Assembly Agenda | September 6, 2013

“Advocating for an inclusive and empowered graduate and professional student community”

Agenda:

- Meeting called to order at 3:07pm
- 3:00 Introductions
  - Welcome!
    - Logistics
      - Usually we meet from 3:30-5:00pm, but we meet in the same room.
      - Agendas sent out 2 days before meeting; print them if you want to have them in hard copy.
      - If not receiving emails, talk to Cayla.
  - Intros:
    - Executive officers provided intros about themselves and discussed their positions.
    - Brady discussed how we have two vacancies and how we have elections today.
- Mission & Vision of GPSO
  - How many are new?
    - Majority of reps new this year.
  - Purpose on campus – we are the student gov’t on campus – the sole representative of the grad/prof students
    - Appoint committees
    - Address matters of importance to grad student life.
    - Advocacy – policy recommendations
    - Community building – pull people out of academic silos; provide networking opportunities; done through programming.
    - Academic support – grants (over $22,000 per year); partnership support.
    - Resource – our website is a hub of information; we provide information to students and as reps you provide info to your constituents.
  - The goal this year is to focus on advocacy.
• Vision statement: Advocating for an inclusive and empowered graduate and professional student community.
• Committee chairs have goals, don’t let that stymie you.

• Summer Updates – Brady, Cayla, Nick
  o Brady – transitioning; setting up retreats; meeting with key people
  o Nick – social hour in July with over 70 in attendance. About 150 hours preparing and readying orientation events. Let him know if anything needs to be changed/suggestions
  o Cayla – communications – push to improve web-presence; new webpage; social media push; reaching out to people not on the listserv.
  o Committees – later; Retreat – mission, vision, and Action items

• Role of the GPSO Assembly
  o Largely not programming body ---- governing body
  o Great power in resolutions ---- not a scary thing
  o Assembly --- speakers and discussion/committee time
    • Committee participation – ownership; 1x outside of this ...
    • Communicate --- newsletter, emails, website, GSA
    • Liaison between grad students and Ex Comm.
    • Legislature – representative body, ownership in org. decision making done by assembly, not Ex Comm.
    • Question: what type of communications does GPSO have?
      • Listserv comprised of people volunteering to signup.
    • Take ownership of the assembly
      • Must attend assembly meetings or send a proxy.
      • Must sit on committees
        o Committees meet at Assembly and once outside Assembly.
      • Must communicate with department
    • Question: are committees being formed today?
      • Yes. You can serve on a committee even if you’re not a rep, but if you are a rep, you are required to serve on at least one committee.

