

Boston University

Graduate and Professional Leadership Council

Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

5:30PM – CAS 533

1. Introduction

Kira Sullivan-Wiley began the meeting by noting the good turnout (over 50 attendees) and introducing the other members of the GPLC executive board:

- Tony Gao, ENG
- Kate Goodman, GMS
- Leila Haery, GRS
- Lauren Mangano, ENG

Currently there is no unified mechanism to communicate graduate concerns or participate in development of university policy. The Graduate and Professional Student Leadership Council (GPLC) was created to provide a mechanism for graduate students to voice these concerns. Specifically, the GPLC will serve as a university-wide student group that manages issues affecting a broad-range of graduate students at BU.

Tim Barbari, the Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs, noted his excitement for the development of this group. He mentioned that Boston University needs someone who is specifically devoted to managing graduate concerns, and that he has recently been appointed to help satisfy this role. However, the graduate program at BU is currently broad and decentralized. For example, the development of the Childbirth and Adoption Parental Accommodation could have benefited from the existence of a group like the GPLC, since one source of inefficiency in the development of this policy stemmed from lack of crosstalk between graduate students, many of which had similar concerns. The GPLC will provide the organizational structure for students to affect policy on university-wide issues that affect graduate students. This group will serve to (1) identify important issues and (2) to serve as an advisory council to Tim Barbari and the University administration.

2. GPLC Goals

- Be the **voice** of graduate and professional students at Boston University
- Identify **key initiatives**
- Provide a **forum** to discuss concerns and advocate policy change
- **Solicit input** from the student body
- **Present recommendations** to the Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs and the Graduate Council.

3. GPLC Process

1. Open meeting: members to voice issues that they believe needs to be modified.
2. Committee meeting: investigate issues, provide recommendations for next steps.
3. Council meeting: proposals provided by the committees are voted on by representatives
4. GPLC makes policy recommendations to Tim Barbari and the University administration.

4. GPLC Organization

- **Executive board:** coordinate activities, manage subcommittees, organize meetings and voting.
- **Representatives:** Each college will be appointed representatives based on graduate enrollment. Election of representatives can be coordinated by student groups in existing colleges. Responsibilities:
 - Represent the perspective of constituent students at GPLC meetings
 - Vote on policy recommendations in accordance to interests of constituents
 - Serve on committees to address key issues and make recommendations to the GPLC
 - Serve one-year term

College	# reps	Contact
Fine Arts	4	Sarah Bellot, sdinsmor@bu.edu
Communication	2	Catalina Quintana
Bioinformatics	*	
Engineering	3	SAGE, sage@bu.edu
Arts and Sciences	8	GSO, gso@bu.edu
Management	5	
Law	4	
Medical	7	
Metropolitan	7	
Sargent	2	
Dental	4	
Education	2	SED-GSA, rkfox@bu.edu
Public Health	5	
Social Work	3	BUSSWSO, busswso@bu.edu
Theology	2	STHSA

Lauren Mangano conducted an informal poll of meeting attendees. Colleges represented at this meeting were:

- Communication
- Engineering
- GRS
- Management
- Medical school
- MET
- Sargent
- Dental
- Public Health
- Theology
- School of Education

Sample issues the group would consider are:

- Healthcare
- Bike safety
- Alumni Issues
- Graduate Housing
- Mental Health
- Centralized Website with Resources

5. Issues and concerns during open discussion

There were concerns about whether existing student groups advocate the GPLC.

How will schools with diverse degree programs select a representative?

The individual who takes on this role will represent students from a graduate student perspective and not necessarily from a program-specific perspective. Each college will thus be responsible for selecting representatives, and members of that college will be able to find their representative (via the GPLC website) in order to communicate specific concerns.

Will the GPLC manage issues that affect a subset of students (e.g. only professional?).

Yes, and all representatives will vote on these issues.

There was discussion as to whether the group will function before all the 58 representatives are selected or if, perhaps, representatives can vote by proxy if not all representatives are present (or haven't yet been elected).

There was concern about how soon the group would be functional and start dealing with issues.

There was a discussion on whether the GPLC constitution would be ratified by the voting

members once the voting members are appointed.

There was a concern over how the GPLC will maintain operation after the one-year term for each representative is over.

6. Closing remarks

The next meeting will be the open meeting at the end of this semester. At this open meeting, issues can be voiced and subcommittees can be formed to begin work over the summer.

The website (bu.edu/provost/graduate-affairs/graduate-student-leadership-council) is currently under development, but will eventually include meeting minutes, contact info for representatives from other colleges, and contact info for the executive board.

If an administrator or student group for your college is not listed above, please contact the GPLC with this info.