

Graduate & Professional Student Council

General Assembly

Business Meeting Agenda

April 5

6:00 PM

Koldus Bldg. 144

I. Call to Order

II. Procedure and Governance

III. Approval of Minutes

- VPF Chris proposed friendly amendments.
- Minutes approved by GA.

IV. Speaker's Podium

a. Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost OGAPS

- Dr. KBP visited the GA to give more details on how graduate assistantships are funded and passed out paper info on the numbers for the 2013-2014 year.
- The speaker elaborated on the numbers presented and gave context to those numbers.
- The speaker gave the reasoning to presenting the numbers so that the GA was aware of where the numbers come from and why this information would be beneficial to them.
- The speaker then opened the floor to questions:
 - VPF Chris asked how the rates compared to other universities such as UT. The speaker responded that the numbers are compared to other peer AAU institutions and that TAMU on average is lower in comparison by 10%.
 - A delegate asked what happens to graduate student funding when state or national government cuts funding. The speaker responded that positions such as lecturer and that funding is delayed. She then discussed that since doctoral students tend to be here about six years and that funding lasts up to three years, that she would like to encourage that faculty encourage funding to those other years.
 - A delegate asked questions related to legislation and funding. The speaker discussed that the President has initiatives for funding, but that it is difficult to lobby the government because of various factors.
 - A delegate discussed clarification on growth of graduate students and its effects to funding. The speaker clarified the data by explaining growth comes largely from Master's students, while growth of doctoral students are correlated with growth of faculty.

b. Aggie Muster

- An individual from SGA spoke with GA to encourage people to attend Aggie Muster that will take place in a few weeks.
- The speaker talked about a BBQ following event to honor Class of 1966. Reveille will also be there.

V. Voice Reports

a. University Committees

- VPI Paul spoke about attending Student Media Board and the selection of new editors for The Battalion and Aggieland Yearbook.
- VPF Chris spoke on Alzheimer's Walk and spoke about taking interest on that committee.
- Quality of Life Chair Lindsay spoke about G.R.A.D. Aggies program reminded GA on credits.
 - A delegate asked about recording of credits, and Lindsay responded that people should self-record.
 - A delegate discussed about attendance of focus group, and Lindsay clarified that focus group is optional.

b. Department, Program, or Organization Announcements

- The Oceanography Graduate Students this Thursday will have a bake sale in O&M building to fund travel.
- Society of Underwater Technology has a one-day short course in Rudder Tower. Lecture series and poster session with free food from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Texas A&M Energy Research Society planning an energy conference in last week of September in MSC. Open to all researchers with speakers and industry representatives. Abstract submission deadline on May 10 with cash prizes. Also looking for department representatives.
- A-STEP have next seminar tomorrow at 5:30 pm and will have a speaker in Kleburg 107. Should RSVP.
- Women in Science group will have a grad student and faculty happy hour about managing work hours. April 12 5-7 pm @ University Club in Rudder Tower. Should RSVP.
- Physics and Astronomy on this week Friday will have a symposium event and will be filled with different science demos.

VI. Pending Business

- None.

VII. New Business

a. Officer Candidate Election

- Officer candidate elections took place.
- New business proposed for making the Research Committee from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee.

- The vote passed 43-0 with 2 abstaining and 12 absent academic units.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

a. Awards

- i. Summer Awards opened March 14; closes April 22
 - ii. Kunze & Guseman awards
- Spoke to GA on upcoming Summer Awards Program for travel from June 1 to August 31.
- Other 3 awards to be given out to GPSC Banquet: the Kunze, Guseman, and Aggie Core Values.

b. Legislative Affairs

- i. Updates
- Gathering more information regarding updates on transit matters.
- Investigating concerns regarding lack of resources related to maternity leave.
- Investigating English delegate's concerns on low pay regarding custodial and regular staff in English department English.
- New legislation this meeting and two more next meeting.

c. Marketing and Communications

- Skip.

d. Multicultural and Diversity Affairs

- The next interdisciplinary meeting will be held on April 23.

e. Outreach

- Committee will meet after GA meeting.

f. Programming

- i. Community of Scholars April 12
 - ii. Baseball vs Alabama April 22 at 6:30PM
 - iii. Banquet May 2
- Absent.

g. Quality of Life

- Skip.

h. Selfless Service

- Skip.

i. Research

- Quick announcement to GA on reminding people to fill out survey.

IX. Special Committee Reports

a. Student Research Week

- i. Recap
- Awards reception was yesterday with 160+ winners. Winners list will be posted on <http://srw.tamu.edu>.
 - People who did not attend reception and wish to pick up awards should go to White Creek modular buildings.

b. Grad Camp

- i. New Director!
- New director and assistant directors were selected.

X. Officer Reports

a. President

- i. Meeting updates
- Graduate and Professional Student Week is this week.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month is this week.
- March meeting minutes up by end of day.

b. Executive Vice President

- i. GA Survey
- Sending out survey.

c. Vice President of University Affairs

- i. Election update
- Absent.

d. Vice President of Information

- i. Attendance Updates
 - ii. Social Media Updates
 - iii. Marketing Remarks
 - iv. Programming Remarks
 - v. Outreach Remarks
- Gave updates on on more people liking GPSC's social media accounts such as Facebook.
- Discussed attendance matters.
- Attendance placards that still need printing: Animal Science; Physics and Astronomy

e. Vice President of Finance

- i. SAFAB Presentation
- To be given next meeting.

XI. Advisor Comments

- a. Advisor search updates**
- On-going.

XII. Administrative Comments

XIII. Announcements

XIV. Adjournment