• 3:30 Guest Speaker – President Herb Terry, Bloomington Faculty Council
  o Professor emeritus of telecommunications, very busy, happy to have
  o Professor Terry described the importance of faculty governance and importance of student collaboration in process
    • Shared governance is very important, even if not for personal gain.
    • Shared governance – everyone is in charge; shared by trustees, faculty council, general assembly, etc.
• BFC represents others besides faculty – IUSA, GPSO, professional organizations.
  ▪ It is up to you to determine how effective you are.
  ▪ Good representatives are involved and informed.
  ▪ GPSO can name members to the committees of the council. When active grad students on committees the committees work better.
  • Engaged student members are very influential
    o Can learn a lot about how universities work.
    o Can contribute student perspective to the changing world of higher education.
      ▪ Changes are coming.
      ▪ Graduate programs are greatly subsidized by undergraduate education.
  • International students also very needed.
    ▪ Please take advantage of being asked to serve on the committee. Ask questions of Terry. Will be happy to answer. Please contact Terry even if not sitting on committee
      o Professor Terry ended speech at 3:36pm
• 3:37 Basic Robert’s Rules Tutorial
  o Brady requests reps not to be scared of him.
  o Only business items will be fully within RONR
    ▪ Today the only business is elections.
    ▪ Once in business realm follow RONR.
  o Motions, seconds, debates.
• 3:45 Business:
  o Confirmation of Appointed Officers – three appointed officers taken from pools of applicants. Must be introduced.
  o Will allow the candidates to field questions, without objection.
    ▪ Awards – Josh de Leeuw – cognitive psych
      • Very good at what he does; did this last year. Changes made to be more inclusive of all prof/grad students. He was reappointed.
      • Josh: focus on empowerment – making sure everyone has the tools to fill out successful applications; publishing more information; publishing sample applications.
    ▪ Motion to confirm Josh as awards officer. Seconded.
      o All in favor: 47
      o Opposed: 0
      o Abstention: 0
- Josh confirmed.
- Question: how do we know these people? How can we know if they’re qualified? What is assembly’s roll? Answer: To confirm appointments; that’s why they’re being introduced.
  - Benefits – Katherine Wheatle – HESA
    - Masters in Public health policy; knows about benefits as SAAs.
    - How will you improve position from last year?
      - Met with previous benefits officer who did a great job, ACA changes are coming officially in 2014 and university as a corporation is preparing, some of those things are explicit, some aren’t; intends to explore this further. Work closely with benefits committee.
    - How much are you willing to invest/lobby for something that is important to students?
      - That’s my role – to play an advocacy role.
      - Brady: she will serve on the BFC
    - How much are you personally eager about fighting for something?
      - I think everything should be done politically; won’t burn bridges; I have nothing to lose as a grad student as well, my benefits aren’t a question for me, I know many students are in a position to question benefits. Will not burn down buildings.
    - What do you hope to achieve?
      - My understanding that the fee remission committee will meet in spring; excited to be part of that process – facilitating issues from grad students to the committee; benchmarking report how IU compares to other schools; what are core issues still pertinent?
  - Motion to approve made. Seconded.
    - 46-2-1
  - Motion to confirm
  - Sustainability – Jeff Meek – SPEA
    - Public Affairs and Environmental Sciences Degree in process; already involved in sustainability activities on campus.
    - What do you hope to achieve?
      - 1) getting committee more engaged
    - What do you see as most important sustainability issue with grad students presently?
A lot of different issues on campus, hard to say which impacts grad students the most. That’s what I’m helping to learn from the community. Biking; energy use; etc. I look forward to hearing from the committee.

- Motion to approve made and seconded.
  - 44-1-3

- Nomination & Election of Vice President & Treasurer
  - No one ran in the spring, so we must fill them now.
  - Last few years nominations have been opened to anyone; this is contrary to our constitution. You cannot suspend bylaws/constitutions. Therefore we come to you with a question. Representatives and officers can be nominated. We think proxies should be able to vote/nominate.
    - Your task to interpret the constitution. We don’t want to exclude half the population, so we ask that you interpret the constitution to allow proxies to run.
    - Constitution states that they have the same voting rights as representatives.
  - I think that we should open the nominations to every graduate/professional student.
    - Constitutions cannot be suspended.
    - Encouraged people interested in the positions to be proxies.
    - I would like this changed next week.
  - Motion to allow proxies to nominate/run for office through their power granted to them as proxies.
    - 46-0-4

