

GPSG Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2014

University of Pittsburgh 4217 Sennott Square

Meeting Summary:

- 2014-15 Budget Approved
- “Canstruction” –proposed Philanthropic Event

Attendance:

GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- Dave Gau
- Mitali Patil
- Ravi Choudhuri
- James Dalton
- Jess Brubach

GPSG Assembly Board Members:

- Arts & Sciences 1
- Arts & Sciences 2
- Arts & Sciences 3
- Biomedical
- Dental Medicine
- Education 1
- Education 2
- GSPIA
- Health & Rehab Science
- Katz (Part Time)
- Katz (Full Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing (GNSO)
- Nursing (DNSO)
- Pharmacy PharmD
- Pharmacy PhD
- Public Health
- School of Information Sciences
- ANKUR
- CSSA
- GOSECA
- PANAF
- Social Work
- TASA

Others in Attendance:

- Christina Mazur

Absent:

- Engineering
- Persian Panthers

1. Call to Order

President Gau called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the August minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

Budget Background and explanation

Student activity fee shown on budget without increase. The estimate of what was anticipated for the increased student activity fee was accurate.

During academic year 2012-2013 the EB over spent.

Last year there were funding cuts to grad assembly groups.

President Gau wants to propose budget and then it wont change

It is difficult to compare with last year because last year started at a deficit, and student fee was less.

Certain budget allocations (parking, photocopying, supplies) do not change.

Grad groups get copies for free 8th floor WPU. You can get colored copies at GPSG office.

Telephone- we guess how much we pay- listed under fringe benefits

Misc expense

Pitt Arts- program offered to Pitt. Students won't have to pay full price for tickets.

We retain a lawyer who gives free legal advice to students- especially helpful with renters issues.

Assembly expenses

Stipends- pay roll is fixed- determined

Administrative Assistant is a GSA – Provost's office pays half, GPSG pays half

Travel Grants

6 cycle format

If money remains in a cycle- carries over to next cycle

President's Budget

Graduate student orientation- Hoping that University will take it over

Do not overlap scheduling of orientation! It will be Monday week before classed start

Pitt trailblazers- tours for prospective grad students

Student speakers- grad student advocacy- transportation to DC

In reality- spends 20,000 a year, receives additional funds by working with Provost's office

Committees Budget

Committee workshop

Thank you reception

Communications

Reduced funding from 5,000 to 1,000

5,000 was to help put on events consolidated to just programming

Ted Ex,

Developing a mobile app for incoming students to get introduced to campus

Finance

500 runs committee meetings talk about supplemental funds .

They tried to have finance meetings virtually, but did not work out so will have in person.

Programming

40,000 was not actually what was allocated- does not take into account what previous programming spent previous fiscal year

Programming is one of the ways for GPSG to stay connected with all students

4 events for fall, 5 events for spring

Food for meetings

tickets on sale next week 25 a ticket- discount next week

Budget per game and event varies.

Tickets you purchase highly subsidized by GPSG

Spring Events- Phantom of the Opera tickets, Spring Formal, Academic Event

All of the money goes back to students through programming.

Cookies and colloquium – useful for presenters, but attendance was poor.

Administrative Assistant

Budget goes towards maintaining office and Student Service awards.

Supplemental funding and assembly groups

Last year bylaw change

20% total GPSG funding 2 groups

5% open supplemental funds

Student group not part of assembly group apply for supplemental funds

Restrictions- group must advertise through us, cannot be making money off of event, event must be open to all grad students

Grad student assembly groups- have to apply to become one and put on assembly board

Assembly Groups are guaranteed budget-serve on finance committee

Assembly Groups provide events for select academic area, cultural interest,

They can serve as a welcoming committee, and a way to keep cultural identity

Vote-motion to approve budget by Mike Lipsultz

Unanimously approved

4. Reports

4a. President's Report

President Gau gave introduction to Graduate School Assembly Board and welcomed new representative from the 14 graduate schools. University of Pittsburgh does not have a graduate student office, so this governing body acts as representation of graduate interests on campus.

Graduate Student Lecture Series- will provide a setting in which students can learn how to advocate for graduate student interests. Loans are not subsidized and grants are down posing financial constraints to students. Chancellor Gallagher agreed to kick off the series. There will be an opportunity for students to go to Washington D.C.

Panther Tracks- working towards a centralized, unified career development program encompassing all 14 graduate schools. This would work toward getting students skills they would need outside of academic training. President Gau wants to establish a forum for students to discuss options and opportunities and maintain a FAQ page. President Gau charged representatives to obtain feedback for the next meeting. Is this something your students would be interested in? Are your students seeking jobs outside of your academic realm? Would your students like to participate? Is your career development expanding now?

4b. Committees' Report

Mitali has assigned students to committees. All committee positions have been filled.

Last year, Mitali initiated a committee form which students had to submit each month. Students had option of presenting information at AB Board meeting. Due to minimalistic response, forms have been revamped to elicit more detailed responses.

Mitali hosted a committee workshop for committee members to learn about committees, why their committees are important, and what responsibilities as a representative are.

4c. Communications' Report

Ravi has been working on the new website and making updates to it. He does not have a committee so progress has been slow.

Bulletins are sent out every 2 weeks. Email Ravi the week before to get information in the bulletin. Next bulletin- October 1.

Working on bringing Ted Ex to Pitt. "Ex" means independent. Awaiting approval and will update when approval is received.

