Minutes

January 24, 2013

OFFICERS: Kevin Mueller, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Co-Vice President); Kate Rueff, Physics (Acting President).

CHAIRS: Zack Terranova, Chemistry and Biochemistry (Academic Affairs); Lindsey Turnbull, Biological Science (Health Care); Ricky Klee, Theology (Health Care); Hilary Davidson, Sociology (External Affairs); Erin Drew, English (Professional Development); Kyle Watson, Chemistry and Biochemistry (Publicities and Procedures); Tony Cunningham, Psychology (Quality of Life); Kara Harmatys, Chemistry and Biochemistry (Social); Sydney Blevins, Chemistry and Biochemistry (Social).

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES: Zack Terranova (Academic Council and Library Committee); Kevin Mueller (Faculty Senate); Doug Rice (Graduate Council); Kate Rueff (Graduate Council); Kara Harmatys (LAFO Tenant Committee); Sydney Blevins (LAFO Tenant Committee); Erin Drew (Professional Development); Tony Cunningham (Traffic Appeals); Lindsey Turnbull (University Healthcare Committee); Hilary Davidson (Energy and Environmental Issues); Jade Avelis (Women Faculty and Students); Catherine Rastovski (Women Faculty and Students).

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Amy Buchmann (Applied and Computational Math and Statistics); Kelsie Hoke (Architecture); Katherine Torvinen, (Architecture); Amanda Joseph (Art, Art History & Design); Quintin Sheridan (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering); Steven Marczak (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering); Doug Hines (Chemistry and Biochemistry); Ann Dolman (Civil and Environmental Engineering and earth Sciences); Mingming Cai (Electrical Engineering); Garrett Seelinger (English); Bry Martin (History); Hannah Żdansky (Literature Program PhD); Kathleen Ansaldi (Mathematics); Doug Smith (Mathematics); Brandon Cook (Medieval Studies); Patrick Gamez (Philosophy); Fengqiao Luo (Physics); Edward Lamere (Physics); Jeremy Castle (Political Science); Enmanuelle Pardilla-Delgado (Psychology); Lori Petersen (Psychology); Mario Antonio CossioOlavide (Romance Language and Literature); Jade Avelis (Sociology).

FISCHER O’HARE GRACE RESIDENCE – UNIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES – UNIVERSITY VILLAGE RESIDENCE: Peter Campbell (University Village).

1. Kate Rueff, Acting President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
2. Kate Rueff, Acting President, called for any additions or changes to the meeting minutes from December 6, 2012.
3. Jeremy Castle, Political Science, moved to approve the minutes from December 6, 2012.
5. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, proceeded with the voting and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, proceeded to executive committee reports:
   b. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, stated her report stands.
      i. Kate asked if anyone got an email about restructuring the graduate school/
         ii. Most reps replied in the negative.
      iii. Kate asked if it was sent to everyone.
      v. Kate said that the money for graduate student stipends would now be given to
         the college for dispersal as opposed to the graduate school dispersing the
         money.
      vi. Jeremy Castle, *Political Science*, asked if there is any chance that people who
          are on a fellowship will be affected.
      vii. Kate said that whatever is already given will not be affected. The fellowships
          will be sent to the individual colleges now too. She stated that the committee
          would send out the report to the representatives. The reason that this altered
          dispersal is done is so that the fellowships can be more appropriately dolled
          out. Kate also said that these changes would take affect for the entering class
          of 2015. Further, Kate said that there will be an Associate Provost who will
          have the title of *Dean of the Graduate School*, but they will be housed in the
          Provost’s office.
   c. Kevin Mueller, *Co-Vice President*, stated his report stands.

   a. He said that the explanation of what the parenting fund is that was given at the last
      meeting seemed poor in retrospect. He stated the program is supposed to be facilitated
      through the DGSs. However, he stated any student could go directly to him to get
      access rather than go through the DGSs.

