

Meeting Minutes of the Michigan Technological University Graduate Student Council

18 May 2009 Meeting

Synopsis:

The Graduate Student Council:

- 1) Tabled a vote on the 2009/2010 Annual Budget due to a lack of quorum.
 - 2) David Fritz was elected to the MAGPS Legislative Action Committee.
 - 3) An Ad hoc committee for the restructuring of GSC By-laws was created. Initial members are Benjamin Depew, Tara Wybrant, Louis Pignotti, and Rungroj Benjakul.
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I. Call to Order

President Randal Sean Harrison called the Graduate Student Council (GSC) meeting to order at 5:05pm on Monday, May 18 2009.

II. Modification and Approval of Agenda

Randal Sean Harrison motioned to add the Library's locker rental policies to the discussion items of the agenda. Marianna Mueller seconded and the motion **PASSED** with all in favor. Marianna Mueller made a motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Tara Wybrant. The approval of the agenda **PASSED** with all in favor.

III. Approval of Minutes from Monday, May 18 2009

Christa Luokkala made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20 2009. This was seconded by Benjamin DePew. The minutes were **PASSED** with all in favor.

IV. Old Business

A) 2009/2010 GSC Annual Budget

1. Warren Powers presented alternatives for adjusting the annual budget. He proposed that \$1,000 be moved from the Academic committee to the Social committee as well as moving some of the Softball social budget to the Social Committee.
2. The goal is to increase the Social Committee budget from \$4,000 to \$6,000.
3. The reasoning for the changes are that the Academic committee only used roughly half of their \$8,000 budget last year while the Social Committee used their entire budget. Moving \$1,000 from Academic to Social should not prevent Academic from running over budget while allowing the Social Committee more leeway.
4. Ganesh Sukumar asked if the orientation budget is separate from the Social Committee budget. Warren Powers answered yes.
5. Due to lack of GSC quorum, voting on the budget was tabled until next meeting (June 15th). Warren Powers suggested sending out an email for other suggestions relating to amending the annual budget.

V. Officer Reports

A) **President:** Randal Sean Harrison

1. Recommended increasing Jaque Smith's (Graduate School) role in GSC meetings.
2. Office Space and New Meeting Space
 - a) 90% probability we're getting the proposed meeting space in Admin. ETA= late summer as the people there now move to the UPPCO bldg.
 - b) Meeting room in the (air-conditioned) admin building will take longer because of construction, but we're still pursuing this.
1. Request for GSC members to volunteer for the position[s] of Parliamentarian.
 - a) Advised that this position is necessary to insure orderly proceedings and increase enfranchisement for GSC members.
2. Recent Michigan Tech year-end survey numbers.
 - a) 261/987- 27% response rate for graduate students.
 - b) 1580/6500- 25% response rate for undergraduate students.
3. Experience Tech Fee
 - a) Attended meeting with Les Cook, Mike Abbot, and Beth Wagner.
 - b) ETF is not going away for 3 years. Willing to look at increasing the usability of the program so that it better matches the needs of graduate students. THIS MAY incur additional fees. Les Cook created an ad hoc committee to look into this
 - i. GSC needs to appoint one other graduate student to serve on this committee.
 - c) This is a fee that's on the books for a 2-3 year trial.
 - i. If we really want to press it, we could do a survey and resolution each year yea/nay on whether we support this.
 - ii. The only way this program works is if 3/3 of students fund it for 1/3 of the students using it.
 - iii. According to Les Cook et al., it's an all or nothing proposition. The option of us "opting out" is not feasible.
4. GSC/GFC student and mentor awards.
 - a) GFC is talking about adding a service award and a scholarship award in addition to the GSC student scholar and student leader awards. They also voted on a teaching award but that wasn't passed.
 - b) All of these awards would be plaques and handed out at the GRC banquet.
5. Student Conduct Boards
 - a) There is a need for one graduate student to sit on the boards. Terms are 2 years. Assignments are made as cases come up.
 1. Student Conduct Boards include: University Judiciary, Academic Integrity, Appeals committee, and Scientific Misconduct.
 - b) Currently there are 3 Humanities students doing this now. A wider representation from across campus would be better.

B) **Vice President:** David Fritz

1. Softball Update. Bases will be installed by Tuesday and ready for beginning of season play later this week (Thursday).
2. Dale Tahtinen will be giving a presentation to GSC this Fall concerning approaches to receiving Government funding.

C) **Treasurer:** Warren Powers

1. \$2,800 was spent on paying Eboard members and Chairs for last year.

D) **Secretary:** Sean Gohman

1. Reminder to GSC members that due to restructuring, committee positions need to be reevaluated.
2. Advised GSC members to consider becoming liaisons to other student orgs on campus as this will increase GSC's effectiveness in the coming year.
 - a) Randal Sean Harrison recommended putting together a list of student orgs to assist in assigning liaisons.

VI. Committee Reports

A) **Academic:** Anna Pereira- No report.

B) **Social:** Anish Chandwani- No report.

C) **Public Relations:** Marianna Mueller- No report.

VII. New Business

A) **MAGPS Presentation:** Randal Sean Harrison

1. Request for nominations for MAGPS committee members.
 - a) The committees are: Legislative Action Committee, Resource Consolidation Committee, Event Planning Committee, and Finance Committee.
2. David Fritz nominated himself for the Legislative Action Committee. Tara Wybrand seconded and motion **PASSED** with all in approval.
3. Benjamin Depew suggested that the Summer was perhaps not the best time for this since many students are away from campus. Randal Sean Harrison feels the time to start is now or else the organization may not be effective.

VIII. Discussion Items

A) **Ad hoc committee for By-laws restructuring:** Randal Sean Harrison

1. Looking to set up a committee to clarify the wording of the By-laws using Robert's Rules of Order as a guide.
 - a) Recommended that this was the next logical step after restructuring the Eboard to ensure continuity for GSC in the ensuing years.
2. Requested volunteers.
 - a) Benjamin Depew, Tara Wybrant, Louis Pignotti, and Rungroj Benjakul volunteered.

IX. Adjournment

Benjamin Depew motioned for adjournment at 5:50pm. Ganesh Sukumar seconded and the motion **PASSED** with all in favor.

