

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2015 - Senate Chambers, Talley Student Union

- I. Food Served (6:45 PM)**
- II. Call to Order (7:00 PM)**
- III. Roll Call #1**
- IV. Guest Speakers:**
 - A. Dr. Randy Woodson - University Chancellor
 - 1. Role: Campus leader Think of as a CEO of the university
 - 1. Responsible for the role of \$ at the university level.
 - 2. Background:
 - 1. From Purdue as faculty (Provost)
 - 2. Background is plant molecular biology and genetics
 - B. Dr. Warwick Arden - University Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
 - 1. Role: Executive vice chancellor, or chief academic officer
 - 1. All college report to the Provost, as does all of the academic systems.
 - 2. Position is interesting, generally due to the level of interaction of both students and faculty/staff.
 - 3. Details are down in academic policy, rule and regulation
 - 1. Deals with difficult issues (academic conduct, etc)
 - 2. Ensuring student and faculty success
 - 1. Maximal impact in terms of publications and implementations.
 - 2. Has been here for 10 years 5 at the vet school and 5 as Provost
 - 1. From Australia, University of Sydney
 - 2. Initially grad work at Michigan State then Kentucky
 - 1. Background in vet and physiology

From the Q&A Session

The first thing that the Chancellor and Provost have done is develop a clear strategic plan. This includes an enrollment management plan. This plan has capped undergraduate enrollment. This was due to almost uncontrolled growth, and the university was unable to invest in the buildings etc. due to the resources need. What this accomplished is that they have attempted to grow the graduate student enrollment and the faculty as well. The goals at this point in time are to invest in infrastructure and numbers of graduate students. These goals lead to several of the questions which we had asked.

Question 1: Shannon Warchol – New Ombudsmens position has come in, given that this position has been around for about a semester, how well has that program worked.

Answer: Dr. McMullen deserves a considerable amount of credit, as well as Roger Callahan who is currently serving in this position. The position currently is within one of the divisions of Academic affairs who reports to Dr. McMullen. To date this position has been well received. There have been ~134 contacts during the fall semester, of which 29 were graduate students. Common problems were attendance and grades, followed by residence etc. It is an interesting position, and a faculty position has recently

been started this semester (Jan). They are in different divisions of the university, but eventually we would like to shift these under one heading, and have their activities be coordinated. An Ombuds is NOT there to take sides, it is there as a resource to facilitate discussion and advise which direction to go (i.e. which avenues need to be pursued, and which resources are available). Would like student feedback regarding this position.

Question 2: What is enhancing global engagement, and what are the current efforts to enhance this?

Answer: We have 1400 Tenured and tenure track faculty, with an additional 500 or so non-tenure. Which means that we have ~1800 contacts overseas. As a University this means that we have too many strategic partners...the goal is to get deeper and broader exposure internationally rather than each faculty member having one or two contacts themselves. Tangibles for this are an increased international experience (study abroad), as well as foreign conference exposure for graduate students.

Answer 2: We as a university are trying to graduate students that are capable of competing at a global level. While NCSU is a state university, we still need to be able to produce global-level successful graduates. Many graduate students will be going on to work for global companies...and several of our international students (~20%) are still located in NC 10 years after graduation.

To achieve this, we want our graduates to have global experience. It can mean study abroad, but not necessarily required...it could be participating in international events and studies here on campus. Secondly, we want faculty to be focused on a global market (eg. Sweet potatoes in NC are looking at breeds which are drought tolerant, that can provide food sources globally). The questions that faculty/students should be asking are what impact can this work have at a global level.

The other way to think about are the 'grand-challenges', or the significant issues that are impacting the world. These issues are not focused in a specific discipline, but rather require significant interdisciplinary work, and NCSU would like to enhance the way that people think about the issues of the day, and ensure that all students are prepared to work with a global team.

In this way, the grad students are ahead of the undergrads. Significant numbers of graduate students will work in foreign labs/with foreign labs while in studies here. The push of the university at this time is to get the undergraduate level to get caught up, and to infuse the international program into the undergraduate studies.

Last year, we won the Sandra _____ Award which is 3-4 awards in the country for Globalization of the student system. Within the UNC system, we have the largest number and proportion of graduate students that are foreign. NCSU is actually pushing immigration reform due to our needs at the university level.

Question: Given the turnover in the UNC system and the GA needs (Job centric) – What are the plans to protect students in this matter.

Answer: Degree is from NCSU, NOT the General Administration. This means that there are fewer 'paws' if you will in the funding sources and any dictation regarding what we teach and how we teach it. This means that while there has been a change in politics at the governmental level, there has NOT been a change in business at the NCSU level. The Chancellor also feels positively regarding the relationship with the board of governors. This is due to the level of connection between the University and the high-value degrees such as technology and public administration.

