

# **Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Union**

## *Official Minutes*

**Date/Time: Wednesday, March 7, 2012 8:30pm**

**Location: Bearno's, UL Campus**

**Representatives Present:** R. Amerisa Waters (Bioethics and Medical Humanities), James Trey Nunn (Geography), Katherine Wagner (Humanities), William Cameron Stelzig (Justice Administration), Kevin Fahey (Political Science), Carissa Shafto (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Jeremy Hornbeck (Physics & Astronomy), Angela Alexander-Mendoza (Urban & Public Affairs), Kelsie Patton (Women's & Gender Studies), Stephanie Moses (Classical & Modern Languages), Kim Meyer (Mathematics)—via proxy Heather Hunt

**Representatives Absent:** Sarah Williams (Psychological & Brain Sciences), Hannah Harrison (English), Allison Scott Pruitt (Sociology), Ashley Smith (Theatre Arts), Chris Proctor (Anthropology), Jessica Fawbush (Communication), Alexis Bass (Fine Arts), Sarah Reddick (History), Tytianna Smith (Pan-African Studies), Chemistry, Biology

**UL Faculty and Staff Present:** Dr. Wendy Pfeffer, Assistant Dean of Graduate Affairs, Rick Vanlttersum, Program Assistant Sr., Graduate Affairs/Advising

### **I. Welcome: Carissa Shafto, Vice-President**

Shafto called the meeting to order at 8:32pm.

### **II. Review of 2/8/12 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the February meeting were unavailable at the time of the meeting. Approval of the minutes was tabled to the April meeting.

### **III. Old Business:**

#### **A. GSU Logo for Luggage Tags**

Vanlttersum asked for feedback on a new GSU logo that is more in line with universities branding efforts. The new logo was based on the newly designed College of Arts & Sciences logo. He offered two options for the logo: one including a URL and one without a URL.

Reaction to the new logo was mixed due to spacing and ambiguity of the "U of L" used as the primary graphic. Hornbeck argued the lack of "Louisville" in the luggage tag would not be an issue as the primary audience, University of Louisville graduate students, would know what the "U of L" graphic represents. Stelzig suggested adding a horizontal line to divide "Graduate Student Union" from the rest of the log. The representatives agreed to utilize the horizontal line and remove the URL from the logo.

## B. Meeting with Dean Hudson

Hornbeck reported on the meeting between Hornbeck, Williams, and Dean Hudson regarding potential budget cuts. He indicated there were unlikely to be direct budget cuts to A&S graduate programs in the upcoming budget, but additional cuts were not out of the question for future years. In the meeting, Hudson encouraged graduate students to be vocal and let university and state leaders know that most graduate students (on average) in A&S are underfunded. Williams will be drafting a letter to President Ramsey and university administration outlining the potential impact on funding to assistantships, faculty lines, research, and other areas of graduate education.

## C. Smoking Ban Revisted

Pfeffer inquired to the Dean of Students (Michael Mardis) suggesting a fine or penalty for offending smokers as the current "honor" system has failed in the enforcement of the smoking ban. Further, representatives expressed displeasure with the removal of ashtrays and other receptacles, as their removal has increased the amount of cigarette butts and litter on sidewalks and entranceways. Mardis suggested contacting SGA (Student Government Association) and entering comments/concerns regarding the ban to the U of L campus smoke free web page. Meyer added those passionate about the issue should express their directly concerns to SGA, as they have the authority to craft bills to potentially aid enforcement

## **IV. New Business: Dodgeball Tournament**

### A. Date and Event Details

Vanlittersum had tentatively booked Parkway Field for Sunday April 1 at 3pm. However, Intramural Sports reserved the right to use its fields to make up soccer dates and suggested a potential April 15 makeup date. With the event scheduled after the end of the IM dodgeball season, GSU will have access to dodgeballs for use during the event.

### B. Promotional Poster

Vanlittersum presented a mock poster promoting the dodgeball tournament. Representatives suggested adding a map or street address to the poster to aid attendees in finding Parkway Field. Teams of 6-8 persons (departmental teams encouraged) are asked to bring non-perishable food or personal hygiene items which will be donated to Henryville, IN tornado relief efforts. Pfeffer agreed to redesign the poster (adding suggested language) and send the final draft to Williams and Shafto for approval.

## **V. New Business: CPC Funds for Fall**

Vanlittersum announced that the CPC funds (Fall 2012) application period was ongoing with a final deadline of Monday, April 9 at 3pm. An additional application period for Fall 2012/Spring 2013 events will take place in late August. Before working on an application for another fall

dodgeball event, representatives agreed to wait until after the April event before submitting a proposal. Shafto and Pfeffer expressed interest in working on the grant application should the spring event go well.

## **VI. New Business: GSU Election Options**

### A. Election Problem Overview

With a high amount of graduating officers and representatives for the spring revealed at February's meeting, the GSU asked Vanlittersum to investigate possible solutions. He explained that GSU bylaws call for an election of officers for next academic year at the April meeting and eligible candidates for executive officers must have at least one semester of service. With the potential of only a few returning representatives for next year, an April election becomes problematic. However, the rules governing elections may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of GSU representatives. With suspending the rules, Vanlittersum offered two possible solutions.

### B. Solution 1: "New Reps, April Election"

This option allows for 2012/13 representatives to attend April's meeting to meet the "one semester served" requirement. In an open election format, representatives may be nominated to a position until a slate of officers is voted upon. Departing representatives are strongly encouraged to find a replacement within their department.

### C. Solution 2: "Early August Election"

This options calls for an election held in August at a meeting prior to the start of the school year or at the regularly scheduled August meeting. This option would allow for departments to tap new representatives prior to the start of classes. Returning representatives may be asked to serve on a pro-tem basis over the summer months to help Pfeffer and Vanlittersum with scheduling events and feedback.

### D. Conclusion

Solution 1 was agreed upon by representatives to be the best option available at thistime. Pfeffer asked departing members to aid in finding their replacement and she would contact department chairs and graduate program directors to help encourage a smooth transition.

## **VII. Discussion Item: Open Discussion/Issues for CODRE**

CODRE stands for Commission on Diversity, Race, and Equality and it is open to anyone at the university. The group serves as an advisory committee to President Ramsey and their next meeting is scheduled for April. If any representatives knew of any issues related to CODRE that they would like to express to Ramsey, they may email Williams for more information.

Pfeffer announced a free Thesis Workshop sponsored by the University Writing Center and the Graduate School. The weeklong workshop begins in mid-May and registration details were available on the Graduate School web page.

Alexander-Mendoza reminded representatives of TedX^UL event on Saturday, March 31. The all-day event starts at 9am in Chao Auditorium.

Meyer shared a concern that applicants for GSU research grants may not realize the awards are competitive. Vanlittersum and Pfeffer agreed to strengthen the application and direct state the grants are competitive.

Wagner announced the Association of Humanities Academics and the Humanities division was hosting a conference on Friday, March 23.

Hornbeck invited all representatives to the monthly Skies Over Louisville event on Friday, March 11 at 8pm at the Rauch Planetarium.

## **VIII. Future Meetings**

### **A. Meeting Time and Date:**

The next scheduled meeting for the GSU is Wednesday, April 11 at 8:30pm at Bearno's U of L campus.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Shafto requested a motion for adjournment. Hornbeck motioned to adjourn, seconded by Fahey, and the motion passed with unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.