

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 16 August, 2004, ROTC 101, 5:30

- I. Call to Order at 5:30
- II. Approval of Agenda - 1st Matt S., 2nd Dave T., no objections
- III. Approval of Minutes - 12 July 2004, 1st Matt S., 2nd Dave T., no objections
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President – Dave Reed, acting dean of grad school would like to meet with GSC
  - B. Vice President - none
  - C. Treasurer – Fiscal yr ended in July, wrapping up 2004, summary coming soon!
  - D. Secretary - none
- V. Committee Chair Reports
  - A. Social – Will be discussing upcoming socials at August 30 meeting.
  - B. Lecture – Out of town (Union rep coming mid to late September)
  - C. Academic - vacant
  - D. Orientation – 4 events for orientation: Beach party 24 August, Quincy mine tour 29 August (need drivers), Nutini's bar social 9PM 3 September, and Hungarian falls hike 4 September. Contact Vishesh at [vkumar@mtu.edu](mailto:vkumar@mtu.edu) if interested in helping with any of these.
  - E. Benefits - none
- VI. Healthcare Report – Email coming soon about health care enrollment for constituents. Anne is checking into comparable insurance subsidies for funded students.
- VII. Liaisons - none
- VIII. Old Business - none
- IX. New Business –
  1. Travel Grants: Only received 7 acceptable presenting and 5 attending applications. GSC normally gives 11 presenting and 2 attending grants for the summer. Motion to change 2 presenting grants to 4 attending grants. 1st-Matt S. 2nd- Vishesh K., no objections.
  2. Travel Grant Winners:
    - a. Attending:
      - i. Karl Haapala MEEM
      - ii. Cynthia Weber HUM
      - iii. Vasul Aleksenko PHY
      - iv. Liangtao Zhu MEEM
    - b. Presenting:
      - i. Sonali Jog CHEM
      - ii. Bakul Dhagat CHEM
      - iii. Anil Ekkati CHEM
      - iv. Melba Apoya BIO
      - v. Melissa Trimbkey ECE
      - vi. Julie Estep HUM
- X. Announcements – Next meeting August 30, pizza party!
- XI. Adjournment at 6:03, 1st Dave T., 2nd Matt S., no objections

Attendance:

Gerald Jalkanen (Mining)  
David Tobias (CEE)  
Vishesh Kumar (MEEM)  
Matt Seguin (Chem)  
Becky Spicer (CEE)  
Charlotte Nemberger (Chem Eng)  
Kiran Khadke (ME)  
Raghav Vanga (Phys)  
Anne Hartingh (Min Econ)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Jerry Ross (MEEM)

Penstei Song (Bio)  
Justin Priestman (Math)

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 30 August, 2004,  
ROTC 101,  
5:30

- I. Call to Order at 5:30
- II. Approval of Agenda - no objections
- III. Approval of Minutes - 16 July 2004, 1st Merle, 2nd Vishesh, no objections
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President - no report
  - B. Vice President - no report
  - C. Treasurer - Fiscal year wrapping up. Investigating 2001 softball bill for softballs supposedly never paid for.
  - D. Secretary - no report
- V. Committee Chair Reports
  - A. Social - no report
  - B. Lecture - Still attempting to get union reps to come
  - C. Academic - vacant if interested, email Justin (jdpriest@mtu.edu)
  - D. Orientation - Thanks for help with first two events! Beach party had approximately 250 attendees. Bar social Friday September 3 9PM. Hungarian Waterfall hike September 4. Vishesh will send email for times. Also, would like to plan some sort of spring orientation social.
  - E. Benefits - Investigating membership into National Association of Graduate Professional Students (NAGPS).
- VI. Healthcare Report - Email: gradins@mtu.edu Office: 4<sup>th</sup> floor administration building. Payroll deduction forms due September 8<sup>th</sup>. Regular insurance enrollment due September 15<sup>th</sup>. Dependent enrollment forms are on the web (go to the GSC webpage and follow the insurance link). Make sure to bring dependent enrollment forms to Anne for her stamp.
- VII. Liaisons - If you would like to be a liaison, contact Justin (jdpriest@mtu.edu)
  - A. Graduate Faculty Council- no large responsibilities, meets once monthly.
  - B. USG- Meets Wednesdays at 7PM in one of the MUB Ballrooms. Justin will continue attending, but others are welcome.
  - C. President's Council for Women- Do not need to be female. Meets...???
  - D. University Senate- Meets every other Wednesday at 5:30PM.
  - E. Computer Fees
  - F. Childcare- Holds meetings at random times.
- VIII. Old Business - none
- IX. New Business -
  - A. NAGPS- see benefits committee report...check out [www.nagps.org](http://www.nagps.org) for next meeting and be ready to vote on whether GSC should start a membership. If you have questions, or are interested contact Matt S. ([mjseguin@mtu.edu](mailto:mjseguin@mtu.edu))
  - B. Cynthia Weber proposed that benefits committee takes on childcare as a new issue. Matt S. asked for more committee members interested in helping with this issue this year.
- X. Announcements -
  - A. Nutini's social Friday September 3, 9 PM. Pizza and pop provided as well as a band.
  - B. Saturday September 4 Hungarian Falls hike...details coming.
  - C. Remember to look at the NAGPS website for next meeting!
  - D. Next meeting Monday September 13 5:30 PM.

XI. Adjournment at 6:11, 1st Dave T., 2nd Vishesh, no objections

Attendance:

Gerald Jalkanen (Mining)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Nikhil Sanyal (MEEM)  
Divyankamt Gupta (EE)  
Prajad Dhame (CS)  
Edward W. Tennant (SS)  
Kiran Khadke (MEEM)  
Matt Seguin (Chem)  
Brandon Dilworth (MEEM)  
Merle Kindred (Hum)  
Vishesh Kumar (MEEM)  
Susan Hemme (Chem)  
Anne Hartingh (Min Econ)  
Justin Chiotti (Bio)  
Matthew Bunce (Hum)  
Deborah Reychil (Bio)  
Nishil Noyor (MEEM)  
Raghav Vanga (Phys)  
Armeda VanDam (GE)  
Cecilia Anderson (GE)  
Karl Haapala (MEEM)  
Julio L. Rivera (ME)  
Kang Ana (MEEM)  
Akshay Patil (MEEM)  
Neil Christopher (Phys)  
Sean Wagner (Geo)  
Catherine Hardison (Chem Eng)  
Himanshu Verma (Phys)  
Richard Vendlinski (CEE)  
Simeet Oswal (MEEM)  
Shantonu Kulhaum (MEEM)  
David Tobias (CEE)  
Cynthia Weber (Hum)  
David Forel (Gems)  
Jerry Ross (MEEM)  
Ashish J. Jangali (MEEM)  
Ablishak Martin (MEEM)  
Zhang Zhang (CS)  
Jon Erstad (Math)  
Akhtau Khom (Math)  
Becky Spicer (CEE)  
Justin Priestman (Math)

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 13 September, 2004,  
ROTC 101,  
5:30

- I. Call to Order at 5:30
- II. Approval of Agenda - no objections
- III. Approval of Minutes - 30 August 2004, 1st Dave T., 2nd Anne H., no objections
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President -
    - a. New GSC rules: When speaking at a meeting, please stand and state your name before speaking for proper minute taking.
    - b. Rep Numbers: There are a total of 833 graduate students this semester. Break down of reps by department were available in the back of the room. There is a 1 rep/department minimum and an additional rep for every 25 grad students/department.
  - B. Vice President - no report
  - C. Treasurer -
    - a. Orientation bills have been paid. The annual summary is coming soon.
    - b. Dave Forel: Requested updated detailed treasurer's report.
      - i. Dave T.: Formal statements are not available because there are too many line items to keep a running total.
      - ii. Dave Forel: Proposed the treasure give a detailed report at each meeting.
      - iii. Jerry Ross: By-laws state that the treasurer shall give a monthly report.
  - D. Secretary - Committee sign-up sheet passed around, every rep must sign up for a committee.
- V. Committee Chair Reports
  - A. Social -
    - a. There will be a social committee meeting directly after this evening's meeting.
    - b. October 8<sup>th</sup> proposed date of end of year season softball social.
    - c. October 7<sup>th</sup> proposed date for football tailgate social.
  - B. Lecture -
    - a. Two workshops coming up:
      - i. Tuesday September 21: please RSVP to Sean (srwagner@mtu.edu) if interested.
      - ii. Next workshop coming in October: TBA.
    - b. Anne Hartingh: Are you still working on bringing in union reps?
      - i. Sean W.: Yes...hopefully by the end of the semester.
  - C. Academic -
    - a. Vacant if interested, email Justin (jdpriest@mtu.edu).
    - b. Fall poster session is tentatively scheduled for October 19.
  - D. Orientation -
    - a. The bar social and waterfall hike were both a success.
    - b. One more orientation social is being planned for spring orientation.
  - E. Benefits -
    - a. NAGPS: Benefits graduate students, but does not seem to benefit our organization through membership. They have a job bank, but it only has three jobs in it. They have lobbied Congress for a tax exemption scholarships used for

room and board, but this benefits all graduate students, not just those who are members.

- i. Matt S. has found similar organizations online and would like the benefits team to pursue looking into this.
- b. Benefits name change: Matt S. has requested that each rep email him with one suggestion for a new benefits team name at mjseguin@mtu.edu.
- c. Cynthia Weber: Bylaws will also need to be changed if childcare is added to the benefits team responsibilities.

