



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

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Graduate Student Council

Minutes

12 September 2006

1 **Present:** B. Morrison, P. High, J. Henriques, R. Osborn, M. Colacicco, B. Swierczewski, J. Wu

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3 **Absent:** none

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5 **Meeting Commences:** 12:02pm

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7 **I. Reports**

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9 1) Patrick High has been in the news. His article can be found at the following web
10 address: <http://www.washblade.com/2006/9-8/news/national/noban.cfm>

11

12 2) Patrick High has recovered important DoD statutes concerning USUHS policy and
13 civilian graduate students. He sent them via email to members of the council. High
14 requests we pay particular attention to **DoD Directive 6010.20 “Admission Policies
15 for the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.”** Council members
16 were asked to think about what would be the best way to disseminate this information
17 to the graduate student body. High pointed out that this directive mentions that
18 graduate students are primarily full-time and there is no mention of the university not
19 being able to offer health insurance.

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22 **II. Old Business**

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24 1) New Student Orientation Picnic

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26 Council members and Dr. Metcalf agreed that the picnic went well. Council
27 agreed that High’s presentation and introduction during Orientation was effective.

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29 2) Inaugural All-Student Meeting

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31 Dr. Metcalf asked council members what they had heard from the students in their
32 program concerning the meeting.

33 EID: Students did not learn anything they had not already known, there should
34 have been more student participation, waste of time, but it was nice to get
35 everyone together

36 MPS: Was not really a concrete discussion of how to build community

37 NES: Students wanted more answers, may be a good idea to invite members of
38 the university who have the answers to our questions next time
39 PMB: Too much talking about community, ran out of time for student
40 participation
41 PAT: Agreed with MPS and NES, suggested that unless we and Dr. Metcalf are
42 being bombarded with student issues, meeting may not be necessary in the future
43 Dr. Metcalf: Thought it was a bust, she has no answers, will probably not hold
44 meeting in the future
45

46 **III. New Business with ADGE, Dr. Metcalf**

47 1) Student Overnight Parking

48 Dr. Metcalf has not worked on this, but she is confident that it will be taken care of.
49 Metcalf suggested that USUHS policy says that nobody is allowed to park overnight.
50 There are special tags for long-term parking and those people are supposed to park in
51 the overflow lot, I. High suggested we get the university policy in writing, will talk
52 to the head of USUHS security. Swierczewski will email graduate student Doug
53 Warner about the “memo” he received regarding the medical student/graduate student
54 overnight parking situation.
55
56

57 2) “Honorary” Student Parking

58 Dr. Metcalf suggested that this was not a true story and that she has spoken to the
59 medical school and they know nothing about the top student getting reserved parking
60 spots. Graduate student Tara Romanczyk, the student who brought this topic up at
61 the graduate student meeting, is looking into this matter.
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65 3) Housing for Open House 2007

66 High mentioned that a couple of the graduate programs feel that prospective students
67 should not be given the option to stay with a student this year; that students should be
68 able to stay in a hotel. Henriques, Osborn, and Swierczewski opposed this idea.
69 Morrison came forward on behalf of PAT and MCB stating that students in the two
70 programs will most likely not house any students. Metcalf is unsure whether she can
71 still get funds for the hotel from Dr. Laughlin, or if she can increase her funding as
72 this was a pilot project last year. Wu and Morrison strongly oppose the idea of
73 prospective students staying with current students, but agreed to let Janet give them
74 the option to stay with students in other programs. Wu will contact her Program
75 Director and have him let Janet know that MCB students are not available to house
76 prospective students. Morrison will do the same if PAT has any applicants.
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78

79 4) Graduate Student Open House Dinner 2007

80 High mentioned that at least one graduate program has expressed interest in “splitting
81 off” from the main student dinner because it tends to be too chaotic. Council agreed
82 that this idea might not be feasible and maybe not necessary. Council agreed to be
83 early to the dinner this year and set up sections for their respective departments
84 themselves and to ensure organization of the event. Council will also meet and do a
85 walk-through with the restaurant manager so they know what we expect. High
86 suggested the council be strong about RSVPs and not allow those who do not RSVP
87

88 to eat with everyone else. Metcalf assured the council that the Graduate Education
89 Office will not be upset if we enforce the rules. The dinner will occur on Sunday
90 Feb. 25th. Council agreed to leave prospective student application date at January
91 15th.