8. Hilary Davidson, *External Affairs*, introduced her speaker, Jennifer Knapp Beudert, from the
    Robinson Community Center. She stated that Notre Dame is opening another community
    center on the west side of the city and they facilitators are at the point where we are ready to
    begin programs. However, she said that they need volunteers to staff the programs. She
    stated that hopefully, around 20 students from the university would volunteer. She stated that
    they want people to tutor and offer enrichment hours, typically from 3-5pm Monday through
    Friday. She said that the new center is located on Washington Street and that this is a good
    opportunity to make a difference in the community. If anyone is interested, please contact
    Hilary or Jennifer ((574) 631-8759, rclc@nd.edu). A flier was also passed out.
   a. Amanda Joseph, *Art, Art History & Design*, asked is there were and any weekend
      activities needed.
   b. Jennifer Knapp Beudert, *Robinson Community Center*, said that there are art
      opportunities
   c. Jeremy Castle, *Political Science*, asked what tutors the center are looking for
   d. Jennifer said that the center needs literacy tutors. Further, the center can provide the
      lesson plans. She explained that the center wants people to come and share time with
      the kids and help instill a passion for reading.
   e. Steven Marczak, *Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering*, inquired about the times
      needed again.
   f. Jennifer said that they are taking what we can get; however, the center wants volunteers
      to make a solid commitment.
g. Patrick Gamez, Philosophy, asked if the reps could get a PDF of the flier for their departments.

h. Kate Rueff, Acting President, said that the GSU could get the information and distribute it.

9. Kate Rueff, Acting President, proceeded to Committee reports:
   a. Zack Terranova, Academic Affairs, stated that his report stands.
   b. Hilary Davidson, External Affairs, stated that her report stands.
      i. Kelsie Hoke, Architecture, asked if there was any additional news about a demonstration
      ii. Hilary said that there hasn’t been any interest from the Village and there isn’t a point in proceeding it without the support of the Village. She said that the committee needs to see if the needs of the Village are met, and if they are not, then the Committee can pursue it.
      iii. Kate Rueff, Acting President, asked for a clarification on the matter discussed.
      iv. Hilary said that there is a road being built about 50 yards away from the Village and there are a lot of young children there. Further, she said that there is concern about safety of the children and pedestrians in general. She stated that representatives from the Village have spoken with the right authorities to discuss their concerns.
      v. Nathan, Art, asked if the committee has they talked to the Village
      vi. Hilary directed to Peter Campbell, University Village.
      vii. Peter Campbell, University Village, said that the committee needs to talk to the rector to make sure that this is something that the Village wants to do. He said that the residents of the Village don’t want to push the concessions already given.
      viii. Erin Drew, Professional Development, stated that the graduate student appreciate week might not be a good event for a protest. She said that it might be a good opportunity to draw attention to this particular issue, but a protest might not be appropriate for this event. She suggested that it might be an opportunity to right a long editorial piece in the Observer written by the GSU as a whole.
      ix. Hilary said that opening conversation about this is what the committee wants and that might be a good idea. She agreed that the appreciation week might not be a good time to have a protest.
      x. Peter Campbell said that at a number of the public meetings, people from the university have said that the life of the buildings are at an end. He said that the concern from his part is that the university said that it is interested in replacing the housing all together in the next 3-5 years. Finally, he said that if there is an editorial, perhaps the GSU needs to address these comments and try to keep the momentum going.
      xi. Lindsey Turnbull, Health Care, said that there was a recent article in the observer and perhaps a response piece to that article would be appropriate.
      xii. Kate Rueff, Acting President, said that the article from the GSU as a whole would need to be voted upon.
      xiii. Hilary said that the GSU needs to see what the Village opinion is.
      xiv. Tony Cunningham, Quality of Life, said that there is movement on the housing committee to try and get new graduate family housing.
      xv. Peter Campbell responded that the committees are deciding if graduate student
housing is a priority for the next capital campaign.

xvi. Garrett Seelinger, *English*, suggested that the GSU come up with one line quote to support this and then an individual can then write a piece and quote the GSU.

xvii. Kyle Watson, *Publicity and Procedures*, said that such a statement from the GSU is in the minutes and can be quoted directly.

10. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, broke for committees and food

11. Kate proceeded to the rest of the committee reports.

   i. They stated that the health insurance committee met this morning. There are a few things left to discuss and there will be a survey sent out to get feedback about the cessions that need to be made.
   ii. Ricky Klee said that the university is looking at what the cost will be to cover underinsured and uninsured people. The committee will be hearing about that soon. Further, he stated that another positive is that the referral process is being redone. Also, the committee is looking to see if coverage per semester can be offered. Also, prescriptions will no longer need to be reapproved every 30 days. The $100 deductible at the wellness center was an accident. Those will be refunded. Dental will not be offered next year. The committee is trying to think about what the replacement might be. There will be options on the survey. The cost will go up about 5%, $2150 next year as opposed to $1886. If we want to increase the limit on healthcare costs, we will need to discuss that. The trustees will discuss what the subsidy will be next year.
   iii. Katherine Torvinen, *Architecture*, said that a friend called the health center and was told that they only give shots to undergraduate students.
   iv. Lindsey Turnbull, *Health Care*, said that they would give flu shots to graduate students as well. Further, the health center will order one for people who are considered at risk and if there are any flu shots remaining after the people who are at risk, then the leftovers are given on a first-come-first-serve basis and are free. She stated that if students can’t make it to the drive, they could call ahead and make an appointment to get the shot. Also, she stated that students could go off campus to get a flu shot and submit a claim to the insurance for reimbursement. Finally, anyone who is a community member has access to the leftovers on a first-come-first-serve basis.
   v. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, said that for future reference, get the contact information of the person that they talked to at the health center.
   vi. Zack Terranova, *Academic Affairs*, asked how the health insurance would be taken care of with the restructuring of the graduate school.
   vii. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, said that the graduate school would still take care of it as graduate students are technically employed by the graduate school. Further, she said that based on crude math, the cost to students after subsidy will be about $600.
   viii. Lindsey Turnbull, *Health Care*, said that the university is going to try and keep the same subsidy or more.
   ix. Ricky Klee, *Health Care*, said that master’s students don’t get that the subsidy.
   x. Jade Avelis, *Sociology*, said that she has the cost of her health insurance taken out of her stipend every month.
xi. Kyle Watson, *Publicity and Procedures*, said that he used to have both his and his spouse’s premium taken out of his stipend, but that was not allowed this year.

xii. Jade Avelis, *Sociology*, said that the semester by semester enrollment will help people who might not have subsidies certain semesters.

xiii. Lindsey Turnbull, *Health Care*, said that any outside insurance is going to be even more expensive than the plans offered by the university.

xiv. Mimi Beck, *Director of Graduate Student Life*, said that the semester-by-semester enrollment would only be available for those graduating in December.

xv. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, asked what would happen if someone didn’t take insurance.

xvi. Ricky Klee, *Health Care*, said that you cannot enroll at the university if you don’t have insurance. He said that for the general community, a person would pay a 1% gross income penalty for not having insurance. Further, the Affordable Health Care Act does not cover international students.

xvii. Lindsey Turnbull, *Health Care*, said that the university won’t split the group of international students and dependents from the general student body in terms of insurance offered because it is such a small percentage of the total graduate student population.

b. Mayra Duarte, *Marketing and Merchandising*, absent

c. Diana LaTorre, *Orientation and Electronic Resources*, report stands.

   i. She also said that for graduate student appreciation week, there would be another graduate student professional picture event. This will be the week of February 18th. There will be sign-ups.

e. Kyle Watson, *Publicity and Procedures*, stated that his report stands.

f. Tony Cunningham, *Quality of Life*, stated that his report stands.
   i. Over break, there was a special request from a graduate student. The request asked if there were any resources on campus for spouses of graduate student to talk about the time commitment of graduate school and how it affects home life. He said that his research he did revealed that there was nothing offered like this.
   ii. Peter Campbell, *University Village*, said that his wife and he moved to the village and this helped. It is very informal.
   iii. Kyle Watson, *Publicity and Procedures*, said that if there is a spouse who is insured, but not a student, they cant go to the counseling center.
   iv. Erin Drew, *Professional Development*, said that if someone is struggling, they should talk to the counseling center. They can talk to the counseling center about seeing someone off campus. She also suggested that the orientation chair might be able to set something up like this during orientation.
   v. Peter Campbell, *University Village*, said that these things might be worse in the winter.
   vi. Tony Cunningham, *Quality of Life*, said that there could be a monthly get together.
   vii. Tony also said that the LGBTQ subcommittee is still planning the comedy coffee hour is coordinating with the graduate student appreciation week. It is a formal event for LGBTQ and allies. The entire week is open so the date is not
hammered down yet. The GRPR hour is having some traffic issues. The hour will be on the first floor on a table where people will actually see it. They can also have resources available. There can be a small stack of flyers. A calendar of events can also be put there.

viii. Erin Drew, Professional Development, said this is a good idea and maybe there is money available Offer coffee.