#### VI. Healthcare Report -

- A. New office 407A Administration Building.
- B. Office hours will be MTRF 9AM-1PM.
- C. A health Insurance Survey will be coming in October or November.
- D. Cynthia Weber: What can we expect for next year?
  - a. Anne H.: The university wants to take more control of the healthcare, so hopefully there will be less subsidy issues.
  - b. Cynthia: Will there be a better plan?
  - c. Anne: Its too early to know.
  - d. Dave Tobias: Concerned about the changes the university might make.
  - e. Cynthia: Just trying to look forward and decide if it will be necessary to ask the graduate director to help out again.
  - f. Dave T.: Should talk to BOC at next meeting about graduate students contributions vs. subsidy cost to university.
  - g. Vishesh: What about the comparable insurance issues?
  - h. Anne: The dean has control over that, not the herself.
  - i. Jerry: The university tries to discourage students from looking for cheaper comparable insurance because the more students that are on the university policy, the cheaper it can be.
  - j. Vishesh: Can we get healthcare enrollment statistics?
  - k. Anne: Yes, those will be coming
  - l. Cynthia: Propsed to draft a plan of action after the next Benefits Liaison Group meeting.
  - m. Anne: Will be checking with healthcare provider about the high costs of keeping dependents on the plan.

#### VII. Liaisons - If you would like to be a liaison, contact Justin (jdpriest@mtu.edu).

- A. University Senate- Meets twice monthly, Dave Forel will be taking this over for Justin.
- B. USG- no report
- C. SDC- no report

#### VIII. Old Business - none

#### IX. New Business -

- A. Power: Stacey Pilling
  - a. Power would like to request \$600 in support from GSC for this year's snowshoe event on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2005.
    - i. Jerry Ross: What was last year's contribution?
    - ii. Stacey P.: \$500
    - iii. Matt S.: Are there other sponsors?
    - iv. Stacey P.: Most sponsors give prizes or very small monetary donations. Power will also be requesting money from the Parents Fund.
    - v. Jerry R.: Does USG contribute? Will there be any responsibilities?

- vi. Stacey P.: There will be no responsibilities. USG will be asked to donate.
- vii. Jerry: When do you need an answer?
- viii. Stacey P.: By November.
- ix. Jerry: Proposes to look at budget during next meeting.
- x. Justin: The council will review the request.

X. Announcements -

- A. Poster session is coming up tentatively on October 19.
- B. The next meeting will be Monday, September 27.
- C. There will be a workshop on Monday September 21. Email Sean (srwagner@mtu.edu) to RSVP.

XI. Adjournment at 6:30PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Matt S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia W., no objections.

Attendance:

Becky Spicer (CEE)  
Justin Priestman (Math)  
Gerald Jalkanen (Mining)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Ed Tennant (SS)  
Matt Seguin (Chem)  
Brandon Dilworth (MEEM)  
Merle Kindred (Hum)  
Vishesh Kumar (MEEM)  
Susan Hemme (Chem)  
Anne Hartingh (Min Econ)  
Matthew Bunce (Hum)  
Akshay Patil (MEEM)  
Laura Kruger (SFRES)  
Sean Wagner (Geo)  
Catherine Hardison (Chem Eng)  
Richard Vendlinski (CEE)  
David Tobias (CEE)  
Cynthia Weber (Hum)  
David Forel (Gems)  
Jerry Ross (MEEM)  
Jon Erstad (Math)  
Akhtar Khan (Math)  
Kiran Khadke (MEEM)  
Rashov Vanga (Phys.)

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 27 September, 2004,  
ROTC 101,5:30

I. Call to Order at 5:30

II. Approval of Agenda - no objections

III. Approval of Minutes - 13 September 2004, 1st Dave T., 2nd Anne H.,  
no objections

IV. Officer Reports

A. President -

- a. Anne and Justin met with Provost Ray about subsidy changes. The subsidy was changed to force students getting outside health insurance to pay at least what supported grad students on the university plan pay before being subsidized for outside insurance. Before the subsidy should have worked the same way, but there was an oversight, and the mistake was corrected with the new subsidy.
- b. Travel Grants applications are due October 8 at 5PM in the Blue Room. There have already been problems with applications that have not been properly filled out. The most common mistake is not including proof of a conference acceptance. Make sure that constituents know this! All improper applications will be ineligible.
- c. 3 Ad hoc committees will be formed at the next meeting. If interested, sign up at the next meeting.
  - i. Constitution and bylaws amendment committee will be lead by Becky Spicer.
  - ii. Childcare committee will be lead by Cynthia Weber.
  - iii. Healthcare committee will be lead by Matt Seguin.
- d. Jill Pietilla is retiring. She worked in admissions for the graduate school.
  - i. Anne H.: There will be a tea reception for her on September 30 at 2PM in the Blue Room.

B. Vice President - no report

C. Treasurer -

- a. Fiscal Year Summary: The fiscal year started in 2003 and ended June 30, 2004. Budget line items have been organized by committees plus a few extra line items including: Annual Graduate Student Awards, Administration, and POWER (one time donation). We were overbudget by approximately \$2800 because of the purchase of new posterboards for fall poster session.
  - i. Rick V.: Where did that money come from?
  - ii. Dave T.: It was carryover from previous years. We have approximately \$5000-\$20000 in "padding."
- b. The graduate school also usually gives GSC \$15,000 for travel grant awards. We have not gotten this, but it is expected to be an oversight. Dave is looking into this.
- c. Monthly budget report: The monthly budget was shown which included spending to date. The budget was updated as of August 31, 2004. There will be a lag in this budget because of processing time required for purchases.

D. Secretary - no report

V. Committee Chair Reports

A. Social -

- a. There will be a end of softball season social on October 9 at Nutini's at 8PM. Pizza and pop will be provided, as well as a trophy presentation to this year's winning team. There



will also be a 5:30 softball game. Flyers will be printed. Please copy and post in your departments.

- i. Dave T.: Will this social be exclusive to those who played softball?
  - ii. Jerry: No, everyone is welcome to come.
  - b. A bowling league is a new option for this winter. It would start in January. Any suggestions on what nights would be good?
    - i. Cynthia W.: Wednesday nights are good nights.
- B. Lecture -
- i. Not present. Justin P.: NSF workshop was a success with nearly 20 participants.
- C. Academic -
- a. The poster session is being pushed back. The Rosza is being contacted to see if it will be available November 9 or 10. Flyer will be prepared. Please print and post in your departments.
  - b. Printing for poster session is the student's responsibility. There are links in the GSC webpage for printing options.
    - i. Dave T.: Each department needs to get 3 judges for this event. Think of asking around.
- D. Orientation - no report
- E. Benefits -
- a. Remember to sign up for the benefits committee.
  - b. There have not been any suggestions for new benefits team names. If you have any, email Matt ([mjseguin@mtu.edu](mailto:mjseguin@mtu.edu)).
  - c. Please remember to send out emails to your constituents about filling out travel grants properly!

VI. Liaisons -

A. University Senate-

- a. Approved: Proposal 51-04, Criteria for Financial Evaluation of New Academic Programs.
- b. Approved: Proposal 1-05, Academic Calendar for 2005-06.
- c. The University Senate also:
  - a. Passed out a report: Tentative 2004-05 University Senate Committees.
  - b. Approved: University Senate Committee members:
    - i. Academic Integrity Committee: Hugh Gorman
    - ii. Athletic Council: Larry Lankton and Larry Sutter's names will be sent to the President for his selection.
    - iii. Computer Executive Committee: Judy Endsley name will be sent to the President for his selection.
    - iv. Conflict of Interest Committee: decision postponed.
    - v. Distance Learning Implementation Committee: Michael Gretz.
    - vi. Faculty Distinguished Service Award Committee: Sylvia Matthews.
    - vii. Scientific Misconduct Inquiry Committee: Brad King (1st) Jim Loman (2nd).
    - viii. Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation Board: Terry Monson.
    - ix. Presidential Commission for Women: Dana Johnson.
    - x. Sabbatical Leave Committee: John Williams.

B. USG-

- a. There will be a student leadership conference sometime in November.
- C. President's Commission on Substance Abuse
  - a. Not much was accomplished at this meeting. On October 6 there will be a comedic program on substance abuse at the Rosza at 7PM. It will be free.
- D. Other- no report
- VII. Old Business -
  - a. POWER
    - i. The eboard recommends giving POWER \$500 for the snowshoe event.
      - 1. Matt S. motions, Anne H. 2nd
      - 2. Rick V.: What did they request?
      - 3. Justin: \$600, but have \$350 carryover, so they need less. They will break even with our proposed support.
      - 4. Dave T.: POWER sponsors peer to peer counseling services on alcohol abuse, date rape, etc. Grad students make up 1/3 of event. This is the largest grad student participation of any event.
      - 5. Approval: no objections-\$500 passes.
- VIII. New Business -
  - A. Anne:
    - a. Insurance cards are coming.
      - i. Kiran Khadke: Do you have numbers yet?
      - ii. Anne : not yet, but I will get them. **(These are the numbers Anne has gotten. As of September 16th there are 253 supported students on our health.)**
      - iii. Kiran: Provost Ray decided the subsidy?
      - iv. Justin: Administration decided subsidies.
      - v. Kiran: How did they get \$475?
      - vi. Anne: That is the difference between the cost of the plan and the subsidy. This is what supported students have to pay.
      - vii. Kiran: \$475 is still a burden.
      - viii. Justin: Will be looking into this on committees.
      - ix. Jerry R.: GSC requires all students to have insurance, not the school.
      - x. Anne: Provost wanted everyone to pay the same so it is fair to all grad students.
      - xi. Dave T.: A resolution is to join this committee and try to help.
- X. Announcements - none
- XI. Adjournment at 6:30PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Anne H. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave T., no objections.