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93 5) Student Status and Health Insurance

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95 Dr. Metcalf was unaware of the meaning of “student status,” so Morrison explained
96 that the students were concerned at the graduate student meeting when Metcalf
97 mentioned that the university will only consider graduate students part-time and
98 therefore ineligible for health insurance. Morrison also suggested that if students are
99 only considered part-time without benefits, they should be legally allowed to seek
100 outside employment to cover costs of insurance and living. Metcalf assumed that this
101 was all about health insurance. Metcalf stated that she has taken the issue to the
102 Research and Education Endowment Fund, which is the fund that makes up the
103 difference between what students earn as stipend and what the university is willing to
104 give us. Metcalf also stated that Mr. Rice is in favor of the students getting insurance.
105 Metcalf said we should not push hard to become federal employees, as that also has a
106 down side. Metcalf said that basically the university is not willing to come up with
107 the money for increasing stipends or offering health insurance. Metcalf said that the
108 insurance companies are unwilling to work with us because we are too small of a
109 group. Metcalf said she talked to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, but the
110 insurance plan they offered would be useless as far as coverage is concerned.
111 Henrieques suggested making graduate students university employees, but Metcalf
112 said the university does not have the money to support that idea.

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114 Dr. Metcalf meeting adjourned 12:52pm.

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116 **IV. New Business with GSC**

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118 1) August Minutes

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120 Approved by council

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122 2) President’s Report

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124 High stated that he intends on bringing up the health insurance issue at the GEC
125 meeting this week. He also plans on discussing the tax issues as well as the DoD
126 Directives. High has spoken with university legal counsel, who says that the
127 university will not be involved in student tax issues. University counsel mentioned,
128 however, that if you can consider your education a requirement for a career change,
129 stipends can be written off. However, if your education is simply to further your
130 current career, stipends are taxable income. Possible deductions include
131 transportation and anything that you are required to have for your education
132 experience. Room and board do not apply.

133
134 3) Student Picnic

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136 Picnic will be held at Pavilion 1 (reserved) from 11am-2pm on September 17th, 2006.
137 Fire permit was not required. High went over the list of what each department is
138 responsible for bringing, which has not changed since the last meeting (see August

139 minutes). Henrieques and Swierczewski discussed game to be played at the picnic, as
140 well as teams. Henrieques will email student body about these events, which include
141 Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, and Tug-O-War. Morrison will bring other games such
142 as horseshoes and bocce ball. Games will commence at 11am. Council members
143 should arrive between 10am and 11am to help set up and get things organized.
144 Henrieques has brought forth a soon-to-be highly coveted trophy cup that the winning
145 team will display until next year's picnic.

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147 4) Career Day/Career Services
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149 Morrison has met with the Grad Ed Office and has offered to help with career day and
150 help with creating a career services section in the office. She has agreed to be the
151 student liaison between student council and grad ed. Morrison would like
152 suggestions from other reps as far as what their students are interested in seeing at
153 Career Day this year. Colacicco suggested a discussion of what we can do as far as
154 federal/military employment is concerned. High suggested something in public
155 health. Colacicco also suggested an AMED recruiter. A suggestion was also made
156 that we develop an alumni association section of career services. Morrison has
157 requested that by next month's meeting every rep provide a list of their program's
158 graduates, their occupation and contact information. Wu suggested we provide a
159 section on financial services geared especially toward junior students, such as NSF
160 Fellowships, etc. Morrison suggested we put a lot of this information on our website
161 (Briana Johnson (PAT) and Rob Clark (MPS) in charge), which we will be updating
162 soon. Wu suggested that the financial information be strongly disseminated.

163
164 5) Newsletter
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166 Morrison has volunteered to be in charge of the newsletter, but she suggested it be
167 quarterly, not monthly. Council will have relevant information to Morrison a week
168 before date of publish, which will be October 15th, 2006.

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170 6) Happy Hour
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172 Graduate student happy hour will be held on the last Friday of each month at the
173 NNMC Bowling Alley. This is just a way of getting students together, but everyone
174 must pay for their own drinks, bowling, and food. Inaugural happy hour will take
175 place on September 29th from 4-6pm.

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177 **Reminder:** Secretary for October will be NES
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180 **Meeting adjourned 1:45pm.**
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