

Graduate and Professional Student Council

7:30 pm, Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Student Services Building #150

Minutes

- I. Call Meeting to Order, Sign-in – 7:30 pm, 17 members
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (2/10) – agenda approved, minutes approved
- III. Old Business
 - a. Divestment Resolution - approved
- IV. New Business: Student Fee Presentations & Discussion
 - a. **University Housing Fee Increase – approved - 16 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention**
 - i. Presentation:
 1. Asking for 4% fee increase
 2. Overall plan to upgrade and over-haul university housing
 3. Changing meal plans
 4. Becoming more efficient is keeping the cost down
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. This will not affect all students, only those who live in university housing
 2. Fees are revisited by board every year
 3. Fee increases for housing depend on housing unit
 4. These increases are still competitive
 5. Rolling in utilities is a good idea
 - b. **Facilities Maintenance Fee Increase – approved - 15 yeas, 1 nays, 1 abstention**
 - i. Presentation:
 1. Asking for 2.63% fee increase
 2. This fee funds maintenance to the buildings on campus
 3. Most of the buildings were built in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s
 4. Upgrading classrooms
 5. Now beginning to update and fix HVAC systems
 6. \$500 Million deferred maintenance back-log
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. Worry that it is an artificial way to keep tuition low
 2. Others feel that it is a good fee and a small increase
 3. Does not fund Thompson Woods and Campus Lake projects, except for some of the paths to make them safer

4. Funds academic buildings

c. Student Health Insurance Fee Increase – approved - 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

i. Presentation:

1. Asking for 33.87% fee increase
2. Healthcare is currently self-funded
3. Want to upgrade to an ACA compliant plan
4. Aetna Student Healthcare
5. Alternative could include no university health insurance
6. Would not affect students' ability to visit health services

ii. Discussion:

1. There may be a way to subsidize the cost in the future with money left from the self-funded plan

V. Officer & Committee Reports

a. VP for Graduate School Affairs, Amanda Barnard

i. Graduate Council Updates

- a. Elections for Grad Council – April 2, 2015

ii. Research Forum, April 7, 2015

- a. Undergrad forum is April 6, 2015

b. VP for Administrative Affairs, Brandon Woudenberg

i. 2014-2015 GPSC Research Awards

1. Call for awards has been sent out
2. Only five applicants thus far, please pass the word along about the awards
3. Call for volunteers for awards vetting committee

ii. Budget Update and Fee Allocation Board

1. Current budget:
 - a. A little over \$7,000 left for travel support
 - b. About \$8,600 left for event funding
2. Friends of GAU Fallibilist Conservatism event - \$260 approved

c. President, Matt Ryg

i. Graduate School Dean Search Committee update, conclusion

- a. In the hands of higher administration to offer position to new Dean
- b. Any questions, ask Matt Ryg

ii. Chancellor's Executive Planning & Budget Committee

- a. Main topic was Governor's proposed budget
 - i. Could cut \$32 million of SIU's budget, but chances are that the cut will be less

- ii. Tuition increase for new students will be part of the discussion
- VI. GPSC Representatives: Committee Updates
 - a. Reminder: because of the potentially long meeting this week, please submit your biweekly report(s) to gpsc@siu.edu. Thank you very much!
- VII. Roundtable Discussion, Announcements
 - a. Please email out healthcare information
 - b. Thursday, February 26, 2015 GAU general meeting in Lawson room 161 at 5pm
 - c. General Education meeting March 3 and March 16, 2015
 - d. USG and GPSC are working on holding a town hall meeting, March 16, 2015 Student Center Ballroom B
 - e. What do we do to reinforce support for healthcare to the Board of Trustees:
 - i. Postcards will be sent to be signed in support and sent to BOT
 - ii. Matt Ryg has secured a 5 minute block at the March 19, 2015 BOT meeting for public comment on healthcare
 - f. Next Meeting will be March 17, 2015
- VIII. Adjournment – approved 9:00 pm