Attendance:

Becky Spicer (CEE)  
 Justin Priestman (Math)  
 Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
 Ed Tennant (SS)  
 Matt Seguin (Chem)  
 Merle Kindred (Hum)  
 Susan Hemme (Chem)  
 Anne Hartingh (Min Econ)  
 Richard Vendlinski (CEE)  
 David Tobias (CEE)

Cynthia Weber (Hum)  
David Forel (Gems)  
Jerry Ross (MEEM)  
Kiran Khadke (MEEM)  
Raghav Vanga (Phys.)  
Charli Nurnburger (Chem Eng)  
Nana Teboaa Opuni-Frimpong (Forestry)  
Justin Chiotti (Bio)  
Michelle Manarolla (SFRES)  
Nick Nanninga (MSE)  
Pat Quimby (MSE)  
Fuyu Xu (Forestry)  
Nikhil Sayal (MEEM)

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 11 October, 2004,  
ROTC 101,5:30

I. Call to Order at 5:30

II. Approval of Agenda - no objections

III. Approval of Minutes - 27 September 2004, 1st Anne H., 2nd Vishesh K., no objections

IV. Officer Reports

A. President -

a. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Everyone must sign up for a committee. A sign up sheet was passed around. The committees and chairs are: Healthcare-Matt Seguin, Childcare-Cynthia Weber, Constitution/Bylaws-Justin

b. Secretary

- i. The secretary has resigned due to early graduation, If anyone is interested in taking over contact Justin (jdpriest@mtu.edu) . The secretary's duties include meeting minutes, constitution amendments, GSC list email management, and organization of committees.
  1. Michelle Manarolla volunteered to take over this position. Voting will be held at the next meeting to give her sometime to learn more about the duties.

B. Vice President - not present

C. Treasurer - not present

D. Secretary - Sign up for committees after the meeting if you haven't already.

V. Committee Chair Reports

A. Social -

a. Softball Social

- i. The social was a large success. The group played softball, then the softball trophy was awarded to the Physics softball team at Nutini's.

b. Bash at the Big House

- i. The social team may rent a van to go to Bash at the Big House the first weekend in November.
  1. Cynthia Weber: What is Bash at the Big House?
  2. Jerry: There will be a football game at the University of Michigan in an attempt to break the Division II attendance record.
  3. Rick: Will lodging be the student's responsibility?
  4. Jerry: Yes. Also, drivers will be needed and will receive a free meal for their time.
  5. Michelle M.: Cost of renting vans is approximately \$.42/mile.
  6. Jerry: Details will be worked out.
  7. Justin: Also there is a women's volleyball game and a men's basketball game there the same weekend.
  8. Jerry: Lists of local hotels will be put together for those interested.

B. Lecture -

- i. Laura is still working on meeting with union reps. She and Sean will be meeting with someone at Michigan State over Thanksgiving to discuss our options.

- C. Academic -
  - a. The poster session flyers are in the back of the room, please take and distribute or hang in your departments. Also, remember to talk to your faculty about judging.
- D. Orientation -
  - a. Vishesh has created an orientation chair duties list for next year. Please look at it and comment while it is being passed around.
- E. Benefits - not present
- VI. Liaisons -
  - A. Board of Control-
    - a. Took place last Thursday morning (October 7). Talked about the effects on the senate of the faculty unionizing. The senate did not get a 2/3 vote to allow constitutional changes, so if it this does not pass the senate will only be non-tenure faculty and staff.
      - i. Cynthia Weber: How is the president search coming?
      - ii. Justin: Mroz has been offered a two year position until a new president can be found.
  - B. University Senate- not present
  - C. USG-
    - a. GSC no longer has a vote on USG.
  - D. President's Commission on Women
    - a. Anne: If interest there is a position open. The deal with women's issues at the university.
  - E. Grad Faculty Council
    - a. Met last Tuesday, put together 3 standing committees. If interested in being on one, we are allowed to hold positions on them.
- VII. Old Business - none
- VIII. New Business -
  - a. Travel Grant Winners:
    - a. 2 attending:
      - i. Shobha Ravipaty (Chem.)
      - ii. Vasyl Aleksenko (Phys.)
    - b. 23 attending:
      - i. Brian Beachy (Forestry)
      - ii. Anne Collins (Forestry)
      - iii. Karen Springsteen (HU)
      - iv. Alex Ilyasova (HU)
      - v. Ryan DeSantis ((Forestry)
      - vi. Xioayue Huang (Phys.)
      - vii. Thomas Vosecky (HU)
      - viii. Jennifer Griggs (Forestry)
      - ix. Cynthia Weber (HU)
      - x. Barry Garchow (Chem.)
      - xi. Emily Calhoon (Forestry)
      - xii. Fang Guo (MEEM)
      - xiii. Jason Makela (MEEM)
      - xiv. Sonali Jog (Chem.)
      - xv. Katherine Kruse (SS)
      - xvi. Fenobia Dallas (HU)
      - xvii. Fanny Casado-Pena (Forestry)
      - xviii. Tumul Gupta (MEEM)
      - xix. Xianren Wu (EEE)
      - xx. Peter Hurley (Forestry)
      - xxi. Bowen Li (EMSE)

- xxii. Sarah Brouder-Campbell (Forestry)
- xxiii. Ed Tennant (SS)

X. Announcements -

- a. Next meeting October 25. Remember to sign up for ad hoc committees.

XI. Adjournment at 6:00PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry R. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne H., no objections.

Attendance:

Becky Spicer (CEE)  
Jerry Ross (MEEM)  
Laura Kruger (Forestry)  
Ed Tennant (SS)  
Justin Priestman (Math)  
Vishesh Kumar (MEEM)  
Anne Hartingh (MinEc)  
Rick Vendlinski (CEE)  
Gerald Jalkanen (Mining)  
Brandon Dilworth (MEEM)  
Matthew Bunce (HU)  
Deborah Rajchel (Bio)  
Raghav Vanga (Phys)  
Susan Hemme (Chem)  
Iman Blyther (Business)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Nick Nanninga (MSE)  
Akhtar Khan (MA)  
Michelle Manarolla (SFRES)  
Tumul Gupta (MEEM)  
Jon Erstad (Math)  
Eli Ochshorn (Phys)  
Cynthia Weber (HU)  
Zhang Zhang (CS)

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting Monday, 8 November, 2004,  
ROTC 101,5:30

- I. Call to Order at 5:30
- II. Approval of Agenda - No objections
- III. Approval of Minutes – 11 October, 2004; one amendment regarding attendance; minutes approved
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President – Justin Priestman
    - a. Liaison to Student Computing Fees Subcommittee: The committee is looking for a volunteer to sit on the committee which meets once for 2-3 hours. No volunteers.
  - B. Vice President – Merle Kindred
    - a. First Contact program; not all departments represented as of yet.
      - i. Dave Tobias: '1<sup>st</sup> Contact is for whom?'
      - ii. Merle Kindred: For those students who have been sent letters of acceptance.
  - C. Treasurer – Dave Tobias
    - a. No account activity since last meeting so no changes to budget presentation
  - D. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - a. No report
- V. Committee Chair Reports
  - A. Social – Jerry Ross (not present)
    - a. Van to Bash at the Big House was a big success
  - B. Lecture – Sean Wagner
    - a. No updates
  - C. Academic – Ed Tennant
    - a. Poster Session this Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
    - b. Presentations will be judged (3 judges) from 2:00 – 4:00
    - c. Awards ceremony will be held in the ROTC Blue Room on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 p.m. Wine and cheese will be provided. Open to all GSC council and select faculty will be invited.
  - D. Benefits – See (E. Health Care)
  - E. Health Care – Matt Seguin
    - a. Need a volunteer to handle the issue with grad/PhD students graduation requirements for walking in graduation ceremony
    - b. At last Health Care Meeting:
      - i. Need to decide on a meeting time. Committee members please stay after to fill in available times
      - ii. Shopko and Walmart do not recognize the current grad school prescription drug plan. Issue is being worked on within the committee
      - iii. Looking at putting out another survey on health care re: grad student opinions and ideas

1. Dave Tobias: Last years web survey? Matt: No very applicable since it's last years' data.

## VI. Liaisons –

### A. University Senate – Dave Forel

- a. Discussed the issue of the University Senate constitution excluding unionized members. Currently, there is no University Senate, but a new organization/committee has been formed as the 'Presidential Advisory Committee' and is to write a new constitution and serve a similar (if not the same) purpose as the former University Senate.
  - i. The new constitution will be very similar to the old University Senate constitution however it will exclude the 'problematic' clause regarding unionized staff and faculty members.
- b. There was a motion to allow a course work only Masters to not ave an oral component. This motion was defeated.
- c. There was a motion to allow a course work only Masters to not have an outside committee member. This motion was defeated.
- d. A minor re-write of the 2000 Strategic Plan was approved.
- e. There was discussion of the investment portfolio of the R&I Account Reserves Funds. This money, currently around \$7,000,000 is held in case MTU becomes insolvent. The proposal is to approve the shift of the stock and bond accounts into mutual funds and discuss who will oversee the accounts and when the account report will be made.

### B. USG – Justin Priestman

- a. Revised bi-laws regarding USG's ability to freeze certain special organizations budgets.

### C. Grad Faculty Council – Justin Priestman

- a. Looking to resubmit the Plan C changes regarding coursework option masters students need to include an oral presentation to the Presidential Advisory Committee (formerly University Senate).
  - i. Merle Kindred: May have something to do with distance learning.
  - ii. Justin Priestman: Need to know what GSC as a whole feels about the issue. Should it be up to the Department, University or on a case-by-case basis to decide whether or not course work option Masters students must do an oral presentation to complete their degree requirements? Please ask your respected departments how they feel. Expect an email from Justin with more details.

## VII. Old Business – none

## VIII. New Business –

- A. No Parking from 2:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. in any campus lots. If you will be on campus during this time, call public safety to advise them as to where you're parked to avoid being ticketed.



- a. Open Discussion: Why is this? To better facilitate plowing needs once snow falls. May need to take up issues with public safety.

X. Announcements –

- A. Merle and Justin will be attending a MUB expansion meeting in the near future. Stay tuned for details.
- B. Matt Seguin: Feels that GSC may need to designate a Library liaison to handle issues with book returns/drop boxes/late fees. Issue to be brought up within the Academic Committee.
- C. Next meeting October 25. Remember to sign up for ad hoc committees.

XI. Adjournment at 6:30PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Justin Priestman 2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Manarolla, no objections.