We do have our own board of trustees and administrative individuals here on campus which are currently not being driven by the politics. It is important to note that the political pendulums do swing, but a few things stay relatively constant. The UNC system is not 17 homogenous universities. The high-impact research universities have some unique things that are brought to the table in terms of tangible-items come from NCSU and UNC. This means that there is a constant ongoing discussion in which legislators are told about the degree of impact that these universities can have. So regardless of who comes into office or leaves office, they will know about the roles of discovery and innovation that are occurring at NCSU, largely through the role of graduate students.

As a second answer: We need to not focus on jobs of today, but rather careers that will last them the next 35 years. Careers evolve, and this is important for students to know. These days, students will evolve through their careers, so while getting certain technological skills is important, learning to adapt and evolve into our future selves is equally important. A large portion of time is spent educating other individuals (political and otherwise) regarding what it takes to educate a graduate school experience. This is an un-common knowledge for those which have not been exposed to. Questions such as why do faculty teach so few classes (graduate students have significant needs in low student : faculty ratio) etc. It does help for us to be in the Triangle, as there are high numbers of individuals hiring advanced degreed students. This makes it easier to explain why it is important to have intensive doctoral programs, as people can see the consequences of what we do.

Question: Are there any plans to extend the CIF to graduate students – instead of just faculty.

Answer: Each project that has been funded currently have involved graduate students. They may not go directly to the students, but they are at least involved. Also often post doctoral involvement. At a University level, the funding will always go to the laboratory rather than the students.

Answer 2: They are also trying to grow student based entrepreneurship. This is often difficult due to IP and patent laws. Would be interested to hear how to improve student involvement.

Follow-up question: What about students who are not in the hard sciences. There are opportunities to get undergrads to work with faculty, but not the same for graduate students. As a PhD student, it is possible to have interns working under them...how are PhD students professionals in their development rather than just students.

Answer: You'll have a leg up in the professional world!

Question: With the theme of engaging globally, all of the 'grand-challenges' can be handled interdisciplinary. What are the steps which have been taken to increase interdisciplinary studies.

Answer: The Chancellors Faculty Excellence Hiring program is attempting to do these well. We are trying to hire University faculty that are not just within one discipline. Instead, we are attempting to fund interdisciplinary cluster hiring...this means that Forensics might work with Veterinary Medicine or Plant Biology/Molecular Biology. Thus far we've had ~33 positions filled of 40, and still looking to fill the final 5 or 6.

The concept is to hire faculty into an interdisciplinary position such as personalized medicine, and then different faculty will interact with each other and then work with an existing or newly generated doctoral program (eg. Forensics). At the same time, these faculty will have departmental homes, which they can bring their knowledge to. Some clusters are already engaging several graduate students...some with existing professionals who have been re-clustered into interdisciplinary. A new round of 13 proposals has been submitted, and are working on funding a second round of cluster hiring.

Additionally, the deans and department heads are strongly encouraged to look at not proposing things that only enhance narrow fields. Rather, we are looking to get multiple colleges together compared to one narrow field. Graduate education has been more interdisciplinary than undergrad or faculty research here at NCSU. There was a time when faculty were discouraged from this until they had at least hit Tenure. We are working on that. This is important because the major problems of the world require interdisciplinary research, and because graduate students need broad skill sets that go across these in their careers.

Question: There is a marginal line between what you do in the Garage vs. what is done outside the garage on Centennial campus. I.e. IF students do work pretty much in the garage, and do not use any 'outside' resources, then they can build their own funding...but if they (students) do anything with 'inside' resources then the University owns it.

Answer: It comes down to a large number of rules regarding intellectual property. How were the ideas generated, and what type of funding generated the ideas. These are rules which the University has to follow that the students are therefore bound by. NCSU is trying to push the boundaries, but there is only so much pushing that they can do. The goal is to maximize the industrialization/commercialization of IP from both faculty and graduate students. It is also difficult with regard to students because the funding has to go through the University and then the PI levels.

Answer 2: It's very complicated with graduate students due to the graduate research assistantships. If a student on their own dollar does something that is important to realize that this is a different legal situation than a funded RA in a lab.

Question: What is the state of Land Grant Funding in NC and the Country, and do you see NCSU positioning yourself in new ways due to this. (What direction are we going)

Answer: The only funding that is limited to the land grant we got in 1862 to create an Endowment that is currently at UNC Chapel Hill. We get very limited funding through this fund. NC is favored as a state, however it has been decreasing for 20 years. The state has funded agriculture better than most in the nation, however it too has been decreasing. What we are trying to do as a University is trying to bring new funding to the university through both private resources and through faculty grant finding (better funding). Land grant universities typically have lower endowment funds...that time is now over, and now it is a rush to increase funding. CALS itself has brought in ~40 million this year.