- Where are documents?
  - On webpage

- VP and T are open.
  - VP fills in for president; serves on committees (AUSA, BFC); manage committee representatives.
  - Treasurer manages the budget.
    - How large is budget? ~100,000
  - Are ballots secret?
    - Yes.
  - Can we wait?
    - We must do elections at the meeting following the vacancy.
  - Motion to open floor for nominations – Seconded. Opened through unanimous consent.
- Nominations for VP:
  - Shuai (Mike) Liu
  - Dave Breed
- Nominations for Treasurer:
  - Ronald Arruejo
  - Motion to close floor passed through unanimous consent.
- Candidates will speak and answer questions. Then discussion will follow.
  - Shuai Liu – 2nd year MPA student; last year GPSO rep – served on sustainability and legislative committees; representatives work on issues that matter to the students. We should speak with students in class and via email about issues that matter – student fees, transportation, green initiatives, etc. We can really make an impact on students’ lives.
  - Do you have other previous leadership experience?
    - Class chairman in middle/high school; Chinese Chess club created in middle school; nothing in university level, but I have commitment, drive and willingness and love to serve in this function.
  - Dave Breed – 3L; from Michigan, served as VP in undergrad, ran USG, served as program board president; responsible for $330k budget; served on academic senate, co-wrote gen. ed. Program. I know how important shared governance is. We want to make sure we leave a great campus behind when we leave.
  - Have you worked with GPSO before?
    - Not with GPSO, but I was involved with the Law School Survey of Student Engagement; School of Ed. How to get students more engaged on campus.
  - Why VP not Treasurer?
    - Work in undergrad matches VP better; would enjoy it more than working with budgets – prefers student issues.
  - Ronald Arruejo – MPA student concentration in local gov’t management and financial management; has knowledge and skills for position; involved in undergrad program with $75k budget. Previous experience with funding. Chaired committee with $200k budget in USG. Sat on two other boards handling $500k. appointed last year on committee for fee review. Additionally, did student lobbying.
- Secret ballots for VP; consensus for treasurer.
- Treasurer: Ron elected through consensus.
- Discussion of VP
Dave seemed to have good experience and handle on what would be necessary, not that Mike wouldn’t.

Last year Mike ran for president, but last year he wasn’t elected. There aren’t many opportunities in China for leadership. He definitely has the enthusiasm.

How many are law students? Two/10

Served as USA, Dave would make great candidate.

Percentage of international students reflected in GPSO would be good.

4:15 Guest Speakers – Deans Daleke, Watson, Trevino, & Schmit, University Graduate School

Introductions

- Daleke – Academic Affairs
  - Contact for issues with tracking your requirements per your program
  - Adjustments for graduate programs to offer more initiatives for grad students.

- Trevino – Associate Dean, GPSO Ombudsperson
  - Intro Dean Watson
    - Contact for post doc work and McNair
  - Trevino – offers institutional memory
    - Works with STEM and SBES to promote jobs in the professoriate

- Schmit – new guy; wants to provide support.
  - Should be a full-time position who does graduate alumni relations.
    - There is a strong affiliation with graduate alumni; Trevino is involved with alumni relations, particularly with international alums.

VP Election results:
- Dave Breed: 29
- Mike Liu: 18
- Abstention: 1

Announcements & Open Floor
- New officers: Dave and Ron.
- President’s Report
  - If interested in serving on campus committees, please let Brady know.
  - Strategic planning process for this campus; we have seats on this committee. In 2020 it’s the 200 year anniversary of IU’s founding; wants plan finalized and implemented before 2020. Meets weekly; at very beginning stages. More info will be provided in the future.
Parking privatization committee – no decision made. Didn’t want to do anything over the summer because no one was here. Committee recommendation coming soon.

- Grad Commons Grand Opening & Tour – Mike Courtney, Wells Library
  - Over past year GPSO has been working with Wells Library to find space for grad students only. Undergrads are sticky and smelly. Accessible only with grad swipe cards; has computers, outlets, etc. Grad Commons is open and functioning – 8th floor in the library. Tour following meeting at 5pm. Will be used for programs in the future. Printer there too. 2500 square feet.
    - Great!
    - Use the space!
  - Committee governing space needs committee members! Creating policies for space.
  - East tower, behind elevators.
  - Join us for a tour after meeting.

- GPSO Social Hour Tonight! – Nick
  - Once a month 7-9, free pizza. Come and meet new people. Please try to meet new people.

- 4:40 Committee Breakout Time
  - Committee assignments announced. Committees moved.
  - Why no legislative committee?
    - Ad-hoc committee; renamed student affairs because legislation is to be done through all committees.
  - Elect committee vice chairs

- Further Announcements
  - Social hour tonight!
  - Pick up totebags
  - Return placards

- Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm
- Optional: Tour of Grad Commons
- Upcoming Events:
  - Next Event: Social Hour, Sept. 6th (Tonight!), 7:00 – 9:00pm, The Vid
  - Next Meeting: Oct. 4th, 3:30 – 5:00pm, Woodburn 100