

Meeting Minutes of the Michigan Technological University Graduate Student Council

17 July 2008 Meeting

SYNOPSIS:

The Graduate Student Council

- (1) discussed the Orientation activities for the new Fall 2008 graduate students
 - (2) passed Resolution No. 2008-002 for the purchase of binders for incoming students
 - (3) discussed new changes to graduate student tuition and fees
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Heather Jordan called the Graduate Student Council (GSC) meeting to order at 5:12pm on Monday, July 14 2008.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ashley Shackelford made a motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by David Fritz. The agenda was **PASSED**.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MONDAY, JUNE 23 2008

Ashley Shackelford made a motion to approve the Minutes from June 23 2008. This was seconded by David Fritz. The minutes were **PASSED**.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT – JILL WITT (COMMUNICATED VIA HEATHER JORDAN)

i. August Meeting Change

1. The August meeting for GSC will be changed from August 4 2008 to August 11 2008. Jill Witt will send out an email concerning the change.

b. VICE PRESIDENT – HEATHER JORDAN

i. First contacts

1. First contact emails were sent to departmental representatives. Let Heather Jordan know if any glitches or questions arise.

c. TREASURER – WARREN POWERS

i. No report

d. SECRETARY – CARRIE ANDREW

i. No report

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. ACADEMIC – OYSTEIN THORSEN

i. No report

b. SOCIAL – ASHLEY SHACKELFORD

i. No report

c. LECTURE – SUSAN BALINT

i. No report

d. PUBLIC RELATIONS – RANDY HARRISON

i. No report

e. STUDENT ISSUES – DAVID FRITZ

i. David Fritz will be meeting in the near future with Les Cook to discuss the approval of the Experience Tech Fee.

f. ORIENTATION – ASHLEY SHACKELFORD

i. Orientation will be on August 28 & 29 this year.

ii. The GSC orientation picnic will be on Friday August 29 2008 at 4:30pm. If representatives are able, please contribute help with this picnic. Drivers, cooks, cleaners are all needed.

iii. The Quincy Mine tour will be on August 30 2008.

iv. Since the water level at Hungarian Falls dwindles by fall, the Orientation committee is considering replacing this trip with a Kayak/Canoe Adventure (utilizing the Outdoor Adventure program at MTU). It would be at the Houghton beach and family members would be welcome. This is tentatively scheduled for September 1 2008.

v. Instead of the Nutini's social, a more family friendly and bigger bar will be picked for the orientation event, probably in Houghton.

vi. The Keweenaw Star cruise has been pushed back to October so that cruisers can admire the fall colors instead of green vegetation.

vii. Questions, comments or concerns should be emailed to the Orientation chair, Ashley Shackelford (alshacke@mtu.edu).

g. ELECTIONS – JASPREET NAYYAR

i. No report

VI. DISCUSSION

a. Softball fields

i. Ashley Shackelford mentioned that the best way to get the fields irrigated may be to talk directly with the Student Development Complex (SDC) and see if they can raise the funds.

ii. Warren Powers responded to a question on SDC fees by explaining that the SDC doesn't charge the Council any money for use of the fields. The SDC may charge other groups, it is unknown at this point. The SDC has been performing upkeep on the fields this year by planting seeds, painting the lines. However, there is not much one can do to improve the fields unless they are irrigated.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. RESOLUTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF BINDERS FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

1. Ashley Shackelford presented Resolution No. 2008-002 to the Council. This resolution called to allocate \$500.00 of the money left over from the current year budget towards the purchase of binders for incoming graduate students (fall and spring semesters).

2. Discussion by Ashley Shackelford, Dean Jackie Huntoon, Heather Jordan, Vidur Parkash and David Fritz focused on: the potential to utilize local businesses for advertisements on

the binders; the need for GSC to advertise the Council to the graduate student population more thoroughly, through both verbal and written communications; how this would be an improvement to the folders that were handed out last year at Orientation; how the binder can have all the forms required for graduate students to help them during their time at MTU; how the binders could contain coupons from local businesses to help new students; how the binders may alleviate some of the overwhelmed feeling many new students get during Orientation; how the Council can include information on other Orientation events, as described in V. (f). above.

3. David Fritz made a motion to transfer \$500 of the current year's Council budget to the purchase of binders for incoming graduate students, both fall and spring semesters. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, the motion **PASSED**.

b. TRAVEL GRANT DRAWING

1. This semester's Presenting Travel Grant (\$300) recipients were: Asron LaLonde (MSE), Diego Villegas (MEEM), Abhijeet Nande (Mechanical), Aly Farahat (MEEM), Jill Witt (FRES), Lindsey Shartell (FRES), Madhana Sunder (MSE), Ezequiel Media (MEEM), Dennis Walikainen (Humanities), Shreehari Elangovan (MEEM).

