aaron and Julio for organizing the orientation events successfully.

d. Lecture - Laura Walz

i. SFI Poster session - The event went on well and about 26 posters were presented.

ii. 10/5 'Lunch-n-Learn' - Lecture by Dr.Huntoon on poster presenting skills at the blue room. E-mails will be sent out soon. If interested in attending, send an e-mail to llwalz@mtu.edu

e. Public relations - Katie Granlund

i. Fall News letter: Requested David to include an article highlighting the accomplishments and outlook of GSC in the newsletter. Also articles from department reps and committee chairs will be highly appreciated.

Aaron T: Suggested to do an e-newsletter.

- f. Student Issues - Dan Adler
  - i. Search Database- Few students have expressed concerns about the availability of personal information in the MTU search database. Working on to explore options to limit the amount of information.
  - ii. Talks are underway with the provost Dr.Reed about the issues concerning the cost of education and the percentage of grad students without funding on campus.
  - iv. Access to the building- Casey talked to DPS about the blanket building access and looks like DPS is not keen on it. Each building is under the responsibility of the the department that runs the building and if you have a legitimate reason to be on the building you can approach the department head for access.
  - v. Online booking of parking lots- Mutala reported that the online parking system is likely to be up by spring 2007 meanwhile commuter lots can be booked online. Plans of using an e-mail system to book parking lots are underway.

Laura W - Can the parking form be made available online?  
 Raghav V - Could this be integrated with student registration?  
 Muatala M - Will work on this and get back at the earliest.

#### VI. Liaisons

- a. COE Dean search- David Tobias
  - i. Applications are being accepted. A process is set up to rank this applications and develop questionnaire for the applicants and their references.
- b. USG - Dan Adler
 

A committee is looking into why ASMTU failed and are trying to propose the idea again.

#### VII. Old Business

- a & b. Proposal to eliminate 9 credit/semester requirement for 'ABD' PhD's and equivalent MS students and Companion proposal to give pay rise to for 'ABD' PhD's and equivalent MS students .
  - i. President Tobias drafted the GSC Resolution No. 2006-2 to modify current Graduate Student tuition structure to allow 'ABD' PhD (and equivalent MS students) to waive the current '9 credit per semester' requirement to be considered full-time.
  - ii. Thanks to Dan A for help with drafting the resolution
  - iii.Dan A moved and Katie G seconded the motion to accept the GSC Resolution No. 2006-2 .
  - iv. The motion to approve resolution No. 2006-2 was passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- c. Offer letters: add 'total package' cost (include tuition, fees, health insurance) so offer seems more competitive

- i. President Tobias drafted the GSC Resolution No. 2006-1 to add ‘total package’ cost in the offer letters.
  - ii. Thanks to Casey R for help with drafting the resolution.
  - iii. Adam D moved and Dan A seconded the motion to accept the GSC Resolution No. 2006-1 .
  - iv. The motion to approve resolution No. 2006-1 was passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- d. Request from Physical Education Dept. for Discretionary Funds- signage for new ‘Disc Golf’ course
  - Aaron T reported that the Physical Education department seems to be not in good terms with SDC and therefore approached GSC for funding the signage for new disc course. Also noted that the disc course was developed by the intramural sports.
  - Aaron T- Motion to fund half the amount requested by the Physical Education department for the signage.
  - Nick N -Seconds the motions.
  - Nathan C - We need to figure out how this will impact sailing club funding.
  - David T - Discretionary funds are meant for funding university groups and sailing club holds eligibility for the same.
  - Dan A - Physical Education department should approach SDC for funding and not the GSC. Funding for the signage would mean misallocation of resources.
  - Dan A- Motion to table this request indefinitely.
  - The motion fails (hand counts).
  - Motion made by Aaron T to fund half the amount fails.
- e. Sept 28 Board of Control (BOC) meeting
  - i. Proposed updates-David T presented the slides to the BOC on the talk to be given at their first meeting scheduled at 9 am on Sep 28 at the MUB ballroom. Talk will highlight the orientation events, Lecture series - lunch n learn and socials held.
  - ii. Everyone is welcome to attend the BOC meeting.

## VII. New Business

- a. Request for GSC Discretionary Funds from MTU Sailing club (MTUSC)
  - MTU faculty advisers, Dr. James Hertel and Dr. Ralph Hodek, were present at the meeting to address questions pertaining to MTUSC. Sailing club serves more than just as an activity for Tech and can grow out as a racing club and foster constructive relationships with other schools. The club wishes to purchase three 420 sailing dinghies and have requested up to \$1362.20 from the GSC Discretionary funds .
  - Dan A- What kind of membership do students pay?
  - MTUSC: \$60 per semester and \$100 for annual membership.

Casey R - How many grad students are members of the sailing club as of now?  
MTUSC - We got about total 15 members in the club which includes 2 grad students.

Raghav V - When was the sailing club established and what efforts are taken to advertise?

MTUSC - Feb/Mar 2006 and we had advertised at the k-day and will be soon sending out flyers in the campus.

Raghav V - Have you approached elsewhere for funds?

MTUSC - Parents Fund has committed \$4000 and USG has also been approached for \$2000.

Nick N - If your request gets approved will the boats have a MTU/GSC logo on them?

Adam D - We may have the logo on the life jackets.

b. Make a Difference Day (MADD)

MADD will be held on Oct 21. Make a Difference Day is a day where staff, faculty and students are encouraged to spend the day "making a difference". Online registration will begin Friday, Oct 6. Katie will work on assembling a group for GSC.

IX. Discussion Items

i. Physical Education (PE) credit

Raghav V - PE courses are worth half credit . If we want to take a PE class instead of one research credit, we have to take two PE courses in a semester. Is there any provision for research credits to be split into half or is there any other way out?

David T - Can Student Issues committee look into resolving this issue.

Dan A - Will work on it.

X. Adjournment: 6:25 pm

Attendance

Dr. Jacqueline Huntoon, Dean of Graduate School

Lakshmi K, MSE

Madhana S, MSE

Nick N, MSE

Jim R, SS

Muatala M, GMES

Adam D, GMES

Niranjan L, MEEM

Dan A, MEEM

Julio R, MEEM  
Aaron T, CEE  
Santosh G, CEE  
David T, CEE  
Laura W, BME  
Iman B, Buisness  
Katie G, Buisness  
Kris N, Biology  
Nathan C, HU  
Casey R, HU  
Raghav V, Phy  
Warren P, CS  
Jill W, SFRES  
Tara E, SFRES  
John F, Chemistry  
Ming N, Chemistry  
Brian O, Chem Eng

Excused

Oystein, CS  
Emily M, GMES

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