

AGS Council Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2005

Attendees:

Fabio Leite, President
Mark Sellick, VP Financial Affairs

Arts

Biological Sciences

College of Medicine
Asha Gupta

Education

Engineering
Sam Danziger

Graduate School of Management
Olga Bezryadina
Brian Gibbs
Henson Shinn

Humanities
Jill Marrington
Melissa Matteau

Information and Computer Science
Kevin Wortman
Michael Shafae
Sameer Patil

Medical Academics

Physical Sciences
Mark Norman

Social Ecology
Aaron Hipp
Michael Campbell

Social Sciences
Allison Fish

Guests
Andreas Gal, ICS, GSHIP Chair

- ▼ I. Call to order 5:15 PM
 - ▼ A. Michael Shafae moves for Mark Sellick to be chair due to Fabio Leite's absence.
 - 1. Allison Fish 2nds
 - 2. Passes by General Consensus
 - ▼ B. Michael Shafae moves to rescind Mark Sellick as chair due to Fabio Leite's timely arrival.
 - 1. Asha Gupta 2nds
 - 2. Passes by General Consensus
- ▼ II. Approve Agenda (5 minutes)
 - A. Jill Marrington moves to approve the agenda.
 - B. Asha Gupts 2nds
 - C. Passes by General Consensus
- III. Roll Call (5 minutes)
- ▼ IV. Approve Minutes From March 8, 2005 (5 minutes)
 - A. Michael Shafae moves to approve the minutes.
 - B. Jill Marrington 2nds
 - C. Passes by General Consensus
- ▼ V. Resolution to Fund the April 24-26th Washington D.C. Lobby Trip - Resolution 05-18 (5 minutes)
 - A. Mark Sellick suggests to take the money from the special projects budget and amend the resolution such that it budgets \$1,000.00; in essence spend \$1,200.00 out of the special project budget instead of raising the travel budget.
 - ▼ B. Asha Gupta: What happens if the budgeted money is not spent?
 - 1. Mark Sellick: The money goes into AGS' reserve.
 - ▼ C. Mark Norman: motion to amend the resolution to spend \$1,200.00 from the special projects budget for this resolution instead of adjusting the travel budget for airfare and any incidental expenses.
 - 1. Sam Danziger 2nds
 - 2. Vote: 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions
- ▼ VI. Campus Strategic Plan (5 minutes)
 - A. Fabio Leite: AGS has sent a letter in response to the campus strategic plan to Dr. Michael Clark, Associate Executive Vice Chancellor. Our response was acknowledged via email. Another draft of the plan will be made available in April, but it may be delayed. The VP Admin. will send it out to you when it is made available.
- ▼ VII. Sam Danziger moves to add 5 minutes to the agenda to have Fabio Leite talk about housing rates and Housing Administration financial models after item V on the agenda.
 - A. Melissa Matteau 2nds
 - B. Passes by General Consensus
 - ▼ C. Fabio Leite: Today we had a discussion with Housing administrators about the anticipated increases for graduate & family housing. The

administration wants to bring the rents at Palo Verde and Verano Place into parity with one another by raising Verano rents disproportionately to the increases at Palo Verde. The hope is to have the rents at Verano Place catch up to Palo Verde by 2010. The situation is not fair and not fair to our income. They have an order from system wide about how much of the debt service they must pay each year so the administrators explain that this plan is the only feasible plan they can come up with that will allow them to service their debt as well as bring the rents into parity to address issues with the graduate & family housing waiting list.

- ▼ 1. Michael Campbell: Can AGS do anything to stop the process?
 - a) Fabio Leite: We can suggest to have the increases at both housing complexes over a longer period of time to lessen the shock.
- ▼ 2. Kevin Wortman: Can we ask not to have any rent increases that are larger than inflation?
 - a) Fabio Leite: We can but the increases are determined by how much debt they must pay.
- ▼ D. Sameer Patil moves to add 5 minutes to the discussion
 - 1. Sam Danziger objects
 - 2. Aaron Hipp 2nds Sameers motion
 - 3. Vote: 5 yea, 8 nay, 1 abstention
- ▼ E. Michael Shafae motions to add this discussion to next weeks Council meeting agenda
 - 1. Asha Gupta 2nds
 - 2. Passes by General Consensus
- ▼ VIII. AGS Election (5 minutes)
 - A. Fabio Leite: Executives need Council's approval four weeks prior to the election process for it to be legitimate. This is why we needed to call this emergency meeting. Week from today we will open the process up for nominations. The nomination window will last for one week. Once nominations are closed, the president will report to Council about the nominations. This will be on the 17th of May. Starting on May 29th, the polls will be open. We will use NACS to administer a digital ballot via a web site. The results are immediate and the president will present unofficial results on the Council meeting on the 31st of May for ratification.
 - ▼ B. Aaron Hipp moves to approve the election process
 - 1. Olga Bezryadina 2nds
 - 2. Vote: 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention
- ▼ IX. Affordable Housing Advisory Group (5 minutes)
 - A. Fabio Leite: This group is a spin off from the housing forums. It was spun off because affordability was a top priority of all students at the meetings. The administration wanted to wait until Fall to start this board but the AGS president pressed to start it now. Between now and Fall, the meetings will concentrate on creating the by-laws, etc. such that the board will be ready for the next officers in the next academic year. Currently the group is made up of Bill Zeller, the directors of Palo Verde and Verano Place, Lisa Cornish, Fabio Leite, and Mark Foster. The board will not only cover on campus housing but debt repayment, off campus housing, and any issues

concerning rent affordability/stability.

- ▼ X. Sam Danziger moves to add 5 minutes to talk about rent increases
 - A. Sameer Patil 2nds
 - B. Kevin Wortman Objects
 - C. Vote: 7 yea, 6 nay, 1 abstention
 - D. Rent Increase Discussion: Rent parity is motivated to fix the waiting list, where applicants may clog the waiting list counting on housing in Verano where rent is lower there by leaving a large number of vacancies in Palo Verde. This deflates the value of Palo Verde and artificially inflates the cost of Verano Place. This is also hidden from housing applicants who do not see the disproportionate rent increases in their future. Transparency is important for graduate students due to their limited finances and need to plan their financial future during graduate school.
- ▼ E. Michael Shafae moves to have AGS take the position to increase the Palo Verde rent increases, decrease the Verano Place rent increases and to length the process of bring rents into parity over a period longer than 5 years.
 - 1. Someone 2nds (Sorry your VP Admin forgot to write down the name.)
 - 2. Vote: 4 yea, 4 nay, 3 abstention - left unresolved.
- XI. 6:01 PM adjournment