

MINUTES OF THE AGS COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 12th October, 2004

Present

Jill Marrington (VP Internal)
Fabio Leite (President)
Joel E. Martinez (LL)
Kristine Thompson (for Sarah Ross)
Brett Goldsmith
Chris Roncal
Ralph B. McLaughlin
Aaron Hipp
Miruna Petrescu-Prahova (CCD)
Hannah Aoyagi (VP External)
Mark Norman
Mark Sellick (VP Financial)
Michael Campbell
Yvonne Braun

School

Humanities
Social Sciences
Engineering
Arts
Physical Sciences
Humanities
Social Ecology
Social Ecology
Social Sciences
Social Ecology
Physical Sciences
Social Sciences
Social Ecology
Social Sciences

Apologies

Michael Shafae (VP Admin)
Randy Wei (Webmaster)

The meeting was called to order at 5.08pm.

The Agenda was approved, subject to a correction by JM of the date of the last meeting, which should have been September 28th.

The Minutes of the previous meeting could not be approved, since they had not yet been posted by the VP Admin, who was absent at a conference. The Agenda had also been drafted ad-hoc since he had not provided one.

Minutes of the meeting of September 28th were agreed to be held over until the next meeting.

Fabio Leite called the Roll.

Aaron Hipp raised an ad-hoc question about how many voting members comprised a full Council: FL explained that it was 38, but that only about 8 of the seats were currently

filled, since elections had yet to take place in the Schools of Education, Medicine and GSM and representatives of these Schools currently at Council were from the previous year.

Brett Goldsmith was welcomed to the meeting as a visitor with an interest in standing for election for an open seat in Physical Sciences.

Ralph McLaughlin volunteered his interest in an open seat for the School of Ecology.

FL confirmed that it was within President Council's powers to appoint new members and approve them by Council consensus 2/3 majority, but that it was preferred for potential new members to attend meetings as visitors informally, until such time as the aforementioned elections were completed and more voting members were in place. New members could then be voted in.

JM gave a brief resume of the election process under way for the School of Education and asked for Council volunteers for help with the balloting. A schedule of six members was agreed:

	<u>Tuesday 26th Oct</u>	<u>Wednesday 27th Oct</u>	<u>Thursday 28th Oct</u>
AM (10-12)	Michael Shafae	Hannah Aoyagi	Kevin Wortman
PM: (2-4)	Chris Roncal	Aaron Hipp	Jill Marrington

Systems Administration/Webmaster:

Concern has been expressed about systems and websites not functioning, but discussion on the situation regarding the Systems Administrator and Webmaster was postponed in their absence.

The President (FL) gave his report on the First Executive Administrative Luncheon (October 4th):

In the face of a rumor around campus that the Center for Women and Men had been closed, FL had raised the question about its status, and was informed (S. Petterson) that the Center's director had resigned and that in the light of current budget constraints the Administration was not looking for a replacement; therefore hours had been cut and were uneven, and the Center was not functioning as previously.

It was likely that the Center would not be open this year while restructuring took place, although the CARP would continue to function.

The current strategy was to take the rest of the program out to the departments and try to run gender equity assistance programs closer to operating level in the individual departments rather than have a centralized base.

Petterson had tried to emphasize that the services provided by the Center had not been withdrawn, just that the operational hours of a central center had to be revised. This made the whole idea of drop-ins unfeasible, but she emphasized that the CARP was still functioning.

An enquiry was made as to the funding of the Center, and FL confirmed that funding was still being provided by Student Affairs, but that the allocation of funds had been rechannelled in the light of the Director's resignation. Instead of funding the salary for a new, replacement Director, they were saving approximately \$10,000 on a Job-Search program for a new director, ~~while other funds were~~ being ~~was~~ ~~being~~ ~~otherwise~~ allocated to the appointment of two new part-time staff.

Petterson had later contacted FL to ask that an AGS representative be elected to an Ad-Hoc Committee on Gender Services. FL suggested that a representative could be elected during this meeting if there were a volunteer (the next meeting is scheduled for next month).

