

## Minutes – March 10, 2002

### I. Quorum and Call to Order – 7:20 PM EST

Officer Attendance – Jeff Perlman, Brian Keane, Robert Hamilton IV  
17 Members present.

### II. Old Business

- A. Approval of agenda for March 10, 2002 - approved
- B. Approval of minutes from February 10, 2002 - approved

### III. Reports

#### A. Executive Report (Jeff Perlman)

1. Healthcare (3<sup>rd</sup> month of discussion) –  
Recap: Resolution for healthcare for internal fellows passed University Senate, but funding is not currently available. Carrie, Dave, and Stewart at working on it.  
Update: Healthcare for internal fellows is not funded to the level of TA's and GA's. They can only go to Hurtado or Willet Health Centers. President Lawrence has not seen the bill, and agrees with it in principal, but said the cost (\$1 million/year) is too much. It will not be funded this year and probably not next year, but eventually it will. Jeff and Jason (Redd) are looking into a way to gradually phase in the program or to get partial funding as soon as possible.
2. Budget Shortfall-  
The University budget is \$24 million short and this gap needs to be closed by January 2003. Central initiatives such as RU Net 2000 will be finished, but new ones such as CAPS, RU Net extensions, and hiring will be frozen. The university tapped its reserves to preserve some programs, but it cannot do this again. There will be few cuts to instructional programs or libraries and none to admissions. The administration will be cutting personnel. There also will not be a mid-term tuition hike, but this fall there could be massive tuition hikes and cuts in services and/or funding. Jason added that several high level administrators will leave and their duties will be shifted. Facilities budgets will be cut. The University is trying to insulate students from the budget cuts. The state is cutting faculty/staff healthcare funding. Due to previously negotiated contract increases, there will be raises next year, but this will actually aggravate the budget crisis.

3. Graduate Housing-  
Graduate housing has 100% occupancy. On most University campuses undergraduate housing is also maxed out. There is a housing crisis on and off campus and something needs to be done. University administrators, President Lawrence, Nancy Winterbauer, and Emmet Dennis have been notified of the situation.
4. Presidential Search Committee (PSC)-  
Guidelines for the presidential search are on the web. The PSC will consist of 1 graduate student, 3 undergraduate students, and 10 faculty and administrators. PSC will screen applicants and forward 5 unranked finalists to the Presidential Screening Committee, which is the Board of Governors (BOG) with consent of the Board of Trustees (BOT). The problem is that the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Gene O'Hara, will choose all screeners. Also, the graduate student representative will be chosen from a pool of 3 candidates, but only 2 of the 3 will be chosen at the GSA meeting. RUGSA is the only elected representative body for graduate students and it shouldn't be bypassed. Jeff will try to iron out differences.
5. TA's and GA's should become full members of AAUP-  
(Subject will be covered in committee reports)
6. Film Series-  
The Graduate Film Series meets at Zafra's on Mondays at 8:00. All are welcome to attend. Flyers were passed out at the meeting.
7. Questions-  
Q. Paul Riley – general question about AAUP. A. Jeff – Explained about contract talks. Our contract expires in July.

## B. Committees

1. Social/Cultural – Chair Empty  
Alamelou Sundaram will coordinate a film series and has other ideas such as international potluck dinner, fashion show and poetry reading. If you have any ideas, let her know.
2. Publications/Newsletters – Anand not present; Jeff Perlman – There will be a new online publication and we are currently seeking submissions. Contact Jeff or Anand at [asland@mac.com](mailto:asland@mac.com)
3. TA/GA Steering Committee – Gary Bartlett – AAUP membership is critical if we don't want our salaries to be cut. As a TA/GA you already pay 85% dues. In order to be a full, voting member, you must sign up and pay the other 15% (approximately \$10-15 more). Q: I haven't heard a thing about this. Can

you make a list serve or email people? A: Gary – We've tried in some departments, but received little or no response. Letters work better. Jeff – We need to know when organizations meet so a representative can be present and push AAUP membership. Workload Seminar originally scheduled for March 27, 6:00-9:00 PM will be moved because that is Passover. There will be AAUP reps and faculty members. Do you work more than 15 hours a week? There will be a discussion about faculty expectations, student expectations, and reality. The event will be heavily advertised.