Answer 2: This is a public higher education question. There has been a significant decline in public funding in higher education. What is evident now, is that

NC once was a well funded regarding public education...with changes in politics, this has decreased significantly (~200million over 5 years).

So how do we fix this: Get more competitive on the grant funding, find better private funding sources, and the elephant in the room is that the other universities that have done this is either raising tuition, or increasing out-of-state tuitions. Here, tuition is an offset to appropriation, which means that each out-of-state tuition increase actually decreases appropriation. With regard to raising tuition, NCUS is very aware of the need to be a low-tuition institution. There have been significant attempts to keep tuition low, and keep project costs low. This is difficult, as every year NCSU is LOW in the list...as in at the bottom...and it is an issue.

Question: Where are we with the GSSP

Answer: They're right in the middle of addressing that. It is a strategic management process. In the first round of recommendations, there has been suggestions for a more sustainable and functional support for the graduate students.

Some numbers: 48 million a year on Support (not assistantships)

They know that it is not enough to be competitive with peer institutions. The Assistantships are not competitive at the national resources, and the additional funding is also not enough to address the issues in the GSSP. To date, the financial plan has been head-to-the-provost-to-bail. There have been years when the plan has been 3-5million in the hole.

So how to fix it: Increase campus increase in tuition into the GSSP. This offsets tuition increases, as the money is already there. One of the most difficult things to fix is the matching, or tuition-remission that happens at a department level. So that a grant should cover ~25% of the student tuitions...this has put a lot of stress on investigators due to the decreases in funding. This is an ongoing problem which is a work in progress.

Additionally, as the increased enrollment of graduate students is in the Strategic plan, the need for GSSP to be managed more sustainably is clearly there, and there are still significant discussions to be had. There are good minds working on it at the moment.

C. Eric Hawkes - Director, University Recreation

1. There will be a LINK on teh NCSU Gym Website. Thursday Feb 12th 1pm, 4pm, and 6pm. Come to one fo these and listen and give feedback.
2. Lunch/Food status is unknown at this time.
3. There is a blueprint for the plan of Centennial campus recreation plans at workout station 7 on the Centennial campus trail.
4. Is there a way to get a graduate student only class, or a graduate student only space.
 1. That is a common theme and question in the faculty time. They are trying to make some more private spaces, so that students don't feel like they are on-display. They're working towards it but aren't there yet.
 2. The early morning classes and lunch-time classes are pretty safe.

3. Website to Centennial: <http://centennial.ncsu.edu/master-plan.php>

V. **Advisor Update** (Dr. George Hodge)

1. Lots of things going on in the University right now. GSOARS is working on getting mentorship up.
2. Research Symposium is coming up, a few of the students will come down to the State Legislators in May from this workshop.
3. Also looking for \$ resources to come up.

VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

1. **Passed**

VII. **Executive Officer Updates**

- . President David Fiala
- A. Vice-President of Internal Affairs Chirag Gajjar
- B. Vice-President of External Affairs Veronica Mbaneme
- C. Vice-President of Academic Affairs Milena Bobea
1. We know that Graduate Research Symposium is not as prestigious as it could be. We are trying to identify industry contacts that would benefit your department if they were judges/present at the GRS. An email will be sent in the future regarding this.
- D. Vice-President of Communication Barry Peddycord III
- E. Treasurer Nithy Poosamani
1. We have ~3 months in the session. Please work out events, and do not go under budget!
 2. Starting on Wednesday, we are starting discussion on the budget for next semester. There may be reallocations here.
- F. Secretary Katie Kennedy
1. If for any reason you become aware of/concerned about the mental health of one of your students you MUST contact the counseling center here at NCSU. Tell them that you are a TA and are concerned about a student. Have the student's name ready.
 1. Daytime: 919.515.2423
 2. Evening: call Campus safety and ask to speak to the counselor on staff. 919.515.3000
 2. QPR Training is going on on FEB 13th 10-1130, registration is online. This is useful if you are a TA as it helps identify suicidal behaviors.
 1. *****THE HIGHLIGHTED MUST BE EMAILED TO YOUR GSA MEMBERS, WITH THE ATTACHED SHEET SENT AS WELL. The UGSA SECRETARY EMAIL MUST BE COPIED/***8**
 3. Attendance:
 1. Economics, Social Work and Public Administration Please see me at the end of today's meeting
 2. Poultry Science see me at the end of today's meeting

- G. Public Relations Officer Veronica Catete

VIII. **Internal Committee Breakout Session**

IX. UGSA Internal Standing Committees Updates (Chair or Exec Liason)

(Limit to 3 minutes per committee)

