

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

ASSEMBLY MEETING AGENDA – April 27, 2015

Atlas 229

5:00 PM

**I. Welcome / Food**

**II. Call to order – 5:06P**

**III. Announcements**

CUSG staff positions announced today – look @ website  
10-20h per week; paid

**IV. Approve 4/13 meeting minutes - APPROVED**

**V. Open forum**

Nothing

**VI. Graduate Teacher Program (Valentina)**

Valentina: Arts & Humanities Coordinator (PhD programs)

Lost PhD in Comp Lit & Nordic Studies; Masters in Comp Lit; departments dissolving when people are getting their degree

Especially out-of-state & international populations

20% loss in undergrads in bracket; highest paying bracket → financial loss leading to program loss

Valentina trains GTPIs and TAs to teach better; many departments give zero training prior to putting students in teaching roles;

Would like Reps to refer people to GTP program & use department resources where available

Graduate students can do workshops → talk to Valentina

Q: GTP Liaison?

A: Adam works with STEM & CERTL

John & Laura (PSYC): Decision based on enrollment?

Valentina: Hard to deal with; does have to do with consolidation; shows what's going on at CU: push to matriculate quicker & other deadlines present; not keeping students engaged

in classroom: no encounter with faculty until Junior/Senior year, just under-trained graduate students prior to that

Dan (PSYC) – BFA budget: moving to cost-based, not revenue-based model → big changes to budget upcoming; can't keep up with costs, especially building maintenance; A&H shrinking, STEM growing

John (PSYC): big push to online education coming too

Erik (FRIT): more expensive in some disciplines than others?

Dan (PSYC): not really; core requirements influence who takes what

Valentina: 1 recommendation: eliminate foreign language requirements: substantial pushback to that recommendation

Erik (FRIT): teaching online now; GTP & university concerned with teaching quality? Need to know if they expect people to teach online, students have zero experience teaching online

Valentina: offer online teaching training

Erik: same resources there; some won't take advantage of it due to existing stressors

(COMM): continuing education department helping a lot; but still nothing to help with training

Erik (FRIT): online prep takes 2x as long

Evan (LING): We're failing to retain undergrads due to teaching quality?

Valentina: not the only reason, one recurring reason though; enough to say GTP should support that

4 top reasons undergrads leave: Not worth it financially, didn't feel valued, didn't get classes, ...

Dan (PSYC): only predictive parameter to retention was social belonging

## **VII. Roundtable Reception Review (Laura)**

Record attendance in 2015: 1/3 people that RSVP'd

Feedback for next year: gonna be incoming officers' problems

## **VIII. UGGS Constitution**

Amendments approved - acclimation

## **IX. Grad student dental MOU update (Diba & Erik)**

Met with Mr. Schaeffbauer last week. Current thinking: pursue temporary solution & UGGS can think of long-term if it involves insurance. Ownership of putative MOU: get it in

Wardenburg's operation: sell as additional benefit to health plan; if it requires \$, they can add incremental additional cost to insurance plan.

Put off talking to Alexis until we figure some other things out. Will need to meet with Don Mitsch. Do we need to pawn it off to somebody like a Tri-Exec?

Laura (PSYC) – Meantime, any suggestions for local offices?

Erik (FRIT) – No recommendations yet. Not available 8-to-5.

Diba (IPHY) – superdraft (unconfirmed) could go to people

Laura – plan to call list after finals?

Diba – Yes

Erik – Clinic out there with easy proof of income → maybe that's all we need

Laura – Would be great to let people know even that information

Ben (PSCI) – UGGS website hosted on CU system? Strict rules about information on local businesses. Way to get it done. Vet group: interested in this, you can email us & would send a packet of information to folks.

#### **X. Graduate Student Climate Survey (John)**

Different approaches to present the data: contributing factors for graduate student life.

Meetings planned this summer with PBA & BFA.

Look at some of the data now.

Identify good dependent variables.

Ben (PSCI) – Departmental granularity?

John – Not yet. Some departments are small enough than info would be identifying.

Ricky (COMM) – New school: CMCI.

Mathis (PHYS) – Sufficient sample size per school?

John – There is a 37% response rate across schools and genders.

Laura (PSYC) – For smaller colleges, numbers are small.

Mathis – chance of splitting A&S into sub-groups: might be a departure in responses.

John – We can do that now.

Jessica (ATOC) – survey questions based on survey from another university? 20% of students at other large research institutions would respond similarly or if conditions here are worse or better

John – some questions pulled from similar surveys to provide comparative answers. We've presented this approach to NAGPS in past couple of years. Will provide survey to other universities to make results more useful.

Dan (PSYC) – Graduation rate.

John – predict retention rate & time until degree. 60% graduate within 8 years, rest leave.

Question: what percentage graduate within 5 years, as departments tend to advertise.

PBA has departmental breakdown on their website.

Jenn (THDN) – Old?

Incoming students in 2004. 8 years later, collected data.

Laura – looking for ideas for clusters of questions that might be informative. Department level look: don't want it done for some groups, so clusters could lead to getting more information from PBA.

Scott (PSYC) – N's from each department?

Yes. Have to be sensitive to that.

Mathis (PHYS) – Dean Peter: social study on undergraduates; correlations might be interesting. Most undergrads missing something when they graduate.

#### **XI. Communications Chair Nominations and Election**

Paty Holt (EDUC) nominated by Julie (EDUC). Paty approved 26-0-1.

#### **XII. Meeting Adjourn – 5:59P**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Graduate Degree Program</b>	<b>4/27/2015</b>
Eric Threet	Aerospace Engineering Sciences	1
Jeff Brzezinski	Anthropology	1
Gregor Robinson	Applied Mathematics	1
Drake Ranquist	Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences	1
Richard Bateman	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences	1
Jessica Kenigson	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences	1
Alan Izar	Chemical and Biochemical Engineering	1
Xavier Espinet	Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering	1
Ricardo Munoz	Communication	1
Paty Holt	Education	1
Julie Cafarella	Education	1
Erik Nesse	French & Italian	1
Alana Wilson	Geography	1
Patricia Helfenbein	History	1
Diba Mani	Integrative Physiology	1
Evan Coles	Linguistics	1
Alison Gilchrist	Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology	1
Nicole Ridgwell	Museum and Field Studies	1
Mathis Habich	Physics	1
Ben Purser	Political Science	1
Shawna Mullenax	Political Science	1
Dan Gustavson	Psychology and Neuroscience	1
John Lurquin	Psychology and Neuroscience	1
Laura Michaelson	Psychology and Neuroscience	1
Scott Schafer	Psychology and Neuroscience	1
Scott Brown	Religious Studies	1
Kelly Van De Wyngaerde	Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences	1
Jenn Calvano	Theater & Dance	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

