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**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE**

**STUDENTS**

Michigan State University

316 Student Services Bldg.

East Lansing, MI 48824

517/353-9189

FAX: 517/432-0034

[cogs@msu.edu](mailto:cogs@msu.edu)

[www.cogs.msu.edu](http://www.cogs.msu.edu)

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Minutes

**COGS Full Council Meeting**

**Erickson Hall Room 103 (the Kiva)**

**March 14, 2012**

**5:30pm -7:30pm**

Fletcher calls to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved and seconded.

1. Approval of Minutes from February’s Full Council Meeting

February full council meeting minutes approved.

1. Remarks from the Graduate School

Lewis from Grad School:

Take the time to visit grad school website and give webmaster feedback.

Also, recently law was passed outlawing unionization for research assistants, and would like to know if you would discuss this.

Happy spring day!

1. Remarks from COGS advisor (Dr. Davis)

COGS Advisor (Davis):  
Happy spring day indeed!

You don’t have much time left. Stay healthy and enjoy yourself. I wish you great success, but be mindful to work backwards and focus on being healthy and accomplish your work.

1. COGS Executive Board Elections 2012 – 2013

Lovgren:

Lovgren stated rules. Time for speaking, then five minutes for questions.

First Position: President. We have Fletcher nominated. Would anyone like to nominate someone else?

Fletcher:

If you look back, last year I promised the council two things:

Extend the partnership and reach of organization and broaden opportunities for professional and graduate schools. The latter will come up next week.

If you look at our collaboration with the med schools and MBA programs and the programs with other universities, I believe I have met my promise to the board. From an objective standpoint, we have moved in a very positive direction in the last two years. The one thing I would like to see more is more engagement with the full council. The Eboard steers the bus, but representatives should be more involved in more specific ways; more engagement with the council. There are specific ways we can do more. Lugnuts game, more partnerships with other organizations. That’s it.

Ayes have it and Fletcher is approved as President.



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VP for IA

True nominated.

True:

First year as a COGS representative. Won’t do as good as Adam, but I’ll show up and give it my all.

Morse: What line do you take on truancy?

True: If you’re not showing up at your meetings, you should not be a representative.

True Appointed.

VP for EA:  
Borkowski nominated.

Borkowski:

Build bridges between grad program here and greater community. I think I do that bridging with the Med School and COGS and I would like to do that with MSU and the East Lansing community. Would like to work more with the Chittenden Hall awareness and parking issues.

Demlow: What are your plans for parking?

Borkowski: Increasing parking opportunities and fix issue with parking overnight.

Borkowski elected.

Treasurer:  
Harvey nominated.

I’m Chris Harvey. Third year grad student; first year rep. Bio background with no formal finance training, but I do work on data and analyze numbers and I feel comfortable with numbers. I have also sat on finance committee for a year and have seen how it operates. I can run those meetings.

Demlow: Chris has talked to me and I think he would be an excellent treasurer.

Harvey elected.

Recording Secretary:

Wray nominated.

Wray:

Hello. This year I was the events committee chairperson. The Trivia nights have been very successful with a lot of collaborations. I’ve been talking with Mike about the GAC. I’d like to invite more schools to provide more opportunities and scholarly activities.

Wray elected.

Lovgren: That’s our 2012-2013 Ebaord!

1. Executive Board Reports
   1. President’s Report (Stefan Fletcher)
      1. CIC Collaborations

Working with the CIC. last May, MSU hosted the CIC grad school deans. For the first time, the deans will be bringing the student leadership of those schools so we can communicate best practices with Big 10 plus Chicago. And we will have a joint session with grad school deans. That will be at the end of May.



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* + 1. Steering Committee Update

College of Music has problem with 2020 master plan. Asking Univ. to revisit campus parking. Don’t know how far that will go since BOT has approved the 2020 plan. In essence it will harm the value of renovating the auditorium.  
President discussed plan for VP for research is progressing.

Dean of Ag search is ongoing as well.

Those are the main bits and pieces.

* + 1. COGS April Full Council Meeting

April full council will have President Simon attending! It will be outside of Chittenden Hall in a tent with a barbecue!

* + 1. SB971 Update

Onto Senate Bill 971, in essence, research assistants at UM were interested in unionizing. There was a current ruling saying RAs are not employees of the institution and should not unionize. Regents tried to push the envelope to say the least, and this was brought to legislature and in rapid time, they passed SB 971 which was signed by Gov. Snyder. The question is how this impacts the situation here. Teaching assistants have a solidified role, and it would be a struggle to disentangle the system here. The system here works. So, bill does not have much effect here. Meant to address a specific issue at UM, but language is not specific to UM.  
Lovgren:

The only way this would affect MSU would be for a student to have a grievance with the union and take that to court. That would be a bad idea. Communicate to your colleges how valuable the GEU is to them.

Union is a positive thing and don’t upset that.

Fletcher:

This is a personal opinion. EBoard did not take a position because of the speed it would have been inappropriate. That’s the update that the bill has passed and we’ll move forward.

Ralston:

Amendment is a ruling that solidifies a ruling. Civil commission makes rulings on whether they can unionize. They’re just solidifying that decision. It’s complicated.

