

November 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.  
Balkans Room, OSC and Zoom  
Third meeting of the semester

#### MINUTES:

- I. Welcome – Megan opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. We had five people attend the meeting via Zoom and six people met in-person in the Balkans Room, OSC, for a total of eleven people.
- II. Minutes from last meeting, October 8, 2021, were emailed to the group on October 18, 2021. No changes or corrections to the minutes were suggested, minutes approved.
- III. University Committee Representation/Reports – All graduate representative name and contact information has been given to the committee chairs. You should be contacted by someone soon regarding upcoming meetings.
  - a. Library Services Committee – Alexis Melson – No report.
  - b. Academic Honesty Committee – Emely Monsour – No report.
  - c. Student Learning Committee – Megan Munger – No report.
  - d. Information Technology Council (ITC) – Saivardhan Banoor – Met with ITC members on Wednesday November 10, 2021. Talked about IT security at meeting. Minutes can be found here - <https://www.pittstate.edu/it/information-technology-services/information-technology-council.html#undefined1>
- IV. Request for GSAC Funding for Thesis and Conference Attendance
  - a. Conference Presentation – Samantha Wiltz – Psychology – Topic: School Psychologist Involvement in Suicide Supports in Kansas; NASP Annual Convention in Boston, MA on February 15, 2022 – Requested Amount: \$300 This amount would help with her travel. She will be leading a breakout session. She will be going with Dr. Lloyd (a Psychology faculty member). Funding Request was approved – 11/12/2021
  - b. The link to the funding request form has been updated: <https://www.pittstate.edu/graduate/graduate-student-advisory-council.html>
  - c. The maximum amount allowed for Presenting at a Conference and Thesis Research funding is \$300 per academic year. If you just attend a conference then the maximum amount is \$250.
  - d. In order to be reimbursed, one must keep receipts.
  - e. Do let departments know about the Thesis funding for graduate students as many students are not aware.
- V. Old Business
  - a. Committee Reports
    - i. Communication and Outreach – Michelle Cronk – No report.
    - ii. Events – Mary Marine and Jacquelyn Bouchie – Haven't met yet. No report.
    - iii. Ad Hoc – as needed.
  - b. Commencement
    - i. No new information from our last meeting regarding Commencement.

## VI. New Business

- a. Megan raised the issue of Discussion regarding Graduate Assistant salary/pay. She believes we do not get paid enough for our work. She wanted to know if there's a way to have a proposal to the Graduate Office to let them know about the Graduate Student's situation (i.e. rent, living). There is a discrepancy between the amount of work assigned versus the pay received for said work.
  - i. Similar issues were expressed.
  - ii. What is the cost of living in Pittsburg, tuition, average cost of living.
  - iii. B.B. suggests to do research, put a proposal together, and then bring this information in conversation with the Provost, Dr. Howard Smith, who would hear that concern.
  - iv. Mary asked if graduate students have brought up a similar proposal before. How recently has the topic been visited.
  - v. B.B. said the Graduate Dean proposed an increase in 2016-2017 which was the last time an increase in salary for G.A.'s occurred. He received information from students, and G.A. salaries from other Regent universities and went forward with a proposal to increase PSU's G.A. stipends. He had to get it approved by the Provost.
  - vi. Think about environment on Campus (not just graduate, but every position on campus along with the operating budget concerns). There have not been raises for quite a while (with regards to every position). B. B. encouraged members to do the research (other regent schools and make comparisons between benefits, pay, and cost of living, teaching load, etc.) and then bring this information to the Provost.
  - vii. The issue was raised about a public record of Pitt State's budget. B. B. is unsure about specific G.A. salaries. Lisa Allen might have some information to assist. The transparency of comparing numbers based on where the money comes from.
  - viii. In the Biology department a lot of research funding comes from Kansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and Missouri Conservation Department (as examples) so the funding and payment gets complex, because the question is whether the money is outside funding or Pitt State's actual money.
  - ix. Chanel said the Chemistry department is usually paid from grant funding, and when there isn't funding where the pay comes from becomes murky.
  - x. It's not clear cut how much each G.A. makes within their respective departments.
  - xi. A baseline for how all G.A.'s should be paid and then go further into each department.
  - xii. B.B. does believe there is a baseline for all GTA's.
  - xiii. Go into this proposal, not with an argument, but with an understanding of why this is happening. Approach it from the stance of "Can you tell us where you're coming from? What does it look like on your end? And here's what it looks like our end." And then find a gray area that works better for GAs and for them as well. See how the department chairs recommending approaching this topic and moving forward.

- xiv. Mary raised the idea of forming a working committee.
    - xv. Chanel agrees that we need to work interdepartmentally. Megan agreed.
  - b. The Ad Hoc committee will be for Salary for the G.A.'s.
    - i. Chanel, and Megan said they would volunteer for the committee. Mary and Alexis both want to be a part of the committee, but cannot be full time within the committee.
- VII. For the Good of the Order / Announcements / Department/Program News
  - a. Mary said she had a couple of graduate students say they are a part of the Taste of Nations that is tonight, November 12, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the Grubbs Basement. There will be food, and performances from numerous nations.
  - b. B. B. said the Capitol Graduate Research Summit will happen again this year. They are looking into possibly changing the date from March 9, so it could move up to February 16 or 17. Will know more by the end of the week.
  - c. **The confirmed date for the Capitol Graduate Research Summit is February 16, 2021.**
    - i. If you are conducting research be looking for more information and submit your research to be a part of this event. Should know more by the end of the semester.
    - ii. They will select about five individuals to go to the Capitol.
  - d. The PSU colloquium will happen this year on April 13, 2022. It will be face-to-face with an online/virtual component.
  - e. B. B. asked how the HRD conference went.
    - i. Jennifer said it went great. The presenters were wonderful and there was a good turnout.
- VIII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

A link of the recorded meeting:

[https://pittstate.zoom.us/rec/share/FCDBtXGcqHFxyzA2yVQIKBhAn8HFPhJuSuZwahEL9z8TdTu1XNVXR\\_1wrooedBY.R1VJGO5FA3e4zh00](https://pittstate.zoom.us/rec/share/FCDBtXGcqHFxyzA2yVQIKBhAn8HFPhJuSuZwahEL9z8TdTu1XNVXR_1wrooedBY.R1VJGO5FA3e4zh00)

Next meeting will be on December 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. – In-person (Balkans Room, OSC) or via Zoom. B.B. will send out invitations and reminders for that meeting.

Minutes submitted by,  
Alexis Melson, GSAC Secretary