

Meeting Attendees: Dr. Valerie Luzadis, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President; Scott Bergey, GSA President; Colin Bragg, GSA Social VP; Alex Poisson, GSA Speakers VP; Sarita Bassil, GSA International VP; Eugene Law, GSA BoT Rep; Rick Joseph, GSA Chem Dept Rep; Bali Quintero, GSA Communications Committee non-Senate member; Helene Rainville, PBE.

**Summary Notes:**

1. Introductions and overview of executive structure
   * Provost Luzadis explained that Provost is chief academic officer of College, nominally in charge of Teaching and Scholarship; because of interaction with Student Affairs, also involved with co-curricular activities as well as curricular. Title of Exec VP brings in essentially all aspects of College, complete overview. May not be able to answer every question specifically, but can at least direct where it can be addressed or bring it up on our behalf.
   * Also member of Academic Council, along with Dean of Student Affairs, Dean of Graduate School, Dean of Research, Director of College Libraries, and Executive Chair of Academic Governance. Also a member of President’s Full Cabinet. Also a member of President’s Executive Cabinet, which includes VPs, Chief Diversity Officer, and Director(?) of Development Office.
2. GSA-Provost communication
   * Would it be best to form a grad student analog to undergraduate Provost Advisory Council?
   * Would such an analog be populated by GSA or from departments?
   * Either way, GSA and Provost need to have open and active communication. Form some sort of a GSA Provost Council to meet regularly (1-2 times per semester) to discuss grad-relevant topics with Provost Office?
   * Probably don’t need full GSA Senate…probably would be better with a smaller group of students representing the whole.
   * We’ll discuss at next GSA Meeting what’s the best way to facilitate this.
3. Smoke-free campus
   * SU has gone ‘smoke-free’…why hasn’t ESF, and how can we go about raising and endorsing this change?
   * Provost has brought this up to Administration
   * There was some discussion at ESF after SU made the change and it was expected that ESF would follow suit
   * Should GSA make Resolution to Provost, Exec Cabinet, etc?
   * Eugene mentioned that 6 years ago USA sent such a resolution, working jointly with SU’s student organizations. Issues raised internally that if either school did it alone, students would just go to the non-smoke-free campus to smoke. The last we heard was that ESF would do it when SU did it.
   * Bali wondered what the consequences and enforcement would be. Is it a violation of a student’s rights to pass a ban? Wouldn’t designated areas be a more fair solution?
   * All of these questions would need to be discussed and addressed.
   * They’re already not enforcing the ‘no smoking within x feet of the building’ rules on ESF campus.
   * Some have found success by simply asking smokers to move to a different area.
   * We’re not even sure if SU’s smoke-free designation came with any type of enforcement, probably more of just an active discouragement of smoking on campus, which most students will respect.
   * GSA can discuss this at forthcoming meetings. How/do we want to move forward?
4. SCME concerns
   * SCME students hear undertones of rumblings that the program won’t be supported by ESF moving forward and will eventually be cut.
   * Provost explained that yes, we are in financial hardship, and the only way to cut our way out of operational deficit is to cut personnel salary, and pretty much the only way to do that with faculty is to eliminate departments. If ESF was going to cut SCME, it would have been eliminated upon its dissolution, not moved into other departments. The fact that the programs still exist, albeit within other departments, is a show that ESF is committed to maintaining these programs moving forward, just not with their own unique department.
5. Graduate Program realignment
   * What would it look like? What would the process be? How can we avoid the issues that GPES currently faces?
   * One model is faculty who are actively involved in research would be appointed to Graduate Faculty and then form clusters with similar research interests to make up grad programs rather than vertical alignment with undergrad departments.
   * Should this be looked into in the future, we’d need to have open conversation with multiple stakeholders on campus.
   * Is the number of graduate programs more about including the right words from a marketing perspective, or actual viable programs that we need to teach?
   * How could we avoid issues of GPES? We would need to establish a new set of rules/regulations for office and assistantship allocations.
6. GA Allocations
   * Issues with the way GPES students versus their major professor’s home department, especially with GAs. Departments seem to allocate their GAs to their own students first, and then GPES if they have any left over.
   * Eugene came in with RA for 1 year, but evidently that precluded him from being eligible for GPES GA for more than one semester since he was not in the GPES GA pool upon entrance into the program.
   * This is exactly the opposite of how it should be. Students coming in with an RA help everyone. This should be incentivized on the faculty side, and definitely shouldn’t adversely affect the student.
   * Need improvements to the process so that people are not offered GAship within days/weeks of the semester starting. Impossible to plan ahead financially.
   * From grad perspective, we need more open discussion and transparency in the process of GA allocations.
   * Provost recognizes and has engaged in discussions regarding the issues related to the fact that the number of GA positions offered has not increased despite enrollment increases, and the salary per GA is so low that it’s adversely affecting our ability to bring in talented students.
   * Maybe we need a discussion between GSA and the Graduate Council (Dean and Asst Dean of Grad School plus grad curriculum coordinators) so that we can institutionalize some changes/fixes rather than ad hoc fixes and discussions.