GSO Meeting Agenda, October 19, 2009

5:30 pm, ARD Building, Large Pod on First Floor

a) Mia from Political Science announced Call for Proposals for the interdisciplinary conference offered by the department January 29th. Check your email for an announcement from her.

b) Introductions (officers, reps, attendees)

c) Guest speaker: Kevin Ketchner – NAU Cline Library

"Partnering with the Library for Graduate Student Success and Innovation"

Library’s approach: Community Practice. Recently reassessed relationship between library and grad students. Kevin in charge of programming to support us in our roles as:

Students - There is a specialist in each field in the library to help you one-on-one in thesis and course research. They work closely with faculty to design courses, so they understand our resources and the research components of courses.

Teachers - Specialists will work with you to develop curriculum for your courses. They can find biographies or background on authors or topics to help students contextualize their readings. They can also link to special collections audio/video/photo resources or stream videos in Vista.

Scholars - Librarians specialize in publishing, searching research and resources.

Library Committee meets Friday: We are purchasing and should have Web of Science by next semester! It is a major database with citation and search resources for many disciplines.

Contact Kevin at Kevin.Ketchner@nau.edu with any questions or to arrange a talk for your department or class.

d) Updates

  a. Graduate College – Ramona Mellott

   i. President’s forum held for faculty – see Hager’s website. Topics: curriculum efficiency, early retirement for tenured faculty, meal plan for faculty and staff when you use your card you can earn free meals – working on extending that to grad assistants, parking for grad assistants is under discussion - looking into employee parking. There is a taxi service for work related travel 523-9066 on campus

   ii. Professional Development Series – please encourage your department to attend. Some are teaching-related, but many are research or other topics. Look for an email of the entire schedule. These are posted on the GSO website.

   iii. Research ethics – NSF grants will require ethics training, and there is a national push to improve. We are working on developing a training session.

  b. University Graduate Committee – Lindsey Passenger

   i. UGC – changing credits requirements for programs is still under discussion

  c. NAU Strategic Planning – Jean Gillaume Lonjaret (BIO)
i. Meetings are focused on undergrad issues.

ii. **Budget** – unknown, cuts estimated in several millions, retirement incentive raises concerns about whether loss of tenured faculty will hurt quality of teaching. Is there a way to promote retirement for professors who are not strong teachers? Liberal Arts renovation funding at risk, SkyDome funds from lottery (so fate unclear)
   
   1. Discussion: Performance evaluation for teachers? For advising skills? How much input do grad students have? Dean Mellott mentioned that retirement is a right of the faculty and way to free funds – there are other ways to influence the quality of teachers and advisors.

iii. Board of Regents goal by 2020 to double number of baccalaureates - how do we increase retention without compromising quality of education? Grad students are increasingly a minority. Tuition remission for grad students is still under consideration.

iv. Jean will draft a **statement of GSO concerns** about budget issues to be presented at the next University Strategic Planning.

d. **ASA** – Troy Campbell

i. AZ Board of Regents meeting and met with other universities.

ii. Board of Directors meeting.
   
   1. ASA determining feasibility of a ballot initiative for 2010 or 2012 to use tax revenues for the universities.
   
   2. Southwest Student Leadership conference (Shona will report next meeting).
   
   3. Reps contacting legislature and using many strategies to raise awareness to Senators about student debt and financial concerns.

e. **ASNAU** – Joey Ruiz

i. Homecoming flyers for departments – planning lots of events.

ii. In talks with Regents to increase student fees for ASNAU funding.

iii. Reminder: Apply for travel funding through GSO, not ASNAU.

f. **GSO Committees**

   • Sustainability – Brian McClaren, Jessica Woods, Sandra Flores (SUST COMM)
     
     o No one in attendance

   • Travel awards – Tabitha Graves (FOR) & Allison Clough (ANT)
     
     o Evaluation Committee – Ken Mwamgi, Lindsay Passenger, Samantha Acevedo
     
     o Applications due October 30th to GSO email or mailbox.

   • Streamlining – Tabitha Graves (FOR)
     
     o Nothing to report

   • Fundraising – Alex Perry
     
     o Parking Pass or Books raffle idea (plan for late Spring)
e) Officer reports
   
   a. Citlali Cortés, President
   b. Alex Perry, Vice President/Treasurer
   c. Shona Granillo, Secretary
      i. Will present results from Leadership Conference at the next monthly meeting
   d. Jessica Gist, Communications Officer
      i. Website updated
      ii. Housing listserv

f) GSO Strategic Planning: PLEASE ASK YOUR DEPARTMENTS TO RSVP AND ATTEND
   
   a. November 6, 2009 12-5pm
   b. Place: Franke School of Business, Room 226
   c. Facilitator – Samantha Acevedo
   d. Food – ASNAU

g) Next meeting: November 16, 2009
   
   a. Location – Franke School of Business, Room 226
   b. **Speaker: Erin Stam from Parking & Transportation**

h) Social activities – 11:00 this Sunday Lava Tubes hike

i) New Business
   
   a. Use taxi service, free within Mountain Campus. Call 523 9066 to arrange pickups.