

Graduate Student Advisory Council

October 17, 2007
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Crystal Deisher – GRT, Kristin Born – GRT, Kourtney Dauer – CDS, Jason Goldfarb – CSA, Mark Bates – CSA, Jessica Surma – MBA, Shelby Cloyd – CSL, Angie Rhoades – PLS, Kyle Snyders – ELE, Uros Marjanovic – TEC, David Hovorka – MAT, Ashley Klinginsmith – ENG, Ken Coffey – SPE, Alisha Goode – HIS ADM, Kristen Lundquist – HIS ADM, Sharese Shannon – BGSA, Cora Polarek – FCS, Jessica Hettiger – SCH PSY

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Stevens – MBA, Murat Ilyasov – PLS, Karen McTeague – CMN, Patrick Harris – HIS, Eric Garrison – MAT, Chris Ryan – PED, Brenda Stone – FCS, Caroline Deters – HIS, Justin DeAngelo – MUS, Melanie Taggart – PED, Debbie Poffinbarger – ED ADM, Ashley Davis – ED ADM

President Alisha Goode called the meeting to order at 12:01 in the Blair Hall Conference Room.

CUPB – no report to give

New Business:

Changes to the GSAC flyer – It was discussed and decided to make the following changes to the GSAC flyer: (1) Mission Statement bulletin #1: Change “...has a potential impact on...” to “...has the potential to impact the...” (2) Mission Statement bulletin #2: Change “Be a representative body...” to “Serve as a representative body...” (3) Mission statement bulletin #4: Change “...and increased involvement...” to “...and increase involvement...” (4) Agenda for 2007-2008 bulletin #4: Add a period to the end of the bulletin.

Rodney Raney discussed the upcoming Graduate Exposition being held at EIU.

Discussed the current state of the Faculty Mentor Award, whether to keep it at one award or to have an award for all colleges. Those in favor of increasing the number of awards cite wider recognition for faculty who are doing a good job. Those against increasing the number cite a loss of prestige of the award. Discussed possibility of tier-based awards, based upon years of experience.

The National GSAC Conference was discussed. It was noted that one more representative is needed for the trip. Rodney Raney discussed the details of the conference with members of GSAC. It was decided that members e-mail Alisha Goode if interested in attending.

GA Pay – Was mentioned that for a 9mo. teaching contract, EIU is in the bottom three in pay for TA's in regards to Midwest universities.

Early Childhood/Middle Level Education – A concern was brought to the council about curriculum changes within the department without GA and instructor input for graduate-level classes. Discussed possibility for a GA to be placed on curriculum committee. A GSAC member from the English department stated that similar situation was handled by forming a committee that works with the curriculum committee which led to a student representative on the curriculum committee.

MBA Association – Concern brought up over the study abroad program. Concern was that tuition is not covered if studying abroad (EIU law). Discussed possibility of change in policy.

Request for committee to discuss more relevant issues first (\$, pay, curriculum) as opposed to social and activities issues.

Old Business:

Reminder given that Dean Augustine will meet tomorrow at 12 to discuss the T.A. issues in Biological Sciences.

Tent City – The council discussed the upcoming GSAC booth at tent city. A sign up sheet was distributed for volunteers, possible games and prizes were discussed. It was decided to construct a “Bozo The Clown-Grand Prize Game” for an activity at the tent.

Graduate Social Activities – Discussion held as to type and kind of activities that could be utilized for a graduate-wide social event. It was determined that the event should be more social in nature with opportunity to discuss issues later. General consensus is for event to be held off campus. Issue tabled until next meeting for more specific ideas.

Kickball For Kids – Council decided against participation due to lack of interest.

Graduate Semester Hours For Financial Aid – Rodney and Shelby disclosed that EIU requires higher than average semester hours for graduate students to be considered full-time for financial aid purposes. EIU requires 12hrs for full-time financial aid purposes, while only 9hrs to be considered full time for graduate course load. A list will be generated for next meeting detailing the specific differences between EIU and comparable universities. Discussed the aligning of FT status for financial aid and Graduate School coursework. Discussed possibility of inviting a representative from financial aid to further elaborate on the issue.

Graduate Education Information Day – discussed possibility of GSAC having a presence at the event. Decided would be beneficial from a student perspective of EIU, GSAC flyers to be utilized and volunteers e-mail for participation at event.

Next month's meeting was scheduled for 12:00 on Wednesday, November 14th in the Blair Hall Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kenny Coffey

Vice President for Administrative Activities