GSA General Council Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for the meeting was approved. Kathy Meyer moved, and Jess Barrie seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes

John Corbett moved to change Edward Collins to John Corbett in section I of the October 2002 minutes and to change "approved" to "not approved" in section I of the November 2002 minutes. Jess seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

At this time, John moved to skip ahead to information items (section V), and then return to announcements (IV) and the invited speaker (III). George Fujii seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

V. Information Items (Vox Populi!)

Jonathan Pearl noted his collaboration with Wendy Nishikawa of the Work/Life Office in Counseling and Career Services.

A. CRENO (formerly RPI)

Matt Andrews discussed the CRENO initiative, which the GSA opposes for reasons as stated; this will be on the ballot as a California constitutional amendment in 2004.

B. Broker Selection Committee

Edward Collins discussed the GSA representatives to the broker selection committee, as detailed in the agenda.

IV. Announcements from Graduate Division

John Hajda, Director of Student Services at Graduate Division, announced that probation letters have been sent out to students who haven't returned forms regarding the length of time spent towards academic milestones. For students receiving these letters, this probation is effective immediately.

A student noted that some students may not have received proper notice. John responded by noting these students have received two previous notices.

III. Invited Speaker—Arts and Lectures

Celesta Billeci of A&L spoke in favor of a $2 lock-in fee for Arts and Lectures, stressing that A&L is "more than an arts program" and affords discussion between students and the visiting artists and lecturers.

Roman Baratiak of A&L stated that A&L also presents political science events, noting that many lecturers have spoken at free-admission events, receiving subsidies from A&L; he also noted that his budget has not changed since the 1980s.

Janna and Justin spoke in favor of the variety and value of A&L events, noting the "international flavor" of events.

Celesta noted that future budget cuts in January and July of 2003 are likely to hit the arts first, causing an increase in admission for paid events and the removal of free-admission events; when the budget situation improves in the future, the $2 may be used to create a paid A&L internship. Finally, Celesta said whether or not students attend, such events foster an enhanced sense of community and discussion.

A student had Celesta clarify that the fee is $2, not $2.75 as indicated in the hand-out.

A student asked how this relates to undergraduate fees; Celesta said the hadn't considered graduate student attendance.

Jonathan asked if there are surveys or studies on how many graduate students attend; Celesta responded that A&L does not currently track undergrad/grad student attendance, as both are simply categorized as students.

Edward noted that we can have a straw poll whether we would have the $2 fee on the ballot, and that whether we would vote for it.

Alan Levy asked about what kind of oversight there was on spending; he also noted that we support a limited (e.g. four years) life for fee measures.

Alan noted that GSA process is more efficient than going through CEC, because instead of petitions, the GSA Assembly needs only 2/3 vote (versus the 15% petition required by CEC).

Stu asked about the proposed internships; Celesta said there would be up to three per quarter.

Kathy noted that the lock-in fee request is poorly timed because of GSHIP and other fees.

Students asked when and in what order elections are held; Alan noted that we don't have to vote for it at the same time as undergraduate elections.

Edward asked for a straw poll:

Do you want to put this proposal on the ballot? Strong vote for.

Would you vote for it?

A student noted that some students may not see what benefit they receive.

Jess suggested that it just takes attending one event at the student discount to make the $2 fee worthwhile.

Jonathan suggested one free ticket per year be given to students.

Stu was concerned that the lock-in fee is too high for just three internships.

Edward suggested skipping ahead to action items (section VII) before returning to information items (V). Mark Yeary moved to address action items before information items. Jess seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

VII. Action Items

D. Committee Representatives

Jonathan moved to approve the committee list. Russell Knight seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

B. Leave of Absence: VP, Communications and Records

Jess moved to accept John's leave of absence as VP, Communications and Records for the Winter 2003 quarter. George Fujii seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

C. Election: Interim VP, Communications and Records

Jonathan moves to discuss GSA Assembly participation, suggesting that there be more participation. Mark Yeary seconds. Alan noted that this is a pro tempore appointment, not an election. Jonathan withdraws his motion.

Russell Knight nominates Mark Yeary as pro tempore VPCR. Kathy seconds. Adopted by unanimous consent.

Jonathan notes that Mark can't serve as both VPCR and GSA Assembly member.

V. Information Items (Vox Populi!), continued

Edward mentioned the upcoming GE requirements review.

Daniel Mandell read a letter in opposition that will be published in the Daily Nexus.

George Fujii asked what part of the GE proposals is Edward addressing.

Jonathan asked how important is this to graduate students.

Daniel in concerned about lower enrollment and endangerment of courses.

Kathy said Americans are generally ignorant about other cultures, and that the GE helps remedy this.

Matthew Armstrong suggested current GE requirements help prepare undergrads for grad work and society.

Daniel moved to rewrite the statement in question to make it less personal. Matthew Armstrong seconded.

Jonathan was concerned that our lack of knowledge of the GE issues could hurt us.

Edward noted that he couldn't vote on the GE, but he could say what the GSA thinks about it.

Soomin Chun raised concern about funding and enrollment impact.

George Fujii raised an objection to the motion on the floor, expressing concern over the lack of time needed to review this statement.

Voting for the motion on the floor resulted in 14 for, 2 against, 2 abstaining; the resulting votes do not meet quorum. Edward and Jonathan took opinion under advisement.

As the assembly is inquorate, it can not take action on subsequent agenda items, specifically proposals for changes to constitution and bylaws, and GSHIP option requests.

Alan discussed these issues briefly, primarily the lock-in, and suggested that articles III.E.2 and III.E.3 be merged.

Stu offered that if GSHIP votes 2/3 after May 15th, it can't include new items; Jonathan supports the proposal because it puts pressure on the GSA Assembly to approve the package.

Daniel Mandell suggested a grad-wide vote to combat special interests; Alan explained it is dangerous to risk a down vote on GSHIP because we could lose the ability to decide GSHIP issues if our hands are tied.

George Fujii asked about the time frame; Alan said we need a menu by the first meeting in April, at the latest.

VIII. Officer Reports

Kathy reminded committee members to send in reports.

Jess asked for grads to fill several committees, as did Soomin and Jonathan.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Yeary
GSA VPCR