Graduate Student Senate  
Senate Meeting  
Thursday October 3 2013  
Campus Center 101  

Minutes  

Present:  
Officers: Robin Anderson, Ghazah Abbasi, Adina Gianelli  
Senators: Janna Mantua, Chelsea Sams, Garrett Gowen, Faune Albert, Gina Ocasion,  
Jeffrey Stupak, Rosa Clemente-Delrow, Sarah Mathena, Alexandra Prince, Christoph  
Krumm, Katrina Rieger, Siyuan Yin, Tim Sutton, Andres Wilson, Elizabeth Baseman,  
Juston Moore, Kartik Misra, Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau, Dave Brown, Kathryn Accurso,  
Dani O-Brien, Daniel Morales, Brenda Muzeta, Kenneth Van Tassel, Emily Campbell,  
Matthew Donlevy, Jared Starr, Laura, Fattaruso, Jonathan Dusenbury, Emily Pipes,  
Kimberley Sawyer, Michael Clauss, Travis Salley, Jordon Bosse, Julie Rose, Coralie  
Backlund, Adam Hauser, Ragini Saira Malhotra, Glenn Proud.  
Staff: Stefanie Robles, Craig Bidiman, Srinivas Lankala.  
Others: David Vaillancourt (Associate Dean of Students), Chuck DiMare (Student Legal  
Services Office), Ernie May (Faculty Senate), John McCarthy (Dean of the Graduate  
School, Michelle Rosenfeld, Wendy Dagle, Zac Broughton (SGA), Sïonan Barrett  
(SGA), Anna Waltman (GEO).  

Robin Anderson called the meeting to order at 1.08 PM. Following introductions from all  
present, Robin welcomed the newly elected senators and presented a quick introduction  
to Robert’s Rules and procedures to be followed in the meeting.  

Robin also proposed to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Adam Donlevy  
seconded. The minutes were approved with thirty votes and two abstentions.  

Ghazah Abbasi presented senate election results and said that we have 56 new senators  
this year, that this is the most senators GSS has ever had, and thanked all new senators  
for serving in the senate.  

New Business:  

Robin introduced Chuck DiMare from Student Legal Services Office (SLSO), who  
presented the Wellman document (Trustee policy on university governance). He  
explained the origins of the document, its basis in federal and state law and the role of the  
BOT and various governing bodies in the UMass system. He also mentioned the  
amendment pending in the state legislature to expand voting rights for student trustees  
from one to five.  

Robin presented a motion to increase funding for SLSO. Chuck spoke more about the  
need for increased funding to hire a fourth attorney. He argued for the need for expansion  
on immigration issues and family law issues. Robin proposed to approve the extra
funding and Garrett Gowen seconded. Travis Salley asked about issues of quality control and if there was a way to evaluate the performance of the attorney, once approved. Robin replied that there was a detailed review done every year of the SLSO and its finances. Adam Hauser asked the treasurer about the state of the overall GSS budget. Robin responded that he would be able to answer since he was treasurer last year: he said funding is already available since it was passed in principle last year. Rosa Clemente-Delrow asked about the total budget. Robin responded that it was a little more than $450,000, and the detailed figures were available on the GSS website. Coralie Backlund asked about the contributions by other bodies to the SLSO. Robin said the undergraduate SGA and the GSS share the contributions in a 75%-25% ratio. Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau asked about the representation of students of color issues in SLSO’s work. Chuck said the office deals with a number of cases involving civil rights issues and employment discrimination. He also said the office will try to ensure that the new hire would be a woman of color. Mike Clauss asked if the entire budget for an attorney is $40,000, since the GSS is being asked to contribute only $10,000. Zac Broughton of the SGA replied that the asked for amount is only a part of the final amount, since the SLSO also has a separate operating budget which will cover the remainder of the costs. Adam Hauser moved to end debate and Tim seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Robin proposed to approve the motion to increase funding to SLSO and Jared Starr seconded. The motion passed with thirty one votes in favor and one abstention.

Robin passed out copies of the current bylaws and proposed amendments. He explained two important amendments and said a fuller discussion and voting on all of them would take place in the next meeting.

