



**General Assembly Minutes, 5 March, 2009  
Bingham 204**

- 11:30 Senators arrive and feast on wraps from Roly Poly
- 11:43 GA brought to order  
Introductions of Officers and Executive Board  
No deans present  
Meeting agenda discussed
- 11:45 Tom Bulea – “Mentoring 101: What Makes a Good Mentor?”  
Tonight (3/5/09) @ 5:30 PM, Clapp 405  
Topics that will be discussed:  
    What makes a good mentor & how to find them?  
    How can you be a better mentee?  
    If you haven’t RSVPed, please just drop by, there is still room  
    Harris: “This is very important, and, as graduate students—whether current, future, or past—you should all attend.”
- 11:48 Harris – Bylaws Changes  
Straw roll to see how many were present at February’s GA to verify these changes are not unexpected
- Election Terms
    - start dates of senators & execs from 8/1 to 6/1
    - use summer as ramp up period & minimize lame duck period
    - get exec board formed before school year begins
  - Reorganization of standing committees
    - prof development separate committee (currently part of activities)
    - merging Diekhoff & mentoring committees
    - new committee : benefits & compensation (merge ad hoc cmts of health care & transportation)
  - composition of exec board – improve collaboration & comm.. w/in & out of GSS
    - 1 rep from each of the schools
    - Remove @ large execs , put committee chairs onto exec board
    - Establish firm ties to Graduate professional council
  - recognized events
    - provide organization & allocation committee w/ recognized capabilities
    - encourage student participation in committee
    - increase funding from \$250 to \$500
    - wording changed to encourage multiple events by student groups
    - allow groups to plan better & more frequent events for grad students
  - budget
    - create budget start date & specify it to align w/ start of execs, senators, etc
    - specify how budget managed between new exec board & full senate approval
    - summer & early fall events cost GSS before budget decided
    - allows expenditures w/ safeguards

    “What is the budget date and how is this different?”  
    Pg 14 of bylaws: Completely new language, never was specification of when budget started and when it was effective to

    “How will this effect the current budget cycle?”  
    It won’t, whatever isn’t spent will be rolled into next month’s budget.
  - duties of officers
    - rebranding of corresponding sec (information officer) & recording sec (info sec)
    - works w/ computers vs. not working with computers
    - additional changes in duties to align with expected roles



- Amendment Deadlines
    - Switching deadlines from 2 weeks to 1 week before GA for amendment submissions
    - Reason for change: timing of exec meeting and GA has meant that least 2 months are needed to turn around a bylaws change, change will expedite the process
  - Changing language in constitution in VII.A to include executives to submit amendments to constitution
- 12:01 Motion to adopt and ratify of all bylaws changes – seconded  
Vote to accept all changes as presented – no questions/discussions  
Motion passes (21 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain)
- 12:03 Julie Hein – Graduate Professional Council
- Before the GPC existed, the Pro Council was in power (Nursing, Dental & Law)
    - Graduate school not a member of this
    - Pro Council eventually died out due to inactivity
  - Summer 2008 – First meeting
    - Biweekly meetings throughout the summer
  - Fall 2008 –
    - Biweekly meetings
    - GPC gets a name
    - Events:
      - GPC Bodega Event
      - Co-Sponsored event with the nursing school: forum on health care and the election
  - Spring semester 2009 : Creating a footprint
    - Constitution and bylaws
    - Student affairs support
    - Creating a place for the GPC within each school or program
    - Events
      - Weekly happy hours at the jolly scholar
      - Bodega event
      - End of the year event
    - Relay for Life
    - Hudson relay
    - Clothing Drive
    - Housing Information
      - Professional schools have websites advertising buying/selling homes
      - Trying to unify this process
- The players:
- Graduate school
  - Dental school
  - Medical school (university and Cleveland Clininc)
  - Masters in Non-Profit Organizations
  - Law School
  - Business School
  - Nursing School (Masters and PhD)
  - Mandel School of Apllies Social Sciences
- Questions?
- How is this different from the GSS?
    - No representatives from law or business schools, GPC is more encompassing
  - What is the purpose?
    - Interdisciplinary activities and becoming a more unified graduate/professional force



- 12:14 Harris: Elections are coming!  
More positions up for election: Executives, GPC Liason, Committee Chairs  
More information will be disseminated soon  
“The GSS is making changes! You should be proud to be part of it.”  
Tech fee integrated into tuition  
Mentoring handbook  
Roberts: “We need more involvement in the GSS both in terms of senate and the committees”  
The biggest reason we made bylaws changes is to reorganize what the executives do to make involvement and responsibilities finite and manageable.
- 12:23 Harris: Transportation Committee Dissolution  
No activity w/in the committee  
Motion to dissolve – seconded  
Discussion:  
What is it? - Ad hoc committee around for about 3 years, no official charge  
How hard is it to reform? – Easily reinstated in later meeting  
Vote passes (20 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain)
- 12:25 Harris: Graduate student health insurance survey  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LLVrG4WVGFgXoxtHoOxoZa\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LLVrG4WVGFgXoxtHoOxoZa_3d_3d)  
(posted on gss.case.edu)  
Survey takes 5-10 minutes  
Encourage constituents to take the survey!
- 12:27 Harris: Stimulus plan  
<http://ora.ra.cwru.edu/research/stimulus.cfm>  
Office of Research official information regarding the stimulus plan  
Who would like more information for applying for fellowships/more information/etc.?  
Straw poll
- 12:30 Roberts: Upcoming events and committees  
Mentoring 101  
Solar Energy Summit (3/9/09)  
Take the survey!  
Diekhoff committee update – will be chosen by end of April  
Activities committee – still searching for ideas : please contact Roberts for suggestions  
GPC – Bodega event tonight  
Mentoring committee – draft being put out to reviewers for mentee features  
March 19 – Roundtable discussion on mentoring  
Professional development  
Panel discussion on negotiations (27/29 of April)  
Seminars on financial planning (investing money, venture capital, changes in regard to the economy, etc.)  
Faculty senate committee for research looking for graduate representative  
Mail transition to Google server on May 17  
Biomed Symposium – abstracts due next Friday (May 8 is actual symposium)
- 12:39 Roberts: additional questions/business?
- 12:40 Motion to adjourn, seconded