2. This semester's Attending Travel Grant (\$150) recipients were: Peipei Zhao (Business), Aaron Brickman (Physics).

c. CHANGES IN TUITION AND FEES AT MTU

1. Dean Huntoon discussed changes to tuition and fees at MTU that were approved in June 2008. All graduate students should have received an email regarding this. If not, contact your local Council representative.

2. Research Mode is a new program that allows both Master's and PhD students to pay around 1/3rd of normal tuition once they have fulfilled the requirements for it. Master's students can apply for this once they have completed their required courses and credits. PhD students can apply for this once they have completed their required courses, credits, proposal defenses and exams. Research Mode is for after completion of courses; one cannot take classes once in Research Mode. Research Mode is still applicable for those who take summer internships as long as they are enrolled for fall and spring semesters. There will be a form students need to fill out to commence Research Mode, and this may have to be filled out annually.

3. Stipends increased around four percent this year.

4. If PhD candidates enter the program without a Master's degree, PhD candidates will receive the Master's level stipend. If PhD candidates enter with a Master's degree, they will receive the PhD level stipend. This policy was grandfathered in and will not affect current PhD students.

5. Once a PhD candidate passes their qualifier exams, they will receive a \$250 increase in their stipend. Once a PhD candidate passes their Perspectus/Proposal defense they will receive a \$250 increase in their stipend.

6. Continuous enrollment courses that were ¼ of a credit are no longer available. The minimum amount of credits one can sign up for is 1 credit.

7. The Graduate School is launching a campaign with MTU Fund to raise money to increase the number of finishing graduate student fellowships. Dean Huntoon is trying to raise enough money that almost all graduating students could receive a finishing student fellowship.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:04pm Ashely Shackelford moved to adjourn, this was seconded by David Fritz, and all were in favor.

X. ATTENDANCE

Academic Unit (# reps. required)	Voting Representative	Committee	July 14, 2008 (Travel Grant)		
			Present	Excused	Absent
For. Res./Env. Sci.	Jill Witt	President		E	
Humanities	Heather Jordan	Vice President	P		
Computer Science	Warren Powers	Treasurer	P		
For. Res./Env. Sci.	Carrie Andrew	Secretary	P		
Computer Science	Oystein Thorsen	Chair: Acad.		E	
Physics	Ashley Shackelford (a)	Chair: Social	P		
Social Sciences	Susan Balint	Chair: Lecture		E	
Humanities (2)	Randy Harrison	Public Relations			A
ME-EM	Dave Fritz	Chair: Stud. Iss.	P		
Physics	Ashley Shackelford (b)	Chair: Orient.	P		
Elec./Comp.Eng.	Jaspreet Nayyar	Chr. Elect. / Orientation		E	
Biology (1)	Stephanie Groves	Lecture	P		
Biomedical Eng. (1)	Melissa Roberts	Academic			A
Bus. & Econ. (1)	Alicia Creed	Orientation			A
Chemical Eng. (1)	Travis Hansen	Social	P		
Chemistry (1)	Louis Pignotti	Student Issues			A
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)	Santosh Ghimire	Academic			A
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)	Adam Mickel	Student Issues		E	
Civil & Env. Eng. (3)	Sanjeev Adhikari	Social			A
Computer Science (1)	OPEN	Undeclared			
Elec./Comp. Eng. (3)	Anish Chandwani	Orientation	P		
Elec./Comp. Eng. (3)	Vidur Parkash	Lecture	P		
Elec./Comp. Eng. (3)	Alex Joseph Varghese	Orientation	P		
For. Res./Env. Sci. (2)	Seri Robinson	Academic		E	
For. Res./Env. Sci. (2)	Michelle Freeman	Social		E	
Geo. & Min. Eng. (1)	Lorna Henney/Miriam Rios	Academic		E	
Humanities (2)	Russ Johnson	Social		E	
Mat. Sci. & Eng. (1)	Lakshmi Krishna	Student Issues			A
Math (1)	OPEN	Undeclared			
ME-EM (4)	Vikas Malpani	Academic		E	
ME-EM (4)	Mohit Law	Academic			A
ME-EM (4)	OPEN	Undeclared			
ME-EM (4)	OPEN	Undeclared			
Physics (2)	Partha Pal	Social		E	
Physics (2)	OPEN	Undeclared			A
Social Sciences (1)	OPEN	Undeclared			A

VISITORS and GRAD STUDENTS AT LARGE

Academic Unit	Name	Committee	Name
Graduate School	Jackie Huntoon		P