Attendance:

Michelle Manarolla (Forestry)  
Becky Spicer (CEE)  
Laura Kruger (Forestry)  
Sean Wagner (Geo)  
Kurt Mensching (Business)  
Ed Tennant (SS)  
Justin Priestman (Math)  
Merle Kindred (Hum)  
Gerald Jalkanen (Mining)  
Richard Vendlinski (CEE)  
Brandon Dilworth (MEEM)  
Nick Nanninga (MSE)  
Susan Hemme (Chem)  
David Forel (GMES)  
Akhtar Khan (MA)  
Jon Erstad (Math)  
Jaihind Reddy Maddi (MatSci)  
Eli Ochshorn (Phys)  
Akshay Patil (MEEM)  
Kiram Khadke (MEEM)  
Dave Tobias (CEE)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Nana Opuni-Frimpong (Forestry)  
Raghav Vanga (Phys)

Excused:

Vishesh Kumar (MEEM)  
Shankar Raj Ghimire (EE)

Ammendments:

E. b. iii. 1. The surveys from last year are not applicable because we wanted data from comparable sized schools without health care centers and last years data includes schools with health care centers.

Dave Tobias moved to adjourn, not Justin Priestman

Excused:

Deborah A. Rajchel

Cynthia Weber

Jerry Ross

Anne Hartingh

Meeting Minutes for General Council Meeting  
December 6th, 2004, ROTC 101, 5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order at 5:30
- II. Approval of Agenda – Quorum not made
- III. Approval of Minutes – 8 November 2004 - Quorum not made
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Board of Control Meeting scheduled for Friday, December 10. Suggested that GSC addresses the fact that graduate TA stipends are lower than 40 to 50 comparable Universities. Justin to investigate data.
    - ii. Justin will be sending an email out to the GSC list in the near future in an attempt to assess overall graduate 'happiness.' Replies will be strongly encouraged
  - b. Vice President – Merle Kindred
    - i. First Contact Program: Working with administrative assistant to work out some of the program complications.
    - ii. Student Computing Fees Committee: Will meet with them on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. As of now, most departments are not increasing their lab fees significantly (\$2-\$10) Any comments, email [mekindre@mtu.edu](mailto:mekindre@mtu.edu)  
Dave Tobias: *Do the dorms and Danielle Heights have their own computers?*  
Justin Priestman: No  
The idea of a common computing lab was brought up in discussion among various members of the GSC and USG President Phil Ribiero added: *There are no common labs mainly because of specific programs required by individual departments.*
  - c. Treasurer – Dave Tobias
    - i. Travel Grant Money: Met with David Reed and the \$15,000 owed to GSC from the 2003 – '04 school year has been transferred and the additional \$15,000 due for the 2004 – '05 school year will be transferred in a couple of weeks to avoid administrative and system complications.
    - ii. Monthly Budget Report – Changes include the last of the orientation week charges, lecture and social committee expenditures and the benefits committee travel grant expenses.
  - d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - i. Excused absences will only be accepted until 7:00 PM on the day of a GSC meeting. Any excuses after 7:00 will not be excused. Exceptions to this will be on a case by case basis. If you know you will be absent, please email me, not the President or other member of GSC, at [mtmanaro@mtu.edu](mailto:mtmanaro@mtu.edu).
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross (absent)
    - i. This Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> GSC will be hosting a bowling social from 9:00 – whenever at the Copper Bowl Lanes in Hancock. Lanes will be reserved and the cost is \$10/person and includes unlimited bowling.
    - ii. Looking into organizing a GSC/grad student bowling league. Details to come.
  - b. Lecture – Sean Wagner
    - i. Visited MSU campus to talk with their GSC union members
    - ii. Plan to invite Union representatives from other universities to MTU next semester to further evaluate the prospect of unionizing.
  - c. Academic – Ed Tennant (absent)
  - d. Benefits – Matt Seguin
    - i. Library Book Return: Presented the issue that no form of validation exists when students return books to the library. Currently, several

students have been wrongfully charged \$100 in lost book fees when the books have actually been returned. Matt is looking for ideas on how the library and student can validate that a book was returned. Receipt stamping on return or email notification were suggested. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments on this issue, please email Matt at [mjseguin@mtu.edu](mailto:mjseguin@mtu.edu)

Laura Kruger: *Is there a library board?*

Matt: *There used to be, but I'm not sure if it's still around. I'll check into it.*

- ii. Overnight Parking: No lot can be designated as an overnight parking and anyone that will be on campus beyond 2:00 AM must call public safety.

Merle Kindred: *If you change locations on campus you have to call back and let them know where you are so they can get a hold of you if you need to move your car.*

Sean Wagner: *What about the lag between terms where we didn't have lot access?*

Matt: *Public safety mixed up and they're sorry. It won't happen again. However, permit only valid between semester for the same lot.*

e. Health Care – Matt Seguin

- i. Will be setting up due dates for health care committee assignments
- ii. Next semester, will re-administer the health care survey.

Anne Hartingh: *On a side note: If you've paid your health care bill up through fall and not yet for spring, you will have 30 days into next semester to pay for the spring semester. The Help Desk will maintain regular hours through the end of next week and will be gone over Christmas holiday, and back next semester.*

GSC Question: *Have you met with the health care representative?*

Anne: *No, I just call on the phone to discuss issues as they are brought up.*

f. Child Care – Cynthia Weber

- i. Met with the University about 1 month ago and it seems there is evidence of the first positive movement towards getting a child care center. Currently the University is looking for places to convert to a childcare facility and the head of the University childcare committee to meet with President Mroz in the next few months to further discuss the issue.

Anne Hartingh: *What about the old president's house?*

Cynthia: *It can't be used because of safety and location (zoning restrictions). Another idea is converting several apartments in Danielle Heights or retro-fitting some rooms in some of the new buildings on campus. All in all, this is the first positive push from the administration. Eventually the University will need day care facilities to be competitive with other universities.*

Dave Tobias: *ABET (Engineering Accreditation) did they say they need it to attract minority and women faculty?*

Cynthia: *No, they just asked if its available. No, day care isn't necessarily conducive to attracting women and faculty.*

Dave Tobias: *I think we need a bar on campus to attract single people!*

Matt: *Any benefit to grad students?*

Cynthia: *Absolutely, it will be open to faculty and students. Working on getting grad student scholarships to send kids to preschool because it's (community preschool) is so expensive.*

g. Constitution – Justin Priestman

- i. Made some significant changes to the way elections will be run and will bring them up in greater detail in January.

V. Liaisons

a. Presidential Advisory Committee – David Forel

- i. University Senate formed a new committee; critical vote: should the University Senate be faculty only? Have separate chambers for faculty and staff? Or, be one whole unit of faculty and staff? Voted to have one unit and not subdivide into separate faculty and staff chambers. There will be negligible changes to the new constitution and those changes will be presented at the Board of Control meeting in the Spring. The committee will also be asking faculty and staff campus wide to ratify the new constitution and claim that the reason it didn't pass ratification before was because people didn't understand the changes and were uncertain.
    - b. USG – Justin Priestman
      - i. To be discussed in New Business
    - c. SDC – Dave Tobias
      - i. Attended the semi-Annual SDC advisory board meeting which consists of members of USG, GSC, a career center rep. and various arms of the SDC. Bulk of the long agenda included feedback surveys. Also, projects to the SDC: replacing lighting in the gyms (overall cost savings) and new roof installment (old roof to be patched to last 5-8 until savings fund can budget for total cost of replacement). SDC money comes from the student support fee; half of which is saved and half of which goes toward building maintenance.  
Phil Ribiero: *SDC asked students and the students voted years ago to levee the fee to the students.*  
Dave: *I thought our fee was to bring in new things and not to replace broken windows and pay for broken windows?*  
Phil: *It's hard to improve things when upkeep is so much and they take in so little.*  
Dave: *The University should pay for the upkeep, not the students.*  
Dave Forel: *What about the weight room expansion, the gymnastics room disappeared. Doesn't the University care about a gymnastics team?*  
Travis Hutchins (USG Rep): *The gymnastics room wasn't used and the weight room was used a lot more.*  
Rick Vendlinski: *The gymnastics equipment moved to Gates and is used there by students and community*  
Dave Tobias: *If you have any other concerns about the SDC, contact me.*
- VI. Old Business
- a. Commencement issue for grad students – Rick Vendlinski
    - i. Met with the Assistant Dean of the Grad School and he was very receptive and agreed that the rules for walking and commencements are too strict. GSC needs to put together a proposal to teh Grad Faculty Council and have them make a request to the Dean of the Grad School to loosen the requirements by modifying the official documents.
  - b. Plan C Masters – Justin Priestman
    - i. Sent out the information to GSC from other schools with a Plan C masters. Asking GSC opinion. GEO Dept: No opinion; Math: Prefer decision be left to the department. Overall conclusion: GSC position on the issue will be to let departments decide.
- VII. New Business
- a. USG Resolution 82-2004 – Travis Hutchins (USG Rep):
    - i. Essentially looking at making teacher and TA evaluations public and is asking GSC's opinion and support.  
General Conversation: *Discussed the Freedom of Information Act, first year TA's, written portion of evaluations not being included, slander factor, grad students necessarily being published, and duration of TA*

*teaching period being a factor of whether or not to publish evaluations. General conclusions, GSC would support and Merle Kindred volunteered to work w/ Travis, given certain provisions for grad students.*

- b. SOAR – Phil Ribiero (USG President):
  - i. USG is looking at restructuring how student organizations are represented as well as how student activity fees are allocated and monitored. USG is in preliminary talks on how to reorganize USG to better manage the workload and high budget. Is looking to work with GSC to address similar concerns of undergrads and grad students. USG is too busy to make new changes and given the current membership, is barely managing to keep up with their current operations. Restructuring suggestions include dividing USG into two groups: one for lobbying on campus for changes and one for maintaining and following up on budget, fees, and daily operating activities.  
General Discussion: *Question asked on how and why GSC would be involved? Phil responded, that USG is looking for a more unified voice to the administration. Recognizing the differences in needs of undergrads and grad students, but would still like the GSC input. Question brought up as to why USG can't just increase the number of voting reps (currently 6 elected representatives from each class) and in response, there are barely enough people that want to get involved and it's hard enough to get the six reps in the first place. In conclusion, if you have any input or would like to be involved, email Justin Priestman.*