Robin asked for volunteers to nominate themselves for the two open spots on the GSS Executive Committee (EC): Travis asked how members would be elected and Robin said the senate would vote immediately if there were more than two nominees. Dani asked for more explanation about the roles and work of the committees. Robin explained the role of the EC. Ghazah added that the EC is like an oversight committee and provides broad direction to the senate officers and staff. Jared Starr asked about time commitments and Robin replied that last year it was an hour every other week, and it depended on the senators elected to it to determine that. Dani and Travis volunteered to serve. Robin proposed to approve their election and Tim seconded. The election was approved with thirty two votes in favor and one abstention.

Adina Giannelli presented the Finance Committee and its work and called for volunteers to serve on it. Jared asked about time commitments and Adina said it depends but it is generally once a month through the year and more frequently during funding request time. Robin added that last year ad hoc funding was dealt with in monthly meetings lasting about 30 minutes to an hour depending on the number of requests and that the Spring semester is generally the busier time. Garrett, Rosa and Jared volunteered to serve. Robin proposed to approve their election and Chelsea seconded. All three were unanimously elected.
Ghazah called for volunteers to the Elections Committee that is appointed by the vice-president. She said the major work of the Elections committee would be to organize officer elections in the Spring. Janna Mantua, Jeffrey Stupak, Chelsea Sams and Jonathan Dusenbury volunteered to serve.

Robin presented the ad-hoc bylaws committee that was needed to review the bylaws dealing with student trustee elections and other issues. He asked for volunteers. Alexandra Prince and Dave Brown nominated themselves. Robin proposed to elect them and Jared seconded. They were elected unanimously.

Stefanie Robles presented the GWN Advisory Board, and said it would involve roughly two meetings a month for about an hour. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Robin announced an ad-hoc committee to review the Wellman Document. He said the work would be done in conjunction with the SGA and other bodies in order to strengthen the language in the document. Garrett, Michael Clauss, Ghazah and Tim Sutton volunteered to serve. Anna Waltman asked if these ad-hoc committee meetings will be closed meetings and Robin said they would be open. Robin proposed to approve the committee and its membership and Jordon Bosse seconded. The proposal was passed unanimously with thirty three votes in favor.

Robin announced an open forum with the Chancellor, Dean McCarthy and Vice Chancellor Gelaye on October 31 to discuss the JTFSO (Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight) and the broader strategic planning process. Adina explained the JTFSO process and the GSS response so far, and hoped that the senate meeting on the 24th will also have more discussion. Ghazah added that the parts on graduate education and housing were added to the Task Force’s report after GSS’ discussion with the Dean of the Graduate School and with the Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate. Ghazah also asked everyone to read the document and to come prepared both to the next meeting and to the open forum with the Chancellor. She explained that Phase 1 involved drafting the report and the chancellor will discuss Phase 2 in the open forum. She presented certain parts of the strategic plan that were problematic from the point of view of GSS, such as language around issues of ‘excellence’ and ‘performance’, and said we should move away from a focus on industry, economy and market-driven measurements towards language on inclusion and social impact. She said that the title ‘innovation and impact’ can have many meanings and should not be narrowly focused on industry.

Ghazah then suggested tabling the formation of GSS’ own committees. Robin agreed, in the interests of time. Juston Moore asked for more details about the committees. Ghazah and Tim listed the committees and said they were to be formed around issues that had come up in the previous meeting.

**Announcements:**
Kartik Misra announced the Philip Gamble lecture on economic growth later in the evening. Alexandra Prince said the Art History grad student symposium will take place
on the 24th in Herter 227 at 4.30 PM. Zac Broughton, SGA President and SGA Speaker Sïonan Barrett introduced themselves, spoke about future collaboration with the GSS and invited all to come to SGA meetings every Monday. Anna Waltman, GEO co-chair introduced herself and also spoke about the collaboration with GSS. She presented various GEO committees that need members and called for volunteers to the Political Action, Organizing and Social Justice committees. Michelle Rosefeld presented an update from the Faculty Senate’s Internet and Communication Technology committee, and asked for volunteers to sign up to the vacant seat for graduate students on the committee. David Vaillancourt announced a lunch event with the Chancellor in the Dining Commons on October 31 and December 3.

**Reminders:**
Robin reminded the senate about the dates of the open forum, the GSS social justice dialogue series, and GSS yoga sessions.

He proposed a motion to adjourn, Travis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2.34 PM.