1. Guest Speaker: President Haeger

NAU’s budget summary:

- NAU’s budget: 420 million a year total, 161 committed from state for this year and 134 for the next year. Could end the year at 124 million or less because the state doesn’t necessarily have to pay. State doesn’t want to tax people because they know people pay tuition, which forces universities to raise tuition.
- Really worried about FY12. The state probably won’t put money back into the university system even if they had it; current issue is how to operate in the future with less money.
- 50% of undergrads will not see a raise because of pledge. New students will get a new rate--13% more than last years’ freshmen
- 16% of undergrads will see that 13% raise next year because they didn’t enroll in the pledge program.
- Graduate tuition is more expensive because it’s more student-focused (smaller class sizes, more 1:1 time with advisors & professors, etc.).

100% tuition remission

- It’s not off the table, but it’s hard to tell what will happen next year because the budget isn’t known yet. NAU never went into allocating graduate fellowships in the budget in the past; this option is been considered and though it may take a while, it is expected that NAU will be able to offer them in the future.
- The university is not sustainable with the loss of state funds.

Emancipation of GSO & ASNAU’s 23 initiative

- Pres. Haeger acknowledged that the other state universities (ASU and UofA) have independent graduate students organizations and supported the idea. Ramona Mellott and GSO need to work together to draft a plan for the transition and present it to Pres. Haeger.
- Pres. Haeger committed to allocate funds for this move.

Grievance program for grad students & ombudsman

- Susanna Maxwell has served the role of the ombudsman in the past; and there are many other avenues that can be taken to solve issues. President Haeger supports a separate program for graduate students since issues can be much more complicated (potentially involving grad students, faculty, and students all at the same time, conflict of interest, intellectual property, etc.) and is open to a proposal from the graduate student body. He recommends that GSO uses the policies and procedures from other universities as a foundation.

International student stipends

- Pres. Haeger recommended that GSO works with Ramona and Harvey Charles so that both are aware that international graduate students have increased difficulties due to work-related
regulations and restrictions. Pres. Haeger is working to increase funding for international students.

Ways through which NAU is trying to save money

- Closed the social sciences lab. Closed high altitude training center. Staff and faculty cuts. Retirement incentive program will lose 43 more people.
- Ineffective legislature has led us into our current situation, students need to realize the importance of voting and choosing their representatives in Congress.
- Some money will come back because the economy will recover. Bringing in more students will increase marginal tuition revenue and replace state money. California said the students will not be able to enter the university if the state doesn’t fund universities, but NAU has the opposite approach. Some things just have to be cut to preserve the overall quality of the university. Faculty need to be in the classroom.
- NAU is considering curriculum changes (reducing majors and minors).

2. Independence committee

- Voted to create an independence committee, Citlali Cortés volunteered to chair it.
- 9 votes for; 0 against
- Dana Flannagan, Kate Hermelin, Leanne Conley, Anita Antoninka will be part of it; Ramona will be the Graduate College advisor.

3. Grievance process committee

- Agreed to create a grievance process committee.
- Tabitha Graves, Natalie Angell, Kate Hermelin

4. Graduate College updates, Ramona Mellott.

- We need volunteers to attend the last two UGC meetings for the year. Jean G. Lonjaret will go to the two other meetings (March and April).
- The independence proposal will go through a lot of venues so it needs representation.
- Different award applications are now being distributed (outstanding GA/TA award). See emails from Melissa Riggs. Information is also being sent out for outstanding dissertations or theses for submission into national competitions.
- Enrollment for graduate programs still high and looking good.
- Melissa will send out information about publications so it can be made known.
- UGC approved a 1 credit enrollment for students that will defend during that semester, unless department has different requirements.

5. Elections

- GSO elections are coming up in March. Aspiring candidates to four executive committee positions should send an email stating their name, program and one paragraph stating why they are interested in serving to Citlali Cortés email (taxodium@nau.edu) by March 10.
four exec. committee positions are president, vice president, secretary and information and outreach officers.

- Sheena Kauppila (facebook group founder and GSO webmaster) wants to be included in the ballot as candidate for the president position.

6. Next meeting
- March 24th 5:30 (location tbd)
- Brief statements from candidates and elections at 6:30

7. UGC, Shona Granillo
- Established minimum number of credits (30) university-wide, does not overrule department requirements.
- Lowered the number of formal credit hours for a thesis from 24 to 18.

8. Strategic planning committee
- The strategic plan is out for comment in an e-mail. Respond to it to get our voices heard even more. Funding comes from presence in the strategic plan.
- Eva Putzova could be a guest speaker for the march meeting.

9. ASA, Troy Campbell
- Absent

10. ASNAU
- Going through with the 23 campaign, which was endorsed by Pres. Haeger. This will be much more funding than before (budget of approximately $1,000,000). Only mountain campus grads are being charged. One more grad senator seat if the initiative goes through.
- GSO asked Joey to inform ASNAU that we want whomever is elected to be approved or endorsed by the GSO (with the implied understanding that they would attend both senate and GSO meetings). Senator elections will take place Thursday march 25th after spring break. Senator duties: attend ASNAU meetings, 4 hours of office work and 2 hour senate meeting every Thursday (about $700 per semester). Contact Joey Ruiz and plan on attending the March 24 meeting if you are on the ASNAU ballot.

11. Library
- Absent

12. GSO internal committee updates
- Travel Awards
  Information is out and posted on website. New chair appointed for the committee, evaluation process will take place March 8th – 11th; applicants will be notified by March 12th. Ken Mwangi (chair), responsible for sending out notification letters and compiles a
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February 17th, 2010, 5:00 pm

spreadsheet for Marylou. Kate Hermelin, Moussa Tankari, Lizz Wandag are also in the committee,

- **Webmaster**
  Everything’s up to date. Email Sheena Kauppila if there is any that needs to be posted

- **Housing listserv**
  No traffic recently

- **Fundraising**
  **Wildflower Bread Company** is willing to give % of sales; Jessica Gist will send an update.
  **Raffle** of parking pass approved; Alex Perry in charge.