- VIII. Anneouncements
  - a. Next meeting: January 10, **2005** at 5:30 PM
- IX. Adjournment

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Manarolla (SFRES)  
David Tobias (CEE)  
Laura Kruger (SFRES)  
Sean Wagner (GEO)  
Anne Hartingh (MINEC)  
Justin Priestman (MATH)  
Merle Kindred (HUM)  
Matt Seguin (CHEM)  
Richard Vendlinski (CEE)  
Akhtar Khan (MATH)  
Deborah Rajchel (BIO)  
Brandon Dilworth (MEEM)  
David Forel (GMES)  
Jon Erstad (MATH)  
Nick Nanninga (MSE)  
Susan Hemme (CHEM)  
Akshay Patil (MEEM)  
Raghav Vanga (PHY)  
Shu Chiang Yat (CHENG)  
Venkata Lakkireddy (MEEM)  
Cynthia Weber (HUM)

Excused Absences:

Ed Tennant  
Jerry Ross  
Sam Bhatnagar  
Nana Opunifrimpong

Kiran Khadke  
Vishesh Kumar  
Matt Bunce  
Shankar Raj Ghimire

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Elimination of item X.c. Election of Lecture Chair Matthew Bunce
  - b. Addition by Sean Wagner of 'Happiness Survey' in New Business as item X.f.
  - c. Agenda approved as amended
- III. Approval of Minutes for 10 January 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Healthcare Update: HC survey was sent out and all are strongly encouraged to complete and return and to encourage all your constituents to do the same. Please do so by no later than 1-31-05. Hope to have some preliminary results by next meeting on 2-7-05.
    - ii. Provost Search Committee: We need to elect one rep. and one alternate for the Provost Search Committee
      1. Dave Forel volunteered to assume position
      2. Alternate Position: Still open
    - iii. Travel Grant Application: Due 2-18-05. All reps need to help their departments fill out the applications correctly. No incorrect or late grant app.'s will be accepted. Expect an email w/ the application link.
    - iv. MUB Planning Committee: Rep. Justin Priestman summarizes; MUB expansion plan was presented to the MTU executive committee and returned for revisions citing cost of expansion is currently too high.
    - v. President Mroz's Commission on Substance Abuse: Need a rep to meet on GSC behalf to meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month for approx. 1 hour. Any interested individuals please email Justin at [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu) (Ammended 1/26 from: *President Mroz's Substance Abuse Committee*)
    - vi. Brief discussion regarding health care concerns from MEEM rep. Kiran Khadke regarding the process of finding new HC companies and individual unhappiness with survey questions. Response from Anne Hartingh that survey was presented to Admin and the Benefits Dept. for review before survey was sent out. Email concerns to Ann at [amhartin@mtu.edu](mailto:amhartin@mtu.edu)
  - b. Vice Present - Position Vacant
  - c. Treasurer - Dave Tobias
    - i. Budget Review for 12-1-04 through 12-31-04
      1. New costs include Academic Team expenditures for the Poster session Rosza rental and awards, Benefits



Team cost for travel grants, and Public Relations cost for flowers donated to the Cho family.

- d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
  - i. New sign in sheet to help sort out department reps and committees
  - ii. In order for a rep to be excused from a GSC meeting, communication to the Secretary ([mtmanaro@mtu.edu](mailto:mtmanaro@mtu.edu)) must be made prior to 6:00 pm on the night of the meeting. All other absences will be documented as unexcused
- V. Graduate School Dean – Dr. Martyn Smith
  - a. Realized HC and Child Care (CC) are the two major concerns of GSC and hopes to make progress on both while in his position.
  - b. Hopes to initiate programs that will generate funding for GSC and possibly for HC or CC.
  - c. Feel free to contact at any time with questions or concerns. Available to go snowshoeing or skiing in the event that an extended discussion is necessary.
- VI. Acting Provost – Dr. David Reed
  - a. Graduate Stipend Limits: Looking for GSC opinion on removing the cap on graduate student stipends. Current stipend cap is 1.5 times the minimum stipend level.
  - b. Wants to make the option available to offer prospective students stipend amounts comparable to NSF or other grant stipend levels.
  - c. General Council concerns, D.Reed's response in (): Should raise the minimum stipend rather than the cap (The minimum is a budget issue); Do the NSF and other estimate factor in tuition as part of the total (No); Why is there a cap to begin with (Not sure); Is this something that affects <5 students/year? If we raise the RA stipend we, the students, and the university both make more money (Yes, but there's at least one department on campus that has all its grad students making 1.5X the stipend already); Who's or what is driving this removal of the cap (I am, mainly because of the exemption issue in the event of a stipend exceeding 1.5X).
- VII. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross
    - i. did not get a great response for the bowling league, so he'll be putting a sign up at the Copper Bowl in Ripley. Any interested grad students can email either him or their dept. rep to get on a team. Expected to have individual departmental fliers w/ reps name and email to help organize teams and recruit more bowlers. Would like to have teams set w/in a week and half.
  - b. Lecture – Vacant
  - c. Academic – Vacant
  - d. Benefits – Matt Seguin

- i. Will have a committee meeting on Monday, January 31, 2005 at 5:00 in the ROTC 101 for HC and Benefits Committees. Please attend.
- VIII. Liaisons
  - a. University Advisory Group – Dave Forel
    - i. Staff and Faculty will be voting this week on Senate issues
  - b. USG – Justin Priestman
    - i. USG looking at raising Student Activity Fees; Does not affect grad students
  - c. Others – None
- IX. Old Business
  - a. Commencement Requirements – Rick Vendlinski
    - i. Still working on getting the University to lighten the requirements in order to let grad students participate in the graduation ceremony prior (<1 semester) to their official completion. Will be submitting a proposal to the Graduate Faculty Committee at their next meeting and will have updates on this next meeting.
- X. New Business
  - a. Election of Vice President
    - i. Debbie Rajchel – Brief speech, no discussion; voted in as new GSC VP
  - b. Election of Academic Chair
    - i. Nick Nanninga - Brief speech, no discussion; voted in as new GSC *Academic Chair* (ammended from VP)
  - c. Approval of Reps. to Graduate Dean Search Committee
    - i. Representative: Justin Priestman; APPROVED
    - ii. Alt. Rep: Nick Nanninga; APPROVED
  - d. Constitution and Bylaws Updates – Justin Priestman
    - i. Needs to be tabled until we can vote next week
    - ii. Council concerns regarding the number of reps allowed per dept. Currently Constitution states 1 Rep/25 grad students with at least 1 and an additional 1 per increment of 25. Concern that this may be too many and an issue with GSC not always attaining quorum. Will keep Constitution as it is to get it approved next meeting, but will look into changing the number of reps/dept. based on dept. grad numbers.\
  - e. Sean Wagner – Happiness Survey
    - i. Presented survey to evaluations general grad student happiness. General council formatting suggestions on survey. Based on survey results will continue with looking at getting a Union rep in to talk with GSC.
- XI. Announcements
  - a. Next Meeting: February 7, 2005
  - b. Bigfoot Snowshoe Event February 5, 2005
  - c. ESC Speaker February 24 – 25<sup>th</sup> (GSC sponsored event)

- XII. Adjournment  
a. Motion to Adjourn; Second; Adjourned

AMMENDMENTS:

Section IV:

i. President Mroz's Commission on Substance Abuse: Need a rep to meet on GSC behalf to meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month for approx. 1 hour. Any interested individuals please email Justin at [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu) (Ammended 1/26 from: *President Mroz's Substance Abuse Committee*)

Section V

i. Nick Nanninga - Brief speech, no discussion; voted in as new *GSC Academic Chair* (ammended from *VP*)

ATTENDENCE:

M. Manarolla – SFRES  
M. Bunce – HU  
R. Pokharel – SFRES  
T. Arron Kotlensky – SS  
Brandon Dilworth – MEEM  
Kiran Khadke – MEEM  
Vishesh Kumar – MEEM  
Dan Adler – MEEM  
Deborah Rajchel – BIO  
Susan Hemme – CHEM  
David Forel – GMES  
Sean Wagner – GMES  
Anne Hartingh – MIN ECON  
Gerald Jalkanen – MINING  
Jon Erstad – MATH  
Akhtar Khan – MATH  
Cynthia Weber – HU  
Sumeet Oswal – MEEM  
Brian Ott – CHEM ENG  
Brian Beachy – SFRES  
Raghav Vanga – PHYSICS  
Jim Nugent – HU  
Nick Nanninga – MSE  
Jerry Ross – ME  
David Tobias – CEE  
Matt Seguin – CHEM  
Justin Priestman - MATH

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Addition of items a. and b. in New Business
  - b. Agenda approved as amended
- III. Approval of Minutes for 24 January 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Will be working on a speaker list to help maintain order and efficiency of GSC meetings
    - ii. Travel Grants are due by 5:00 pm on February 18, 2005 and can be placed in the mailbox outside ROTC 101.
    - iii. All of GSC is invited to a dinner with President Mroz on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:00 pm in the MUB Ballroom B. Dave Forel – Note this may conflict with a University Senate meeting
  - b. Vice Present – Deborah Rajchel
    - i. Working on the 1<sup>st</sup> contact program and will be sending out an email to those who have volunteered under the former Vice President. Expect the email towards the end of this week. She will be looking for additional volunteers for those departments that don't have a 1<sup>st</sup> contact representative.
  - c. Treasurer - Dave Tobias (Absent)
    - i. No Report
  - d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - i. No Report
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross
    - i. Bowling league will not be happening this semester due to being 10 people short of the required 30. Will be organizing a monthly bowling event to any grad student that wants to come. Stay tuned for details.
      1. Curling suggested as a social activity
    - ii. Social committee should expect an email regarding an upcoming Social meeting to decide on a social event for February.
  - b. Lecture – Vacant
  - c. Academic – Nick Nanninga
    - i. Regarding last week's concern on purchase of library books by the library; investigation into the process showed that each department is allotted a given amount of money at the beginning of the year to put towards the purchase of books for the library. Requests are made from students and faculty on a first come basis and relayed to a library liaison.

