

**Meeting:** Assembly

**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2009 3:30 PM

**Location:** Fine Arts Auditorium

**Attendees:** 43 department representatives

**Agenda:**

**1. Misc Items**

- The assembly was asked to vote on whether or not to have cookies and coffee at the next assembly meeting: Vote: 4 nos, 4 abstentions, and 35 yeas.
- Nick would like to send a GPSO representative to the Public Safety walk on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00. Andrea Gillman volunteered.
- An update on the optional Green Fee Initiative petition was given. There are currently 3,000 signatures collected. The total number of signatures necessary is 10,000.
- An announcement was made that if representatives would like to participate in the Grad Pad focus group, please see Peter Thoresen.
- Nick addressed Governor Daniels 6% cut to higher education announced recently in the media. IU has been anticipating these cuts and has been preparing for some time. Currently the institution's revenue is beyond projections. Also, funds coming in from grants and research are up. In addition, the state's stimulus funds will partially address these cuts.

**2. Updates on Smoking/AAUP Guidelines Initiatives**

- Smoking - At the last meeting it was requested that the GPSO ask the AUSA (All University Student Association) to get more information on the smoking policy and plans at IU. The current smoking ban dates back many years. The long term goal of the institution is to have no smoking areas. The Chair of Smoking Committee is considering how to better enforce the smoking policy and does not think that the committee would support designated smoking areas as it would directly oppose the original initiative. The smoking committee did state that it will forward its recommendations to the GPSO for their discussion and possible support.
- AAUP Guideline Initiatives - At the last assembly meeting it was requested that the GPSO get more information regarding this initiative specifically regarding graduate student appointment and dismissal of academic appointees. IU's academic guide does overlap with the AAUP guide, but our guide is missing a number of components and therefore the committee who oversees this guide will setup a subcommittee to address these lacking areas.

**3. Feedback on Spring Conference Committee**

Nick stated that there are two main goals for this conference - to showcase graduate research and to have an interdisciplinary dialog between departments. Nick then went over last year's conference agenda. He asked for suggestions/ideas/or possible new components regarding the agenda. The following items were raised:

- A question was asked about whether or not monetary funds were awarded and if undergraduates were eligible to participate. The answer is that yes, small monetary awards

are given and no, undergraduates do not participate as they have an undergraduate conference that is equivalent enough to the graduate conference.

- There was discussion about the possibility of replacing the paper award with a poster award.
- One representative stated that they would like to have workshops with topics that would specifically address the needs of graduate students. Nick stated that these types of workshops were offered at the recent Graduate Student Survival Week at which most events have very little attendance.
- One representative asked what the theme of the conference will be. Nick stated that it will be Challenges to Change and that the conference subtitle is still being decided.

Then Jen, who is on the conference planning committee, gave an update from the recent planning meeting. She stated that at this year's conference there will be research presentations for grant winners. She also stated that instead of a research share fair, the committee is considering a poster session. The committee is also considering having a paper awards, which was done last year. She invited all interested parties to be on the planning committee.

#### **4. Spring Elections**

In the Executive Committee there are 9 positions, of which 5 are elected. The other positions are appointed. The next elections will be in February 2010. Nick asked the assembly to vote to waive the requirement that candidates be assembly members. Vote: 3 abstentions, 0 nos, 40 yeas.

#### **5. Assembly Q/A - time to express any questions, concerns or issues to be addressed**

- One member of the assembly thanked the GPSO for its swift resolution to the proposed forced migration to gmail. Nick stated that once the issue was taken to UITS they decided not to enforce the change.
- An assembly member requested that the GPSO should voice its opinion that the school should report its SAA student list to Aetna earlier than they currently do because there is a gap in health coverage for approximately 3 weeks over the summer. Nick stated that he will bring this issue up to the Bursars Office and the Office Registrar to request that the date of reporting SAAs to Aetna be moved up.
- A question was asked if the new Grad Pad location will also be the assembly meeting space. Nick stated that this is one of the goals of the new Grad Pad.