

**UNITED GOVERNMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER**

ASSEMBLY MEETING AGENDA – January 15, 2014
ATLAS 229
5:00 PM

- I. 5:00 Welcome / Food
- II. 5:00 Call to Order
- III. 5:01 Approve 12/04 minutes
 1. Kate – EDUC - amend to include Michael Turner’s attendance
 2. Minutes approved
 1. Joey – EBIO – Explained this is how to amend attendance in the future
- IV. 5:02 Open Forum
 1. Brandon? - LAW – Transportation has first meeting this Friday
 2. Richard - ATOC – Recreational board would like people to go to the rec center and give their feedback. This week or next week they’re offering free tours. There are gated areas where you can swipe, but if you don’t have access yet you can go to the info desk there and ask for a look around. NOTE: post-comps students (comps D) no longer pay for rec center fees so they need to purchase rec center. You can opt in of you want for ~\$105, maybe more. Make sure you sign up as a student, not an ‘affiliate’
- V. 5:15 Transition from Open Forum item to Agenda item
 1. Joey – EBIO - items brought up in open forum should be moved to agenda items. Send email to uggsinfo@colorado.edu. Tell us how much time you want to spend so we can budget the time well
 1. Limit to 3 minutes per item in open forum - if longer discussion is needed, please request an agenda item
- VI. 5:16 Budget Review and Discussion
[FY14 approved budget](#)
 1. Joey – EBIO - We talked about this a bit before. We’re going to discuss a few things about the budget and the open it up for discussion
- VII. How we acquired surplus and how we have spent it down
 - a. Since Joey has been here we have always had surplus funds but have been operating in a deficit.
 - b. At the end of the year we will still have 5-10k extra, which we need in case we need emergency funds but now we need to either make (a) permanent cuts or (b) temporary cuts and talk about increasing fees
 - c. Now our funds come from CUSG fee (20-25k per year), or \$4.50 fee per grad student (40-50k per year, depending on enrollment)
 - d. Grad enrollment has been going down lately (peaked in 09) – similar for undergrad enrollment. So our budget is going down as well.
 - e. We established our grad fee in 2003 and it was voted permanent in 2007
 - f. 2009 fee review by SOFO revealed that we had a lot of extra money (~50k) and proposed us to spend it. So we started doing more events, getting legacy membership to NAGPS (10k, but never again), increased travel grants, added outreach grants,

attendance incentives for fall 2013, a few new officers and board members, increased salary expenses (office coordinator and officer positions)

VIII. Proposed changes to budget:

- a. Typical revenue is 60-70k, past few years expenses have been
 - i. 2014 – 90k (proposed)
 - ii. 2013 - 92k (added grants, prof. dev., etc)
 - iii. 2012 - 79k
 - iv. 2011 - 71k.
- b. So we need to cut 20-30k
 - i. Laura – PSYC - clarified that these cuts have to happen for now. We can either make these cuts permanent or we can apply for more fees (which won't take place until at least Fall 2015) and hope to get some of these things back
- c. Definite Cuts Across the board
 - i. Fall orientation cutting – food (king scoopers instead of independent venues)
 - ii. A lot of professional development (we've used it for speakers relevant to everyone, promote open access)
 1. CU library does some of this open access promoting now
 - iii. Cutting group grants (tends to be the same groups of people, and is not very competitive) and GTP poster session (not well known or attended)
- d. (more cuts by section)
- e. Social and Networking
 - i. Cut fall picnic budget (see above)
 1. Also, order fewer sandwiches
 - ii. Food from coffee hours (but still have them)
 - iii. Cut some free food from the social events
 - iv. Grad student appreciation week (usually a coffee hours, social event, VIP night, speaker) – maybe stick to coffee hour and small social event now
 - v. NAGPS conference travel – not going to as many events
 1. National conference in November – keeping as is
 2. Regional conference – cutting
 3. Legislative action days - cutting
- f. Infrastructure
 - i. One option to get a lot of money cut is by removing the officer coordinator position. Their job includes reserving rooms, ordering sandwiches, other 'grunt' work, but we think we can move some of these duties to the officers. We can either cut entirely or limit hours even more (we could also move them to salary vs. hourly but this would require change to bylaws)
- g. Different proposals. Again, some cuts are across the board but there are 3 different options we put together to make some of the substantial changes we also need
 - i. Cutting travel grants from 35-30 (saves a few thousand here alone)
 - ii. Cutting office coordinator (see above)
 - iii. Cut a more substantial amount of food at social events (i.e. fall picnic)

IX. Free increase process – how it works

- i. Approved by Assembly
- ii. Apply to fee advisory board (FAB)
- iii. Present to FAB
- iv. If approved by FAB, proposal is presented to Regents
- v. If approved by Regents, fee change takes place following fall

- vi. Estimate for about how much money a fee increase would generate:
 - 1. \$1.00 per year = \$5,000
 - 2. \$2.00 per year = \$10,000
 - 3. \$4.00 per year – would cover current expenses
- b. Will - CHEM – doesn't think we should decrease number of awards as much as amount. It's nice for everyone to be able to put it on resumes/CVs etc. How much does the avg grad student pay for fees?
 - i. Depends on Dept., status, comps status, credit hours (but maybe \$400-\$1000)
 - ii. Can we get more from CUSG?
 - 1. Joey – EBIO – yes but if fees are increased for undergraduates, we can't guarantee the amount of money CUSG will still push on to graduate students
 - iii. Finally, we should at least keep it up with inflation (calculated inflation is about \$1.50 more now from the 2003 rate)
- c. Alaina – ENGL – Would the regent board be amenable to this? The problem is we're complaining about not having an excess
 - i. Joey – EBIO - Proposals to the advisory board are usually much more broad, affecting everyone. Doubts the regent board will care for a few dollars for only graduate students
- d. Will – PHYS – Did some polling in the department. They all agree on no increase in fees under any circumstances. The whole reason we have this deficit was because we increased spending. Doesn't think that the extra money has helped us in any real way. Why not go back to the way the things were when they seemed to be okay?
 - i. Laura – PSYC - one way we spend the surplus was with attendance incentives. It was unfortunate that we spend through it really fast, but the attendance incentives have worked: it has increased dramatically so everyone is getting more representation
- e. Will – CHEM – This doesn't mean we should cut back but suggests we need to keep promoting ourselves. We're going to have to cut anyway even if we only do a \$1-2 increase. The increase not that much compared to the 500-1000 dollars he already pays.
- f. Josh – APS – If there are issues with attendance at assembly/social events, this means we're spending money on them but there's no demand. Attendance incentives might not help
 - i. Walker – CUSG – clarified that attendance incentives were only for these meetings which have been successful, but the social events are especially successful
- g. Kate – EDUC – Everyone wants something different out of UGGS. Just because we don't want some of them, doesn't mean we should cut them for everyone else. UGGS provides a lot of opportunities that many people benefit from (meeting with new people etc.)
- h. Patricia – HIST – Going back to 2003 is irrational because of things like inflation, so we should at least keep up with that
- i. Will – PHYS – The only way to get fees down ever is to fight everything and let inflation do what it is going to. This meeting is foreseeable and should have been planned for. Valuing the needs of everyone should also include those who don't want to be a part of UGGS at all
- j. Kate – EDUC – An example of UGGS saving a lot of money for grad students: while we're going through budget issues we run into problems with fees and mistakes made

by others. We recently caught an accidental \$85 dollar charge that wouldn't have gotten caught if we didn't have the representation