Students encouraged to contact their department to request books or Nick for a list of library liaisons.

- d. Benefits – Matt Seguin (absent)
  - i. Anne Hartingh – Working with Ingrid in the Admin. Building to compile the surveys and analyze student responses. Will likely have an additional survey regarding dependent insurance coverage.

## VI. Liaisons

- a. University Advisory Group – Dave Forel
  - i. Staff and Faculty voted to change the name of the 'Presidential Advisory Committee' back to the former 'University Senate'
  - ii. Math department wants to offer an actuary certificate program (not a degree) to hopefully encourage students to enroll or at least take classes in the Math Dept. Certificate completion would entail completion of 1 of the 4 tests to become an actuary and not result in an Actuary position/title.
    - 1. General discussion among group on whether this is a 'lure' or a legitimate program that could benefit students. Certificate would be separate from a degree and not include a special stamp on a degree.
- b. USG – Justin Priestman
  - i. USG voted to raise the Student Activity Fee to \$50 and this will NOT affect graduate students.
  - ii. Student Entertainment Board requests more money from USG to bring in a bigger name comedian next year.
- c. Others – MUB Board
  - i. MUB expansion to be revisited pending cost reduction to current model. Plans are displayed in the MUB and open to comment.

## VII. Old Business

- a. Commencement Requirements – Rick Vendlinski
  - i. Presented proposal to the Graduate Dean and committee with no objections to loosen the requirements for graduate students to participate in the commencement ceremony. New plan will be very similar to the undergrad requirements and will permit any grad student to walk within one semester of actual graduation. Likely that changes will be effective for spring graduates.
- b. (AMMENDED 2/8) Motion to bring Const. Bylaw changes from table to floor. Made by Debbie 2nd by Anne
- c. (AMMENDED 2/8) Motion to accept changes to Const and Bylaws. Made by Debbie. 2nd by Anne approved 22-0-0

## VIII. New Business

- a. Ed Verhamme – Representing the Student Commission



Nick Nanninga – MSE  
Anne Hartingh – Min. Econ.  
Jim Nugent – HUM  
S. Shaikah – MEEM  
Bharat Pokharel – FRES  
Justin Priestman - Math

EXCUSED:

Sean Wagner  
Dave Tobias  
M. Seguin (AMMENDED)  
A. Khan

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, February 21, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Addition of item *a. Seminar Central* in New Business
  - b. Agenda approved as amended
- III. Approval of Minutes for 7 February 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Volunteers to attend the BOC Breakfast on Friday, Feb.25. (4 volunteered)
    - ii. Commencement Requirements – Sent a memo to the head officials in the grad. dept. and hope to hear back soon regarding changes.
    - iii. Dinner w/ President Mroz March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Anticipate an email to see who wants to attend.
    - iv. Stipend increase – Contact N. Hutzler in CEE ([hutzler@mtu.edu](mailto:hutzler@mtu.edu)) if you're interested in working with him regarding the grad. stipend increase issue.  
General discussion  
Get your comments to Dr. Hutzler and D. Tobias has info on stipend levels being higher at many other universities.  
Has GFC ever looking into this before? *reply*: There is some record of it in the old GFC minutes and they realize that they need to increase the stipend to help attract new students. The BOC ultimately decides yes or no.
    - v. Grad students mood: Please email your constituents and get it to Justin by Thursday, Feb. 24 by 11:00 am.
  - b. Vice Present – Deborah Rajchel
    - i. Organized First Contact and there are 4-5 depts. w/out a rep. She's sending around a sign up sheet and if your dept. has no rep, please sign up.
  - c. Treasurer - Dave Tobias
    - i. Updated Budget report:
      1. Administration: +71.44 (phone, bills, etc.)
      2. 1 Time expenses: Sustainability donation of 2,000.00
      3. Lecture: Investigating union reps
      4. Social: Bowling
      5. Benefits: 1 Travel grant
  - d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - i. Review of current rep status and committees. After meeting those not on a committee need to sign up at the head table. Committee chairs to expect an email regarding committee members.



- V. Health Care – Anne Hartingh
  - a. The H.C. desk will be closed next week Friday.
  - b. Survey results are compiled. Expect an email summarizing the results. Also to be posted on the GSC website.
  - c. Will be bidding out to new companies sometime in March
- VI. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross
    - i. Please sign up for social committee
    - ii. Spring Break: Wondering if any grad students would be interested in having a social over spring break since many grad students stay in the area.
    - iii. Now have cans of pop at meeting, but please do not take them home. Will put a box by the door for empty cans.
  - b. Lecture – Vacant
    - i. Dan Adler happily volunteered to take over position.
  - c. Academic – Nick Nanninga
    - i. No Report
  - d. Student Issues – Matt Seguin
    - i. Still investigating the library book return issue.
- VII. Liaisons
  - a. University Advisory Group – Dave Forel
    - 1. Tried unsuccessfully to kill the actuary program certificate.
  - b. USG – Justin Priestman
    - i. not much happening in USG over past two weeks
  - c. Others – MUB Board
    - i. Working on plans to decrease the size of the MUB expansion
    - ii. Will possibly have the GSC office moved to the MUB once expansion is complete
  - d. Provost Search Committee – Dave Forel
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting last Thursday
    - ii. Creating a job description and Mroz wants to have a new provost in by July, but it's unlikely that will happen until the fall.
  - e. Grad. Dean Search Committee – Justin Priestman
    - i. Not much happening
- VIII. Old Business
  - a. None
- IX. New Business
  - a. Travel Grant drawing. (separate email sent with list of winners)
  - b. Seminar Central – Kiran Khadke
    - i. Seminar Central is currently open to all grad. students, faculty and staff for defenses, speakers, etc.
    - ii. Managed by a grad student in the past and may want something in the bylaws.

iii. If you want anything in Seminar Central, please email him at [knkhadke@mtu.edu](mailto:knkhadke@mtu.edu)

*General Discussion:* Should we limit the list to campus only?  
Some reps in favor and some opposed. Discussion results in keeping Seminar Central limited to on campus events.

- X. Announcements
  - a. Next meeting, Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>
  - b. ESC Speaker 24-25 of February
  - c. Sign-up for committees
- XI. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to Adjourn; Second; Adjourned

ATTENDANCE:

M. Manarolla – FRES  
R. Vendlinski – CEE  
Gerald Jalkanin – Mining  
Deborah Rajchel – BIO  
Vishesh Kumar – MEEM  
Brian Beachy – FRES  
Jerry Ross – MEEM  
Akshay Patil – MEEM  
Jon Erstad – Math  
Nana Opuni-Frimpong - FRES  
T. Arron Kotlensky – SS  
David Forel – GMES  
Kiran Khadke – MEEM  
Shu Chiomg Yat – Chem Eng  
Susan Hemme – Chem  
Samved Bhatnagar – MEEM  
Nick Nanninga – MSE  
Anne Hartingh – Min. Econ.  
Jim Nugent – HUM  
Bharat Pokharel – FRES  
Theo Vanhoe – liason  
Dave Tobias - GMES  
Akhtar Khan – Math  
Shu Chiang Yat – Chem Eng  
Matt Seguin - Chem  
Raghav Vanga - Physics  
Justin Priestman – President

EXCUSED:

Samved Bhatnagar

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda as Ammended:
  - a. Old Business: Survey -S. Wagner
  - b. SOAR Commission
  - c. Liaisons: Provost Search Committee
  - d. Child Care – Cynthia Weber
  - e. GFC – R. Vendlinski
  - f. Agenda approved as amended
- III. Approval of Minutes for 21 February 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Dinner with President Mroz Wednesday at 6:00. Accepting additional volunteers
    - ii. Grad Dean Search Committee: Met today and they are working on a list of requirements and job description. Open Forum next week. Rough draft of job description to be posted in Tech Topics and the Lode.
    - iii. Nominations open for principal officers. Those interested must have nominations submitted by March 28<sup>th</sup>. Email Justin ([jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu)) or Michelle ([mtmanaro@mtu.edu](mailto:mtmanaro@mtu.edu)). Will vote on nominations at next meeting. Budgets will be presented and voted on in April.
    - iv. Health Care meeting regarding bids between Anne and admin. on Friday at 10:30 am.
    - v. Talk of dropping support position for GSC Health Care (Anne) and to be taken over by admin. employee. Doing so will give consistency to the position over the years and offer a 40hr. help desk. It was just brought up to Anne today (3/14) and nobody is sure as of yet what will happen.  
*General Discussion: Why pay for a full time staffer?*  
It wouldn't be a full time HC person, rather Grad HC would be a portion of the job responsibilities. Also, Anne will be working on a 'job description' that would help to ensure the needs of Grad students would be addressed in the responsibilities of the position, e.g. attend bi-monthly GSC meetings, etc.
  - b. Vice Present – Deborah Rajchel
    - i. The names of people to email for 1<sup>st</sup> contact have been sent out. If you have any questions or comments, please email Deborah. Expect another email as more names come in.
  - c. Treasurer - Dave Tobias
    - i. Updated Budget report:
      1. Administration: +71.72 (phone, bills, etc.)