4d. Finance's Report

Travel Grants:

Cycle 2: \$14,300 of \$19,000 allocated

A lot of people have been coming in after the fact. We need to know how much we have to allocate. Apply before you're accepted. Communicate with us as much as possible, but do not wait until after the deadline to apply

4e. Programming's Report

1) Event Planning Committee

Next meeting October 2 at 6:00 pm

2) Fall Events Calendar

Tailgate 82% Attendance

Welcome Back Happy Hour 92% Attendance

560 Unique Pitt students not including guests

Trying to reach 1,500 Pitt students at events (last year's goal was 1,000)

Fall Formal- November 7. Tickets go on sale Monday, September 29, 2014. Location: St. Nicholas Cathedral on Dithridge. 1920s/Prohibition theme. Tickets are sold through Eventbrite. Sales capped at 600 tickets. There is a direct link on the bulletin and Facebook page.

Students state in surveys that they prefer to hear about events via Facebook and emails from their schools.

4f. Administrative Assistant's Report

Christina Mazur – new administrative assistant. Working on travel grants. Please let me know if you're new to the AB so that I can update the contact lists.

4g. Assembly Board Member Reports

Arts and Science

They took a break over the summer. 1st meeting a week ago

Discussed teaching awards, grad expo event filling committee

Biomedical

New student orientation including August 20 picnic

Elections in Sept- had elections online. New board takes over in Oct.

Symposium- present posters, keynote speaker from genome project on Wed Oct. 29-anyone welcome to attend

Dental Medicine

7th annual Steel City Expo - morning seminar and vender expo 9/25/2014

Education

1st meeting 9/25/2014. They are under new leadership and transitioning.
Colloquiums are on the agenda.

GSPIA

Events fundraiser Games N'at- 4 hours unlimited play Thursday October 16, 7:00 pm
DAYA ICPI- Peace Week 9/26/2014 happy hour 8:00 pm- The Yard
Oct 1- 3800 Posvar- Discussion of Obama Policy

Katz

Elections for 1st years- Oct 6
National Women's MBA
Making strides- Breast Cancer Walk Oct 11.

Katz Part Time

Beginning semester townhall- low turnout
eMBA networking event Nov
Alumni event January

Medicine

In process of planning black back wall- formal
1st years elected own government

NURSING DNSO

They have had 2 meetings under new leadership
Hosted a kickoff BBQ
9 new graduate students in program
Upcoming events- brownbag lunch to prep for preliminary exams

Nursing GNSO

2nd meet the dean event pizza lunch for grad student nurses September 29
Late Oct/Nov next year officer elections

Law

Student Government board- 6 new representatives
Icebreaker event at Mario's
Annual trivia night
Barristers ball- Feb (formal)
Law school sponsoring a blood drive Oct 14 in the Law building

Public health

Supposed to get money from school for a picnic cancelled-held ice cream social instead
Held a successful blood drive
Events- Unicef penny war- culminates in social

Kickball fundraiser
Holiday mail for heroes
Winter wear
Donations in memory of alumni
Donations for student involved in fire last week

Pharmacy PharmD

Election late Aug
Hosted conversation with the dean
Held welcome back picnic
Planning Halloween event- pumpkin picking?

School of Health & Rehabilitation Science

PT Moved to Southside
Old Building is currently under debate as to what will happen with rooms
PT and OT having a mixer
OT 10 years is up- will be having accreditation visit

Information sciences

Kennywood trip
Hosting Election in September
iFest- upcoming event

Social Work

Happy hour for incoming students 200 students came
Open meeting last week- 25 people came
Engaged trying to get new students involved
Trying to mend two programs under School of Social work umbrella

ANKUR

Indian grad school representation. Caters to international students- cultural preservation and sharing culture
Bollywood night for new students. 150 students from CMU
India Independence Day Aug 15- Hosted event in India Room at the Cathedral
Fall social for new students- Indian student growth at Pitt
O'Hara ballroom- black tie event- this weekend
November 1 big ANKUR Fall event-
Chancellor's event- major spokesperson from major political party in India guest speaker
Trying to have a donate button on website- has been asked about it. Hoping to create stable funding through donations.

CSSA

Chinese student advocacy and cultural representation
Hosted new student orientation and BBQ
Mid autumn festival talent show September 27 in the WPU assembly room
Main event this semester

GOSECA

Academic focused-Study of Europe and Central Asia.
Just had 1st general meeting

PANAF

Group centered on African diaspora
Had Welcome back event with CMU and Pitt Law group. There were 140 in attendance
International Edu week Nov 17-21 UCIS

TASA

Represents Turkish students in Pittsburgh. Creates framework of friendship through different cultural groups
August 29- Mario's in Shadyside event
Sept 13- concert in collaboration with Cathedral's Turkish Room raised money for study abroad in Turkey. \$2,000 ticket revenue
Oct 10 WPU 598 –Movie viewing “Butterfly's Dream” films with subtitles
Turkish Republic Day- October 29

5. New Business

“Canstruction”

Year of Sustainability at Pitt

Community Human Services non-profit Multi service human service organization

“Canstruction” Start up program/competition between grad schools

- Building with canned food
- Raising money and collecting a lot of food
- Plant the seed at GPSG- engineering very interested
- Competition during month of November
 - National hunger and homelessness Awareness week Nov 16-24
- Approval from Canstruction to use their model
- CHS all over Pittsburgh to disperse all over Pittsburgh
- Step 1- collect cans Step 2 Construction competition
- Want them to be in all the buildings on campuses
- Dave working on school prize with provost's office
 - Hopefully 500-1,000 dollars
- Individual Grad schools to take lead on where to store cans

Confirming schools' participation next meeting

Panther Tank

Competition called Panther Tank September 30

Mitali speaking on behalf of Rob Allen

Competition playing part of Angel Investor

Real start up companies from Pittsburgh and students will evaluate

Consulting/investing

Real angels evaluate how Pitt students evaluated

Prize at the end tbd

Pitt Make a Difference Day

Saturday Oct. 18, 2014

GPSG on list

Pitt wide event

6. Announcements