Pizza Break (10 minutes)

The meeting resumed with some discussion about the timing of the meetings (some people had arrived at 5.30, and it was advised that all meetings would commence at 5pm unless otherwise voted.

It was noted that Council members had not received any notification about the meeting on this occasion.

It was further noted that Minutes and Agenda should be prepared and checked before each meeting.

FL resumed his report on the Executive Luncheon with reference to the issues surrounding the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Housing Committee. JM had raised the issue of what progress was being made on these recommendations, and Vice Chancellor Gomez had hedged – Student Housing were in the process of drafting policy (but it need not be in place until 2006, so they had all of 2004/5 in which to fine-tune the drafting), and to date no policies had been agreed. VC Gomez agreed that the recommendations of the Committee to adopt “time-to-degree” guidelines rather than a fixed 3-year period ‘would be taken into account’, but denied that any prior agreement had been reached on this issue. He reiterated that the goal of an offer for every [priority] student was their primary objective and that timelines would still be under review for the forthcoming year.

Mark Norman asked for clarification on last year's Ad-Hoc Committee, supplied by Yvonne Braun.

FL went over the suggestions for a committee for reviewing housing policies: discussion on number of bed-spaces and their allocation in particular areas, about rents in the light of the local housing market, and about contract provisions for pricing according to market rates. Some review of historical arguments related to construction costs, effect of unionization on contractors, etc.

A motion was passed to extend the time for discussion in order to review the historical and financial implications.

Mark Sellick raised the issue of costs and suggested that statistics should be gathered on, for example, the rate of refusal of housing offers (particularly in high-rent areas like Vista del Campo) so that we have data on which to argue cost-effectiveness if the Administration include V del C in statistical analyses.

Discussion ensued about the turn-over of housing stock, time allocation of residence and its relationship to turn-over of housing... Academic programs were inclined to favor a three-year fixed limit to all students so that they could offer all new high-priority students a housing option, until enough bed spaces existed to grant housing to all incoming graduate students, fading out the high-priority program. ~~The Housing Department were, on the other hand, inclined to offer a limited amount of guaranteed housing to a fixed minimum percentage of students, [check this?]~~

Much discussion ensued about the allocation of bed-spaces in Vista del Campo and whether these comprised stock figures for the whole campus, thereby having a possible influence on turnover figures and availability. MS in particular argued for the provision of statistics on refusal rates (especially on Vista del Campo), so that we have some data on which to argue cost-effectiveness if V-d-C is included in the statistics for housing provision (which it should not be, given its cost).

YB pointed out that arguments from the administration changed and became blurred: graduate schools wanted a 3-year turnover so that they could offer housing to all new high-priority students, while the Housing Department wanted to offer housing to a minimum percentage overall. These two perspectives had become inextricably blended, and other arguments contributed – such that there were obvious benefits to highly-recruited and international students, but that might adversely affect other non-priority students.

FL wound up the report on the Executive Administrative Luncheon by mentioning contact with Richard [] from Planning (?) who has agreed to attend one of our Council meetings and to help build a liaison group with a view to planning of future strategy on design, facilities, etc.

A number of issues arose from the report of this meeting, which involved the formation of committees to deal with the issues involved:

Center for Women and Men: An Ad-Hoc Gender Services Committee should have an AGS representative to assist in their decision-making process: Council is enabled to nominate a representative and vote them in at this meeting.

YB is already on this committee as a directly ~~appointed~~ representative. MS asked her whether she thought it advisable or desirable to have an official AGS representative as well and YB replied in the affirmative.

On application to Council for volunteers, Kristine Thompson (for Sarah Ross) offered to stand, and after a question as to her eligibility (she is standing in for another) it was stated that as an AGS member she is entitled to stand for any ~~committee~~ office.

After move to nominate, it was agreed that Kristine's nomination be voted on by show of hands:

KT voted in as rep to the Center for Women and Men: 7 votes in favor, no objections, 1 abstention.