- 2. 1 Time expenses: \$500
    - 3. Social: \$11.67
    - 4. Benefits: 1 Travel grant
  - d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - i. Welcome new Reps and thanks for everyone signing up for a committee
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross (absent) given by R. Vendlinski
    - i. Had movie night over spring break and it was a success, however caught some ‘flack’ from the University for holding public viewing of a movie without copyright permission.
  - b. Lecture – Dan Adler
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held.
    - ii. We have \$4900 left in the budget and need to spend it. Thinking of opportunities to co-sponsor an event on campus. If you have any ideas for good speakers or organizations to co-sponsor with, email Dan at dpadler@mtu.edu
  - c. Academic – Nick Nanninga
    - i. Sigma Xi: Currently only 1 member strong (Dr. Hutzler) However, still would like to hold the sigma xi forum either April 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, Hutzler is unavailable on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Do we still want to hold the Sigma Xi or abandon it? *General Discussion:* Sigma Xi in the spring is good because it gives grad students experience in giving talks and also an opportunity to win money. Some students’ research cannot be put in a poster. If the Academic chair is willing to take it on, then GSC should go ahead and support it. GSC says go for it on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (week before finals)
  - d. Student Issues – Matt Seguin (absent)
    - i. No Report
- VI. Liaisons
  - a. University Advisory Group – Dave Forel
    - i. No Report
  - b. USG – Justin Priestman
    - i. Officer elections have not been approved because USG didn’t meet quorum.
    - ii. Nothing has been done with the discussion on the increase in the student activity fee.
  - c. MUB Expansion -Justin Priestman
    - i. Still working on plans to decrease the cost of the MUB expansion.
    - ii. Was unable to attend last meeting
  - d. Provost Search Committee – Dave Forel
    - i. Working on creating a job description
  - e. Child Care – Cynthia Weber

- i. March 25<sup>th</sup>; will be meeting with the University to discuss child care issues. Any comments or input (problems, etc) please email Cynthia ASAP. (clweberb@mtu.edu)
  - f. Grad. Faculty Committee – Rick Vendlinski
    - i. Discussing the proposed change to the coursework only option that would allow individual departments to decide whether or not to mandate the final exam defense. Also, looking at if you eliminate the oral defense, can it still be called the same degree? Any change in GSC opinion on the issue?  
*General Discussion:* There is a lot more difference in degree programs and names than just an exam/oral defense. Support the decision to leave it up to the departments.
    - ii. Introduced Martin Smith (Interim Grad. Dean) and he discussed his goals  
*General Discussion:* MTU Stipend level is still far below other national universities. 57/63 other university stipend levels were higher than MTU. University cites cost of living so low in Houghton as contributor to low stipend, however COL does not factor in the location of MTU relative to major cities and families (travel cost a factor). Looking into some COL websites, but difficult to adjust for Houghton.
- VII. New Business
  - a. Freedom of Information Act handout: Dan Adler
    - i. Handout on FOI describing the types of info that can be obtained through a FOI Act as well as some questions for the University re: the budget and allocation of money and analyzed responses.
  - b. Reorganization of USG – Justin Priestman
    - i. Just a proposed idea to better organize USG to maximize efficiency in distributing and monitoring budget and money distributed to organizations.
    - ii. *General Discussion:* Don't want GSC under any 'supervisory' board to monitor our budget. GSC to remain independent. Either way, it's unlikely that the plan to reorg. will go through.
- VIII. Old Business
  - a. Satisfaction Survey – Sean Wagner
    - i. Just sharing the results, no definite conclusions.
    - ii. Will post the results in a different format on the GSC website
- IX. Announcements
  - a. Next meeting, Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>
- X. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to Adjourn; Second; Adjourned

ATTENDANCE:

M. Manarolla – FRES  
R. Vendlinski – CEE  
Gerald Jalkanin – Mining  
Deborah Rajchel – BIO  
Brian Beachy – FRES  
Jerry Ross – MEEM  
Shu Chiang Yat – Chem Eng  
Jon Erstad – Math  
Bharat Pokharel – FRES  
Nana Opuni-Frimpong - FRES  
Anne Hartingh – Min. Econ.  
Nick Nanninga – MSE  
Cynthia Weber - HU  
Dan Adler – MEEM  
R. Krishna - Physics  
Susan Hemme – Chem  
Vaibhav Kale - MEEM  
David Forel – GMES  
Kiran Khadke – MEEM  
Shu Chiang Yat – Chem Eng  
Katherine Strojny - ECE  
Samved Bhatnagar – MEEM  
Akhtar Khan – Math  
D. Tobias – CEE  
Justin Priestman – President

EXCUSED:

Raghav Vanga - Physics  
Andrea Kvasnak - CEE

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, March 28, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda as Ammended:
  - a. Addition of Child Care and SDC Liaisons to Sec. VI
- III. Approval of Minutes for 14 March 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Open nominations for committee chairs. Nominations will be closing 11 April, 2005 at 11:00 am.
  - b. Vice Present – Deborah Rajchel
    - i. First Contact is going well
  - c. Treasurer - David Tobias
    - i. Budget through 3/28/05 same as presented at last meeting
    - ii. 05-06 Budget Proposal:
      1. Shift in line items throughout committees and an overall shift in the GSC budget from \$45,515 in 2004-'05 to \$42,620 for 2005-'06. Shift based on estimated carryover and enrollment. Expect an email of proposed 2005-'06 budget in PDF format within the next week or so.  
*General Discussion:* Could we ask administration for more than \$15,000 for travel grants? We could ask but it is unlikely that we would get a positive response. Matt Seguin volunteered to look into the issue.
  - d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
    - i. Will need to have the position filled by the summer. Please nominate a replacement for this honorable, e-board position.
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Social – Jerry Ross (*ammended from 'absent'*)
    - i. Planning 2 more social activities before the end of the year:
      1. Ultimate Frisbee at the SDC in the multi-purpose room, expect an email with details
      2. Camping/picnic at either McLain's Park or Hancock Beach with food, a band, and optional overnight camping.  
*General Discussion:* Both Hancock and McLain's are still closed until May which would be after the end of the semester. Need to evaluate other locations such as Agate Beach.
  - b. Lecture – Dan Adler
    - i. Looking at options for more guest speakers
    - ii. Student Entertainment Board want to bring in myth-busters from the Discovery Channel. Stay tuned.
  - c. Academic – Nick Nanninga

- i. Sigma Xi: Abstracts will be due on April 15<sup>th</sup> and Sigma Xi will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    - ii. Expect fliers via email to be posted departmentally.
  - d. Student Issues – Matt Seguin
    - i. Has set up a 'bark-board' to help handle the library book return issue. Please post a comment to the bark-board. Looking at several options to handle the book return issue such as: 1. a stamp to stamp a receipt 2. an email notification when a book is returned or 3. an email to the librarian before book is due to check the shelves to ensure the book hasn't already been returned. Anticipate an email with the bark-board link that can be distributed to grad students.
    - ii. *Ammended*: The link for the barkboard is <https://barkboard.mtu.edu> and under the general discussion' section , select 'library book return issues'
  - e. Health Insurance – Anne Hartingh
    - i. Bids will be sent out this week (about 10 bids total) and will be due back by the end of April. Companies will then be evaluated. Also note a likely increase in premium that will hopefully be compensated by the University. Stay tuned for more details. Also looking at combining the unsupported and undergraduate student policies to help with costs/policies.

## VI. Liaisons

- a. University Advisory Group – Dave Forel
  - i. No quorum at meeting and no new business to report.
- b. USG – Justin Priestman
  - i. Approving the budget this week.
  - ii. Nothing has been done with the discussion on the increase in the student activity fee.
- c. MUB Expansion -Justin Priestman
  - i. Still working on plans to decrease the cost of the MUB expansion.
- d. Provost Search Committee – Dave Forel
  - i. Working on creating a job description
- e. SDC - David Tobias
  - i. SDC will be replacing the floor in the multipurpose room between the spring and summer semester of 2006.
  - ii. The soccer fields will be closed until June for seeding, fertilizing and aerating.
  - iii. Upgrading the electrical in the elevators as well as lights in the multipurpose room and wood gym.

*General Discussion*: Opinion that it is a misuse of funds to use the SDC support fee to 'support' the Tech Trails. However, Tech Trails are in large self-supported through timber sales



and other funds. SDC fee constitutes little for Tech Trail maintenance. Possibly need to change the title of SDC support fee to something like the MTU Rec. fee.

- f. Child Care – Cynthia Weber
  - i. April 8th; will be meeting with Glenn Mroz to discuss child care issues. Any comments or input (problems, etc) please email Cynthia ASAP. ([clweberb@mtu.edu](mailto:clweberb@mtu.edu)).
  - ii. Moving toward an on-campus, central child care facility that would really reflect a change in the ‘culture’ of MTU. Possibly retro-fitting 4 apartments in the Heights to handle 30 children. Looking at having something in place by next fall.
- g. Provost Search Committee - Dave Forel
  - i. Finalizing the position description. Open forum in approx. 2 weeks.
- h. Grad. Dean Search Committee – Justin Priestman
  - i. Still finalizing the position description
- VII. Election of New Officers:
  - a. President: Dan Adler
  - b. Vice President: Deborah Rajchel
  - c. Treasurer: David Tobias
  - d. Secretary: Tabled until next meeting due to lack of positive interest.
    - i. Discussion regarding the importance of Secretary as an e-board position and although Nick Nanninga volunteered to assume the role of Secretary, strong opposition by existing Secretary in that more involvement from other representatives is crucial to ensure a strong and dynamic GSC rather than having the same individuals run both committees and e-board!
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Announcements
  - a. Next meeting, Monday, April, 11<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Minutes will be posted on the web with Key Points outlined for constituents.
- XI. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to Adjourn; Second; Adjourned

ATTENDANCE:

M. Manarolla – FRES  
R. Vendlinski – CEE  
D. Rajchel – BIO  
Susan Hemme – Chem  
Dan Adler - MEEM  
Anne Hartingh – Mining Econ.  
Jon Erstad – Math