- A. Community Service
 - 1. Participation in Service Raleigh will occur again. Any rep or any student may join the UGSA group. Registration starts in Feb, and the event is at the end of March (March 28th)
- B. Research Recognition
 - 1. Spring application for Travel award is out, deadline is Feb. 15th. Encourage applications.
- C. Departmental Outreach & Leadership
 - 1. Startup grant applications will come up within a week!
 - 2. Best practices award are meeting on Jan 30th to select the winner (applications due on 29th)
 - 3. Leadership conference is now in March. Place and Date TBA.
- D. Special Projects & Political Action
- E. Publicity
- F. Social
 - 1. Trivia Bowl is coming up! WHOO HOO!
 - 2. The point of these events is to get large amounts of people here. There is a location change, and no limit on the number or people that show up on a team. Now at McDaid's Irish Pub.
 - 3. There is also a Google doc that can go out, and a Flyer.
- G. Teaching Effectiveness

II. Old Business

Closing of Nominations for VP of Communications & Voting

- 1. Veronica Catete is nominated for VP Communications
- 2. Colin Furno was nominated but declined.
- 3. Veronica Catete is now VP Communication and we now need

III. New Business

- 1. PR Officer is now open for 2 months.
- 2. **Next year we need new officers...come see us for information and what all the process entails. It can be any graduate student, feel free to tell buddies about it.**

- 1. Officers: Give a one-liner about what your position entails.

A. Council Resolution VI - Mentorship and TA Evaluation (Teaching Effectiveness Committee)

1. **PASSED by Acclimation**

B. Open Discussion Regarding Committee Attendance

- 1. Each GSA gets ~200/300\$ for attendance. Currently, new GSAs or poor-standing GSAs can gain almost their total standing if they attempt to get back into good standing.
- 2. The Question before the floor is: Is it worth the students getting back into good standing?
 - 1. Suggest that if there are non-attending reps that the Exec board reach out to the president of that GSA. And see if that can be addressed at the local level.

2. Historical Perspective – Two years ago this was not an issue. This is due to new attendance procedures.
3. Suggest outright no. This highlights a constant discussion regarding the incentive to be here at the UGSA. Currently the only incentive is \$ to be here.
4. Not fair that people can make up standing, but is difficult to make up time due to outside responsibilities, and attempts to find alternates are not always available. There can always be personal issues that cause problems, and officers should respect that.
5. Can't judge one GSA off of one individual. For that GSA they aren't a voting member. Is it true that all GSA groups need to have a faculty administrator – Officers should offer probationary period with the faculty administrator and they should be a part of the solution
6. As the Chair of DOLC, reject the idea of 'free-money', the award is designed for new GSAs and inactive GSAs in a way to get active. This is not an automatic thing it is an application that makes them set out plan to maintain good standing. Why did you fall out of good standing the first time and how are you going to prevent it.
7. When the Exec board originally voted, we decided that there would be a chance for the GSA in question to explain themselves. The Exec board are split...there are GSAs which are in bad standing, and clearly in bad standing and not attempting to get back into good standing. Then there are those which are close, but have reached out and attempted to get out of bad standing.
8. There are those that are here to get the funding, and do not feel that that has marginalized the experience or participation/benefits that were made here. What do you do if there are small numbers of students and they are all scheduled by X, or Y...and there is nothing in control. Is there a way for small groups to get back into standing to generate events for the UGSA that they can participate in and allow them to go back into good standing.
 1. Agreement that sometimes it is about the \$, but is it an issue with the title of 'good-standing' or is there an issue of gaining the 60\$ for attendance.
9. As Chirag mentioned, there were several different opinions regarding good standing. One of the points discussed was the quality of 'fair' work. Assuming that there are ~40 reps who have been there for each meeting and 5-6 that want to get back into good standing. What is the 'fair' amount of work. Which leads to a second question – Based on attendance, we are providing the rebate. There were

rebates last year and Leniency was used in the rebate process. How do we classify the last minute good-standing compared to others.

1. Following this question, it should be strenuous to the Exec board to babysit people at the last minute. Regardless of the Circumstances. Do believe that there should be a process regarding a good-faith effort and identification early that should be considered for re-instatement.
10. Feel it is a better option for new people to get involved rather than have old committees get the funding.
11. Having someone say that they want to do work is sometimes more valuable than a chair than someone who is not in good standing.
 1. For a new committee that falls in bad standing, give them two weeks to respond, include their GSA president in this matter.
12. Believe that this is a matter of providing extra work for the UGSA and the GSA in question is a win-win. Situation.
13. When new people come in it can be complicated. Psychology is a poster-child for this. At the end is not as useful perhaps.
14. We all show up with different experiences here in the UGSA. The one thing that most of us would like to see are clear standards with accountability. Need no free-pass and would like standards carried forward.
15. Contact Advisors and GSA president's at this point in time.
 1. Next meeting please have GSAs

IV. Open Floor – Comments and Announcements – (Limit to 2 minutes per representative)

V. Roll Call #2

VI. Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting of the UGSA Council: Monday, February 23 at 6:45 PM