ix. Kyle Watson, Publicity and Procedures, said that his committee also has money for coffee

x. Kate Rueff, Acting President, said that there is free coffee in the GSU office every day until 2PM

xi. Brandon Cook, Medieval Studies, asked where the GSU office is

xii. Kate Rueff, Acting President, said that it is in 217 LaFortune.

xiii. Tony Cunningham, Quality of Life, also said that the housing committee is working on a page to list off campus housing opportunities for graduate students.

xiv. Kyle Watson, Publicity and Procedures, said that he is checking and listing the request as they are received.

xv. Hilary Davidson, External Affairs, asked if there was an opportunity to look for roommates

xvi. Kyle Watson said that there is a listing like that now on the page.

g. Sydney Blevins and Kara Harmats, Social, stated that their report stands.

i. Tiempo Libre is now free because of the graduate dean bought the tickets. There is also a Parsons dance.

ii. The Shrek the Musical ticket are also available now.

iii. In the report, the museum tour is actually Feb 27th, not the 7th. Students can bring family and friends. They would like art representatives to help out

iv. Bry Martin, History, said that the Tiempo Libre tickets are out sold out.

12. Kate Rueff, Acting President, proceeded to University Committees:

a. Zack Terranova, Academic Council, stated that his report stands.

b. Diana LaTorre, Academic Technologies, report stands.

c. Tony Cunningham, Ad-Hoc Funding Committee, stated that his report stands.

d. Hilary Davidson, Energy and Environmental Issues, stated that her report stands.

e. Kate Rueff, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands.

f. Kate Rueff, Graduate Council, stated that her report stands.

g. Zack Terranova, Library Committee, stated that his report stands.

h. Kara Harmats and Sydney Blevins, LaFortune Tenants, stated that their report stands.

i. Erin Drew, TREC, stated that her report stands.

j. Tony Cunningham, Traffic Appeals, stated report stands

i. The tickets for parking in the snow removal spots and on football weekends are not waivable.

ii. Brandon Cook, Medieval Studies, asked where they snow removal spots are

iii. Kate Rueff, Acting President, said that they are clearly marked.

k. Lindsey Turnbull, Healthcare, stated that the report stands.

l. Jade Avelis and Catherine Rastovski, Women Faculty and Students, stated that their report stands.

13. Kate Rueff, Acting President, called for new business:

a. There was no new business brought to attention.

14. Kate Rueff, Acting President, called for old business.
a. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, introduced the revised itemized budget. The budget is corrected and will need to be approved twice.

b. Lindsey Turnbull said that the budget for health care on the new budget and the budget for the previous year is drastically different and asked if this was an issue.

c. Kevin Mueller, *Co-Vice President*, said that there was a fair that was in the budget before but it was removed because it wasn’t effective.

d. Ricky Klee asked about the raise on the executive committee. He said that ideally the GSU wants to impart a sense of volunteering, but the lack of money might not allow masters students or married students to participate.

e. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, said that someone needs to bring a specific number to a vote

f. Garrett Seelinger, *English*, moved to approve budget

g. Jeremy Castle, *Political Science*, seconded

h. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, proceeded to vote and the motion passed.

15. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, introduced Mimi Beck, *Director of Graduate Student Life*.

16. Mimi Beck, *Director of Graduate Student Life*, said that as part of the graduate student appreciation week, the GSU is doing a blood drive, and the social committee is doing a trivia night. There will be free doughnuts and coffee given out in the parking lots. There will be free t-shirts with a graduate student ID on the Monday of the graduate appreciation week. We are looking at doing half-price lunches at the dining halls.

a. Tony Cunningham, *Quality of Life*, asked about a +1 for spouses to the dining halls.

b. Mimi said that she will look into that.

c. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, asked if there are any administrators coming to hang out with the grad students to see what it is like.

d. Mimi said that there were invitations

e. Kelsie Hoke, *Architecture*, suggested that paper surveys can be handed out during this time to inquire about what sorts of things graduate students need.

f. Mimi said that the week is going to try and target advertising specific things like the GSU symposium, and the comprehensive graduate student life survey.

17. Patrick Gamez, *Philosophy*, stated that the Philosophy department is having a conference on contemporary French thought. He will send out an email to the departments to get more information out.


20. Kate Rueff, *Acting President*, proceeds to vote. Motion passes unopposed.

21. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Minutes Submitted by Kyle Watson