Bharat Pokharel – FRES  
R. Krishna - Physics  
G. Jalkanen – Mining  
Theo VH – USG Liason  
T. A. Kotlensky – SS  
N. Nanninga – MSE  
D. Forel - GMES  
R. Vanga – Physics  
K. Khadke – MEEM  
R. Kale – MEEM  
A. Khan – Math  
J. Priestman – Math  
M. Seguin – Chem  
D. Tobias – CEE  
C. Weber – HU  
J. Nugent – HU  
Sumeet Oswal – MEEM  
K. Strojny – ECE  
Shu Chiang Yat – Chem Eng.  
J. Ross - MEEM

## Meeting minutes for GSC General Council Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2005; ROTC 101; 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order; 5:30 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda as Ammended:
  - a. Addition of health insurance to President's report
- III. Approval of Minutes for 28 March 2005; Minutes approved
- IV. Officer Report
  - a. President – Justin Priestman
    - i. Department elections need to be held now. Current department reps need to run these elections. What needs to be done is an email sent out to representatives respective department opening nominations. After a nomination period is over elections can be held over email or any manner of the department's choosing. Any questions can be sent to Justin at [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu)
    - ii. Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award: Very important and is given out in the fall along with a cash award. Nominations are due by the end of the week to [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu) or to the grad office.
    - iii. Health Insurance (Anne Hartingh)
      1. So far, two companies have expressed interest in bidding on health care. The bids are not due until the end of April but the University wanted an email of interest by today from the companies that are going to bid.
      2. A full-time employee, Mary Anne Brunner, has been appointed to take over the duties of graduate health care (also undergrad, international student, etc. health care). However, it is still not decided whether or not a supported graduate student will be maintained. General discussion amongst the council indicates that it is important to if not have at least a supported grad. student to help handle HC issues, at least an hourly person. Also some concern with the 'personal skills' of the appointed salary individual, but at this point, there appears nothing we as a council can do about that.
      3. Anne has put together her job description and is working on finalizing that to take to the Grad. Dean as well as Admin. to make very clear the needs and expectations of graduate students regarding health care. Also to include a feedback mechanism for the salary position so that GSC will remain in touch with any positive/negative feedback regarding health care.

- b. Vice Present – Deborah Rajchel
  - i. First Contact is going well, expect a new batch of names sometime this week or early next.
- c. Treasurer - David Tobias
  - i. March Budget Updates:
    - 1. Administration: \$71.62
    - 2. Benefits: \$600.00 (travel grants)
  - ii. As we round out the year, it appears that Social, Academic, and Benefits will have used up a majority of their budget and not counting the One-time expenses line-item budget, we will have approximately \$5000.00 carryover to next year.
- d. Secretary – Michelle Manarolla
  - i. Not a thing to report at this time.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Social – Jerry Ross
  - i. Unfortunately the camping and Frisbee ideas won't work for this year, however considering moving the camping/bbq to early next fall semester. Stay Tuned
  - ii. Will be having a Social event at Nutini's in Hancock this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:15pm. Pizza and pop will be provided and it should be a really good time!
  - iii. Looking at a social event for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 am for a viewing of the new Star Wars. Tickets will likely be discounted through GSC, stay tuned for an email from Jerry regarding this.
- b. Lecture – Dan Adler
  - i. Looking for funds to bring the Discovery Channel's MythBusters TV show to MTU next fall. Meeting w/ the Lecture committee tonight to discuss funding and a possible \$5000.00 GSC donation.
- c. Academic – Nick Nanninga
  - i. Sigma Xi: Abstracts will be due this Friday by 4:00pm. Please get the word out on this event as we currently have only four students signed up to give a talk.
  - ii. Sigma Xi will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. Student Issues – Matt Seguin
  - i. The link for the barkboard (<https://barkboard.mtu.edu/tools/public/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=791>) in last meetings Key Points email had a fairly positive

- return of 8 new postings. Expect another email to be sent to constituents to further increase the number of postings.
- ii. Looking into increasing the current \$15,000 donation from the grad school to GSC. Will work on putting together a database to indicate the number of applicants, number of travel grant winners, and number of declined applicants. Also, will investigate the idea of giving priority in travel grant drawings to second time applicants that previously have not won a travel grant. It was indicated by the grad school that by making the database and possibly giving priority to losing applicants may increase the odds of increasing the grad school donation for travel grants.

## VI. Liaisons

### a. University Senate – David Forel

- i. The Senate has recently changed the requirements for quorum to only requiring 50% of the members to be present. They are concerned about people not showing up to meetings and not being able to conduct business because quorum wasn't met.
- ii. Recent presentation by the current leader of the Tech Fund made public a proposal regarding a fundraising effort to begin in 2007 to raise \$3 million. The current funding model is apparently not working and that state contribution to the university is dwindling and therefore is proposing a new model to increase funding and stabilize the loss of funds. Two key points: 1. This is important b/c of the power shift toward the Tech Fund and 2. A lot of graduate students are supported through their teaching and this shift will very likely affect them.

### b. USG – Justin Priestman

- i. Passed 2005-06 student activity fee allocations and budget. Money was taken away from the Knight organization had funding removed. MUB Board did not show up for its allocation meeting and therefore had its large budget revoked and redistributed. 'no show -> no funds'

### c. Provost Search Committee – David Forel

- i. Had an open forum last week that was attended by 2-3 staff, 1 faculty and 1 student. Not much else changed and ads will be going out shortly. This is an external search.

### d. Grad. Dean Search Committee – Justin Priestman

- i. Position will be half time for the first year and full time the following year. The position has been posted and phone interviews will be conducted around finals and the full on interviews after that. Justin may or may not carry on with this position after his term as President is up.

- e. Child Care – Cynthia Weber
  - i. Met with President Mroz last Friday. Mroz had asked the state for money towards child care, but the state declined. Committee is still looking at child care as being part of the Fisher expansion, but has other options such as modular building on tech property, leasing a building from an outside entity, or retro-fitting some DH apartments. Cynthia encourages GSC reps to talk with their constituents about health care and to have them in turn email President Mroz with these concerns. Mroz is supportive of University health care, however, some of the administration below him are not.

VII. Election of New Officers:

- a. Secretary: Nick Nanninga
- b. Social Chair: Rick Vendlinski
- c. Orientation Chair: Vishesh Kumar
- d. Academic Chair: Tabled due to absence
- e. Elections Chair (new position): Jerry Ross
- f. Lecture Chair: Tabled to next meeting (send nominations to [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu))
- g. Student Issues Chair: Tabled to next meeting (send nominations to [jd priest@mtu.edu](mailto:jd priest@mtu.edu))

VIII. Old Business

- a. Approval of 2005-06 Budget: APPROVED (nice work David Tobias)

IX. New Business

- a. Michigan Health Care Resolution – Joe Przywara
  - i. Presented to the council in request of support. Some discussion but overall the council is unclear on the details of the proposed resolution to the governor regarding health care costs. Justin to send an email with a copy of the resolution in PDF format. Please Read for next meeting. [Draft Resolution, http://www.sos.mtu.edu/gsc/minutes/SY04-05/HealthInsRes.pdf](http://www.sos.mtu.edu/gsc/minutes/SY04-05/HealthInsRes.pdf)
- b. Writing Center Proposal – David Tobias
  - i. Grad Dean David Reed is proposing eliminating University support of all Learning Centers on campus. This includes the writing center, math learning center, chemistry learning center, etc. What he is looking to do is to defer the cost of the learning centers to the students. Students would therefore be paying for the 1-credit received from learning center enrollment. Overall the council strongly agrees that this is a poor idea and just another way for the University to

put more on students. Learning Centers are an important part of not only undergrad, but graduate educational assistance and if made to pay, it is likely that not only attendance to the learning centers will decline, but academic performance in certain areas as well. David will keep the council posted with more details, but stay tuned b/c this could be a very important topic that should not slip by!

- X. Announcements
  - a. Next meeting, Monday, April, 25<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Jerry Ross is looking for a new softball coordinator
  - c. Matt Seguin (who is most definitely in attendance): Would like the current and newly appointed e-board to stay after for a brief discussion.
  
- XI. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to Adjourn; Second; Adjourned

ATTENDANCE:

M. SEGUIN - Chem  
M. Manarolla – FRES  
R. Vendlinski – CEE  
D. Rajchel – BIO  
Dan Adler - MEEM  
Anne Hartingh – Mining Econ.  
Jon Erstad – Math  
B. Beachy – SFRES  
J R Lewis – CS  
Gerald Jalkanin – Mining  
Susan Hemme – Chem  
Cynthia Weber – HU  
David Forel – GMES  
Akhtar Khan – Math  
Anne Hartingh – Min. Econ.  
Justin Priestman – Math  
Rahgav Vanga – Physics  
R. Krishna – Physics  
David Tobias – CEE  
Nick Nanninga – MSF  
Vishesh Kumar – MEEM  
Nana Opuni-Frimpong – SFRES  
Katherine Strojny – ECE  
Jim Nugent  
Brian Ott – Chem Eng  
Jerry Ross – MEEM

Excused:

T. Aaron Kotlensky – Ind. Arch.



## MICHIGAN HEALTHCARE FINANCE RESOLUTION

Whereas our citizens, workers and retirees are increasingly losing health care coverage because of the cost of insurance to employers, the self-employed and the government; and

Whereas, employer funded health insurance is one of the factors that does not allow our state produced products to be as competitive with other countries as they could be; and

Whereas the administrative costs of healthcare as currently funded run between twenty-five and thirty cents on the dollar and

Whereas Article 4, Sect. 51 of the Michigan State Constitution declares healthcare to be a “primary public concern,” and

Whereas under Michigan law (MCL 325.2010) the state is supposed to create a plan to provide access to healthcare for all segments of the states population

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Oakwood Health Care System hereby calls on Governor Jennifer Granholm to establish a commission to study the financing of healthcare in Michigan, and to make recommendations to change the current methods of financing so that all citizens in Michigan shall have access to a system which is affordable, is efficient, provides comprehensive benefits, promotes prevention and early intervention, eliminates disparities in access and mental health care, provides continuity of care (portable from one job to another), protects consumer choice and can be understood by the average citizen.