Demlow:

If RAs at MSU wanted to unionize, they’d go to a commission for a ruling then they’d go to this law?

Ralson:

Right, and it’s a law now not just a ruling.

True:

What’s the distinction between RAs and TAs?

Jackson:

RA is generally paid off of a grant. TA is paid off of University moneys.

RA is hired to do research off a grant, and the idea that they’re a student has a bit of conflict already because they’re hired to



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do work. This irritates me because of the erosion of human rights.

Davis: Historically, the research is part of their academic work that they branch off that is part of their being a student. Ruling was related to that difference.

Jackson: It’s subject to varying interpretations.

* + 1. Graduate Education Day at the State Capital

Thursday March 29. 10:30-2PM Dean Klomparens would like your help to help further understanding of what graduate education is. They understand undergrad education and professional education, but making them aware of the full spectrum of graduate education is important.

Email Dean Klomparens.

* + 1. RHS Strategic Plan Update

General concern in focus of strategic plan to undergrads. RHS houses 15,000 students on campus—largest single-campus system in US. Looking at different ways for grad students to participate. $25 in Sparty cash incentive.

* 1. Vice President for Internal Affairs (Adam Lovgren)
     1. Human Resources Assistant Vice President Search Update

Last week, Tom and I both met with the VP HR position.

They said what you would expect. Definitely, brought up a lot of student issues with Butler and working with student government groups. She was the most honest and transparent person. My recommendation was her. I’m not sure how much weight that has. I hope she gets it. All the candidates were okay.

* + 1. College of Agriculture Dean Search Update

Another search committee is agriculture dean search. If you’re in agriculture, I would recommend you attend these meetings.

* + 1. Web Page Change

We’re moving the COGS website onto the Cascade Server like IM Sports. It’s a nice easy-to-use format.

* + 1. SPOM Event

Family Resource Center and Student Parents are putting on a “Breslin Takeover” Event, and COGS will be sponsoring.

* + 1. Graduate Student Survey

Finally, we’ll be surveying the Grad Student Population in order to advocate Grad Student needs on campus. End of April.

True:

What percent of population?

Lovgren:

Total it will cost $300.

* 1. Vice President for External Affairs (LeighAnn Jordan)
     1. ‘Get Chitt Done’ 5K Run/Walk Update

Get Chitt Done Run. We have 30 people. We hope for 50. T-Shirt notifications. Layout goes around circle and laboratory area. Lexi MacMillan volunteered.



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* 1. Treasurer (Shannon Demlow)
     1. Event Funding

MSU Indian Student Org; Black Grad Student Assoc; Assoc of English Grad Students.

We’ve used up all our money.

Budget Approved.  
Between now and April is the best time to approve your GSO’s COGS reps.

Fletcher: Next full council meeting we will approve the budget.

Demlow: Apply for funding! Get reimbursed for food. All details are up on the web.

Easy process and $50 in food.

* 1. Recording Secretary (Mike Zeig)
     1. GAC Update
  2. Parliamentarian (Heather Smilde)

Smilde:

We met this week and had a lot of thorough analysis and discussion. We will be keeping everything the same but we will have a clarifying memorandum on what Executive Liaisons do. We will also be working to ensure that all students are represented.

* 1. Law College Liaison (Tom Morse)
  2. Medical Colleges Liaison (Suzanne Borkowski)

1. Unfinished Business
2. New Business
   1. Update regarding Graduate Student Appreciation Week (Jenn Wray)

Wray:

April 2 – April 6. Still finalizing everything.   
Trivia night on Tuesday.

Good turnout last trivia night with families.

Late night breakfast. Either in back of Chittenden hall or SSB

Wednesdays: Sparty’s discount to grad students. 50% discount.

Thursday: Crosstown Showdown. Law school paid for law students to go. Med school paid for their students.

Harrison roadhouse will open up pub and restaurant to students. $5 burger, fries and beverage.

Friday: Networking and Jenga tournament at the Riv.

Saturday: Ice Skating at Munn

Faculty challenge at next trivia night.

* 1. Parliamentarian and Events Committee Chair Applications

Don’t have to be a rep to serve the positions.

Details are on the application.

No elections to committees.

1. Member’s Privilege

Taste of East Lansing. CIC and Rotary are hosting taste of East Lansing. Two dollars for each ticket. 50% of money goes to Patron Park.



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Last meeting, overnight parking for weekend was discussed. Mayor has not been able to make it happen.

Demlow:

East Lansing parking issue. Lot closes at 2AM. They ticketed us because of daylight savings time.

Ralston:

American Federation of Teachers will be proposing a constitutional amendment on right to unionize.

Jordan:

Also around campus is a safe drinking thing. Bracelets given to undergrads to tell them to drink safely. Keep track of how many drinks they have.

Sigerini:

Update on MSU going smoke free.

Fletcher:   
A lot of contact with going smoke free. I presented our resolution to the board and president.

And you will have a meeting with her next month. It’s a legitimate question. My personal view is that there needs to be a discussion with allow for the stakeholders involved.

1. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned.