

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

ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES – September 17, 2014
ATLAS 229
5:00 PM

1. Welcome / Food

2. Call to Order TIME 5:02p

3. Approve meeting 9/3 minutes

John L. said that we start all mtgs by approving last meetings minutes and we usually vote by affirmation.

Kate motioned to approve and reminded everyone to please review the minutes, make sure you are listed for attendance; if not you need to amend the minutes (email Megan Kinney, Communications Chair megan.c.kinney@colorado.edu). We need a SECOND whenever anyone makes a motion. Robert's Rules also has a "Call to question" before we vote.

Dan G reminded everyone to please say your name and dept slowly and clearly before you speak during meetings.

Also that almost all minute changes are attendance and names wrong. Please let us know!

MINUTES APPROVED

4. Open Forum

Please raise hand, say name and dept; if longer than 2 min we will add to next agenda.

John L - please "like" our Facebook (fb) page and get your friends to like it too!!

- Kate A. – we won't spam your feed!
- Laura M – the more facebooking we do the less email we send! We know you are inundated with emails; we can move minor stuff to fb
- Jackie ATLAS – not everyone has fb...be cautious

John L – we are trying to organize social event next Friday 9/26; Melinda Markin is Social Chair; look for email and social media announcements

John L - CUSG Academic Freedom in the Classroom discussion – he attended today

and wants to see some UGGS representation at these; it was a heated discussion; next one in October.

- Kelsey ENVIS – what were the major points of contention?
- John L – the big question was, “What is Academic freedom?” Then there was backlash about it being mainly faculty oriented; some specific cases were brought up; someone mentioned that there was not enough diversity on the panel (all white males).

5. Changes to Gold Insurance Plan - Shelley Sheppeck

LOTS of details here – speaker will be sending slides to UGGS and we will make them available on the UGGS website.

Shelley said she loves grad students – after all, she said, “I am a PhD dropout with two master's degrees.”

Shelley is our RESOURCE!!!! She has 30 years of insurance experience.

Most in the room are ON the GOLD plan, but you need to know how to use it! Shelley can HELP!

Wardenberg: go and find out where it is, at least get an annual exam, so you are registered as a patient.

The GOLD plan is better than the employee plan.

“Health Insurance 101”

- What is a deductible? It is how much you pay out of pocket before insurance kicks in; first level of payment; for GOLD plan is \$500 (FYI - it doubled this year)
- Coinsurance: you pay a percentage, for GOLD plan it is 80/20; and it matters if you are IN network of OUT of network (so on a bill of \$10k, you owe \$2,000) and you max out at \$5000 for the year.
- No means NO only when it is SEX!! Not when it is insurance!
- Third level is 100% insurance!!!!!!
- Then there are COPAYS – that is your ENTRY TICKET only; must pay no matter WHAT your deductible/coinsurance is.
- \$50 deductible for meds then three tier copay for meds; drug costs are the #1 claim component
- Inside Wardenberg everything is COVERED: women's, PSYC, med clinic, lab,

sports med, x-ray; ea has copay except lab and xray “20 for \$20”

- the reason we are called the GOLD plan is for CU colors black and GOLD
- and ACA (affordable care act) named their plans after metals” Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze (but we are even better really because of Wardenberg coverage; the only time you pay is out of network)

Shelley will work with you to make sure you are NOT getting ripped off

Remember these three things:

1. A denial is not a denial
2. Shelley is our point person
3. Never pay a bill until you understand the Explanation of Benefits

Q&A:

Q – how can we be sure the deductible will not double again soon?

A - Shelley is an advocate for us and will make sure it does not; she negotiates the deductibles.

Q – Is there a dental plan?

A - there is a dental plan – studentinsurance.com (but it is not very good) – shop around if you just need a cleaning.

Q – any thought for high deductible plan for HSA

A – not being considered for the GOLD plan at this time.

Q - Urgent Care vs ER?

A - Go to Urgent Care whenever possible, that will be cheaper; if it is not life threatening do not call ambulance; but OF COURSE, if it is, PLEASE DO!

6. Graduate Student Climate Survey

Sent survey out to listserv [some did not get it – Megan is updating reps listserv tonight based on first two meetings' attendance and we will resend the survey questions we have thus far).

Laura M – The survey is done by the Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis.

Supposed to be a on a five yr sched for grad student survey; last year it was administered was 2008; they were supposed to do it last year but skipped it b/c there was another survey; worried about survey fatigue. UGGS leadership said that would be to long w/o grad student feedback; they had to push them; they wanted to just tack things on to undergrad survey; Laura and John said NO – need a separate graduate student survey! Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis wants to roll out on same

sched – so it will go out on same day as UG survey. So we need to hustle on feedback. Main areas to consider thus far are training, funding, ethics/harassment, incivility, campus climate. We looked at grad student surveys from mother universities; so we can have comparative data amongst universities.

- John L Saw some data from 2008 – pretty dismal; and led to no action; so we want actionable data, need to ask questions that will produce that.
- Will CHEM: - 5 years is not a useful interval; can they do it more often; “I am perfectly willing to be obnoxious!!”
- Laura M - Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis cites responder burden; they are very rigid about their schedule.
- Dan G – students want to give feedback; perhaps staff and faculty tend to say NO MORE SURVEYS, but we students generally want to give feedback.
- and terrible response rate for undergrads
- John L – We can do it more often – John Stevenson will go to bat for us; a master's program is only two years – and we are missing lots of them;
- John L - most depts do NOT advertise how many enroll and graduate in their programs (retention and success rates;
- John L - there was an UGGS survey in 2012 – we have some stats from that (1,000 took it)
- Kelsey ENVS - in class interaction: have you felt threatened by a student based on a grade you gave them? Need to add that question or something like that.
- John L – 80% of grad students do not get feedback on their teaching
- Xi ENVS – need deadline for comments; will the survey ask dept? Some depts are really small and some might know; need to keep that info separate; some students might not want that info to be shared.
- Laura M – at most it would be John Stevenson and the Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis noticing trends in certain depts.
- Nicole MUSM – are there questions about GA/RA? Could we ask about that? Funding, relevance of experience, professional development...?
- Laura M - what questions could you suggest?
- Nicole MUSM – [she will think about it and send when we resend the doc]
- Kate A– it varies and some really do not get Professional Development; maybe

a question about amount of time spent doing WHAT types of activities

- Kelsey ENV5 – maybe a Q about the extent to which your RA/TA duties are extended beyond what you signed up for; some get a TA position w/o signing a contract
- Scott RELG – we were given an offer letter but just email back saying yes or no; have talked to people with higher percentages; see discrepancies in workload and funding
- Ben POLSCI - everyone's a TA but sometimes we grade sometimes teach; could we break out whether individual depts differentiate?
- Kate A - wages are set at GRAD SCHOOL; usu a minimum amount
- Patricia HIST and ASIAN LANG – international students; need to have a question for them/about them
- Laura M - tried to cover that in ethics section about harassment, questions about feeling welcome and negativity about identity group
- Xavier CEAE - can help with questions for international students

8. Travel grants – Dan G.

Grading **Sun 9/21 @ 1p at Backcountry Pizza 2319 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, CO 80302**

– please come and get pizza and beer and help us grade!!!!

Group grants will be presented at next meeting; usu all get funded; one already does not qualify.

9. Meeting Adjourn 5:09p

ATTENDANCE

Name	Dept
Drake Ranquist	APS
Piyush Agrawal	APS
Charles Brechtel	ASEN
Eric Threet	ASEN
Jacqueline Cameron	ATLS
Richard Bateman	ATOC
Xavier Espinet	CEAE
Alan Izar	CHBE
William Hartwig	CHEM
Melinda Markin	EBIO
Kate Allison	EDUC
Logan Blizzard	ENGL
Xi Wang	ENVS
Kelsey Cody	ENVS
Jocelyn Franklin	FRIT
Max Counter	GEOG
Patricia Helfenbein	HIST/ALAC
Chelsea Daggett	JMC
Christoper Cummins	LAW
Justin Whiteley	MCEN
Nicole Ridgwell	MUSM
Paige Warmker	PHYS
Ben Purser	PSCI
John Lurquin	PSYC
Laura Michaelson	PSYC
Dan Gustavson	PSYC
Juliana White	SLHS