- k. Alaina – ENGL – this affected me. If we're proposing a fee increase, how long is it going to be a flat fee?
 - i. It is a permanent fee that never changes unless we do this again
- l. Joey – EBIO – Its nearing 6 PM. Should have mentioned this early but we're going to present the budget at the 2nd to last meeting and approving it on the last meeting of this semester
 - i. We want a feel of where people think the most cuts should be
 - ii. Getting a proposal set up so that we can get a fee increase for 2015 – it's due mid-Sept this year so we want to get it going
 - iii. Does one of these three proposals sound good to anyone? Go back to your departments and ask around to decide if we want to do p
- m. Joel – GEOG – Wants to echo Will from Chem. Don't cut travel grants because the impacts are significant for CV and networking. Strongly advocates for not cutting the number of grants
- n. Will – PHYS – what bothered me was cutting food for social events but not cutting food for this meeting
 - i. Walker - CUSG – its better to cut some things a bit rather than completely cut only a few things
- o. Josh – (COMM or APS?) – Is there a proposal for cutting officer pay?
 - i. Joey – EBIO – I spend 10 extra hours per week, 40 hours per month for only 200-300. A 10% cut isn't that much but we feel we deserve what we do get
 - ii. Laura – PSYC – Something like this makes sense across scenarios but we really need to make some of these more big decisions. Also, we very rarely have contested elections for officers. It's hard to convince people to even apply as is
- p. Patricia – HIST – Unless there's a compelling reason to send as many people to conferences there has to be less
 - i. Joey – EBIO – yes these conference cuts are pretty much across the proposals
- q. The big 3 we're proposing are travel grants, office coordinator, or social budget
 - i. Show of hands – cutting officer coordinator position almost unanimously (except 1 person)
- r. Angela – PSYC – is it feasible to try to get more food donations? The Fun Run event gets day old bagels for free/very cheap. Could we try to do this more?
 - i. We talked about doing that this year. It takes a bit of time to do this (tax breaks etc.) but we will definitely look into it for this year. Tough to ask to help feed 500 though
- s. Will – PHYS – concerned that officer coordinator cutting is worse than cutting food because if students get overwhelmed with new duties, some of the UGGS responsibilities could get dropped
- t. Danny – CLAS – wants to emphasize that we are doing this to either slash and burn or make temporary cuts, but that there can also be a middle ground of cutting a lot of things and only having a marginal fee increase. Regardless of what we do we need to do something to fix this. We inherited this problem, but we should try to make this problem not come back

X. Summary / Wrap up

- a. To summarize – we will consider cutting office coordinator position and how hard it will be on the other officers. We will further consider all the other across the board cuts as well

- i. Almost unanimous again (4 not) in favor of discussing the fees further.
- b. One last announcement – Travel and group grants are open as on Monday. Make sure your departments know Feb 5th is the due date (5 PM)
 - i. We will grade on Feb 8th-9th to get these graded. Meet together somewhere we can get food and score them all by multiple people
- c. Finally, promote ski day. Tickets are in the UMC and we will be at a table from 10-4 on Thursday and Friday. We have 100 tickets

XI. 6:05 Meeting Adjourned

Meeting Attendance

UGGS REP	DEPT
Joshua Moloney	APS
Lauren McManus	ASEN
Richard Bateman	ATOC
Melissa Rickman	CHBE
Alan Izar	CHBE
Will Hartwig	CHEM
Daniel Poochigian	CLAS
Joshua Morrison	COMM
Halley Profida	CSCI
Chris Schaetbauer	CSCI
Walker Williams	CUSG/LAW
Joey Hubbard	EBIO
Kate Allison	EDUC
Antonio Rodriguez	EDUC
Alaina Bupp	ENGL
Erik Nesse	FREN
Joel Correia	GEOG
Emily Rath	GRMN/GSLL
Patricia Helfenbein	HIST/ALAC
Chelsea Daggett	JMC
Brandon Archuleta	LAW
Evan Coles-Harris	LING
Sarah Alcorn	LING
Justin Whiteley	MCEN
Allison Vittens	MUSM
Chaz Vollmer	PHIL
Will Ames	PHYS
Dan Gustavson	PSYC
Angela Li	PSYC
John Lurquin	PSYC
Laura Michaelson	PSYC
Brianna Chai	SLHS
Cristen Dalessandro	SOCY
Tara Gilboa	SPAN