

GPSO Assembly meeting minutes

10.1.2010

Started at 3:34

Nick D'Amico presiding

34 assembly members, 4 exec board members

- Vice President Election
  - Two VP candidates made their statements
  - Janice Duchene first, followed by Edwin Jiminez
  - VP candidates took questions from the assembly members
  - Candidates left the room
  - Nick explained VP and Liason responsibilities to the assembly
  - Angela passed out ballot sheets and collected them for counting
  - Totals: 30 for Janice, 4 for Edwin
  - Assembly unanimously elects Edwin as Liason
- Stipend
  - Nick explains the restrictions on second jobs and particular stipends
  - Does GPSO want to go to BFC to make it work so that people who are current SAAs can take on another job? (to raise it above .5 FTE)
  - Two issues we need to take into consideration
    - Share the wealth
      - We want to make sure grad students are able to support themselves, but we also want to spread the wealth around
      - Don't want to make it seem like the university is "preying" on grad students and that students are able to both work on campus and complete their degrees in a timely fashion
  - Questions from the assembly
    - Would this take away from the possibility to raise stipends in the future?
      - No
    - Stipend not raised, even though tuition raised
      - Those problems are department specific and based on how they write the contract whether they give cost of living increases or not
    - One assembly member's department stipends are "few and far between" – lots of the questions are moot unless you have a choice in the matter – been told that what was proposed for work was conflicting with time management
    - University imposing a freeze on funds or raises for some students
    - Is there any information that this would actually help people?
      - Nick: there are positions out there that need to be filled and there are grad students who are not able to fill them because either they aren't able to get more positions or they aren't allowed for time management reasons
    - Sharing the wealth

- One thing the exec committee talked about was making priority lists, including looking at people who don't have any funding first, and then go on to higher tiers from there
    - Would current policy interfere with hourly positions?
      - No, only salary
    - Make sure there are standards for the positions and for making sure they were well advertised
    - What happens if someone blocks others from one position and then are the only ones who have the skills to get another job?
      - Must have a lot of up front disclosures made on the applications (some do this already)
    - Concern that if we say that we have time to work two jobs, then they will say, well, then work two jobs
    - Student had a research position and applied for an hourly position and had to get special permission from the dean and the dgs to get the job and had to go into a lot of detail about what she was doing with her time and how it was relevant to her research
    - Nick: If we go forward with this, then it needs to be outlined in the policy and be brought forward to the BFC stipend committee.
    - If a department doesn't offer a stipend, then it isn't going to be competitive; it's not the university's job to regulate people and get them to their time
      - Nick: university is concerned that they are being enablers who are trying to profit off of grad students
      - IT's a matter of convincing the university that grad students know how to manage their time wisely
      - If the advisor signs off, then it should be sufficient
    - Nick: Ultimate question is whether or not we should eliminate the loopholes and make it easier to get a second job if we felt we could handle it.
    - Needed this to be put before assembly before it goes to BFC
      - Good responses to the concerns
      - Put forth a resolution for the policy
      - BFC gets the resolution, it gets discussed and recommended for adoption
  - Votes taken:
    - 33 yay, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Take By The Night
  - October 4
  - Poor attendance
  - Nick urged us to go to this
  - He will send out information to the listserv and urged assembly members to pass it along to their department
- Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.