The Inter-Collegiate Athletics Board (now responsible for management of the Bren Events Center, per the discussion with Chancellor Cicerone about the change of management) should have an AGS representative. Nothing in the by-laws or constitution prevents the nomination of a representative, but a full election process is also possible.

Discussion as to frequency/duration of Board meetings: MS gave some historical background and asserted that this Board hadn't met for 15 years. There were considerable concerns about the relationships and management practices involved (which was probably why Chancellor Cicerone had stepped in and arbitrarily changed the management structure) and concerns were expressed that AGS had an insight into possible nefarious or nepotistic practices. It was therefore important that a representative be elected to these meetings.

AH expressed an interest in standing as representative. MN raised some questions which MS suggested be addressed to Gabriel Ayass (ASUCI President) who was most concerned with this issue.

Appointment of Aaron Hipp as AGS representative to the Inter-Collegiate Board was voted in by 8 votes to 0 (no abstentions).

Student Fee Advisory Committee

MS gave some background information: This is a committee who helps decide to whom available funds (~~where~~ from various Schools and departments across campus?) are to be allocated. There are two seats of which MS already occupies the Ex-officio one –

but he expressed his concern that, particularly in the past year, he had not been able to attend meetings and had therefore been in dereliction of his duty as a representative. MS was anxious that a second representative be nominated, and emphasized that the position carries a small fee remission. He went over the remit of the position and the procedure for application. FL emphasized that the appointment was relatively urgent since the Committee wanted a Fall quarter meeting and FL had agreed that an appointment could be made by the first Wednesday after the next Council meeting (Oct 27th?)

MS outlined the duties of the SFAC rep and suggested that interested candidates contact him in the first instance, and he would refer them on to Christine Jasiewicz. FL recommended, however, that appointments be made in accordance with standard committee procedure (blast e-mails, nominations, etc.).

Hannah Aoyagi gave a brief report on the activities of the External Affairs Committee:

The original goal for voter registration quotient had already been met, but it was now important to get more voters in order to combat the unfavorable editorial review published in New University this week. They were therefore asking for new volunteers for the last three days of the registration period and were increasing activities aimed at improved voter education, in-district lobbying promoted by Joel Martinez, (Legislative Liaison).

Jill Marrington gave a brief report on the activities of the Internal Affairs Committee:

Due to her absence abroad not much had been going on, but JM took this opportunity to thank the other Executive Officers and council members for holding the fort in her absence. She noted the efficient handling of affairs by GSHIP Chair Andreas Gal and the appointment of GAB Chair Shaun Miller. Forthcoming meetings would be addressing primary issues of housing, perhaps with a view to forming a sub-committee.

MS gave a brief report on the activities of the Business and Social Committee: primarily, they need new/more members; secondarily, MSh had been offering financially gainful ideas in the entrepreneurial spirit: buying property, having hot-dog carts, etc.

MN enquired whether policy was geared towards:

- Short-term income?
- Long-term income?
- Build-up of equity?

MS responded that AGS should be pursuing issues related to income-stream problems when the Student Center closes rather than possibly fanciful income generation concepts. AGS has always been proud to say that they have a sufficient cash cushion to cope with an income cut-off (FL), but we should be focusing on maintaining that cushion in the event of forthcoming problems rather than speculating on possible financial ventures.

FI gave a brief report on behalf of the Executive Officers:

FL, HA and JM had had a meeting with Bill Parker of the RGS, together with DeWayne Green and Janette (?), the newly appointed (?). [I'll e-mail that to you](#).

It had been agreed that AGS emphasis should be on the continued investigation of affordability of housing for graduate students; the amount of financial support available to graduate students, and the recruitment process for new graduate students which could emphasize a long-term "quality of life" that would be worth staying for.

MS gave a brief resume of financial affairs and negotiations with the Student Center Board to keep a handle on negotiation of space for the pub while restructuring takes place.

No new business was brought to the table.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.25pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for 5pm in Emerald Bay E on Tuesday 26th October, 2004.