4. International Student Affairs- Gary Bartlett – Pizza hours are going well. The next will be in the GSL on a Saturday after spring break. Recent seminar on healthcare for foreign students had a poor turnout. Three speakers had an audience of three students. Midterms may have hurt attendance. Holding it on Busch Campus may help attendance. This event may be tried again in the fall.
5. Student Affairs – Chair Empty; Jeff Perlman – This committee reaches out to local communities such as New Brunswick and Piscataway. If anyone is interested, please join and/or consider being the chairperson. This committee could be a leader in dealing with the off-campus housing situation..

#### C. Treasurer/EAC – Brian Keane

1. Treasurer's report was approved.
2. We did receive our second check from the University, so we can now fund a couple of new organizations. In addition, several committees and subgroups within RUGSA received funding increases.
3. Michelle Brazier, representative for Drama GSA requested \$163 and received \$163

#### D. University Representatives

1. RSGB – Jeff Perlman – Meets the first Monday of every month. Space reallocation is occurring as scheduled.
2. DSCGB – Chair Empty; Jeff Perlman – Meets once a month on a Wednesday at 6:30. There is a graduate student lounge in DSC, so representation on DSCGB is desirable. If anyone is interested for the fall semester, please speak up.
3. Representative to the Board of Trustees – Jason Redd – If anyone is interested in the lobbying trip to DC in May, please see him. President Lawrence is not going to leave quietly. He is going to fight against budget cuts. Jason

discussed the allocation of student fees with the comptroller and discussed unequal taxation of rental properties with New Brunswick Mayor Cahill.

4. University Senate – David Snyder – Resolution considering peer evaluation past for the most part. Text is available from Dave. Faculty is in favor of minus grades, while students are scared. Jeff – RU’s anti-smoking campaign wanted to ban sale of cigarettes on campus, and it failed. Vice President Seneca’s state of the university report is available online. The University Senate unanimously passed a resolution for healthcare for all fellowship recipients but with costs around \$1 million per year, implementation is in doubt. The senate talked mainly about budget cuts. – David Snyder – The recent Budget and Finance Committee meeting was dominated by budget cut decisions and the question of how to cut so much so quickly?
  5. Executive Council of the Graduate School – Carrie Preston – There has not been a recent meeting, but if you have any issues, please let her know. Barbara Bender will announce next meeting.
  6. ACIC – Chair Empty; Jeff Perlman – Charvi Patel was supposed to coordinate this committee, but has not responded to communication attempts. This committee meets Fridays from 12-2 and helps allocate where campus fees go.
  7. P&TC – Jeff Perlman – No new developments.
  8. Bike Task Force Committee – Jeff Perlman – On September 22 there will be a 5 campus bike tour to promote bike use on campus and as an inter-campus mode of transport. The event needs sponsors and volunteers for registration and traffic control. Coke is already a sponsor. There will be a raffle with a mountain bike as the prize. RUPD was not too supportive of the event due to traffic and logistics.
  9. Health Services Student Advisory Council – Jason Redd – The university health centers want feedback from students and want to be more interactive. Two health centers emailed 500 students about their experiences at the centers, but received only 13 replies. They do appreciate any feedback or ideas that students have.
- E. Administrative Assistant – Jeff Perlman – We’re hiring since Dihja is graduating. We would like to hire in mid-April and train in May. Emily, the other AA, goes back to Michigan in the summer so the new AA needs to be available part-time in the summer. Summer duties include answering the phone and writing checks for student organized events. Pay will be about \$9/hour.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Nominations and Elections

1. PSC Representative Elections-  
Nominated: Emilie Stander, Regina Masiello, Michelle Brazier, and Jason Redd. After an initial vote and a runoff vote, Michelle Brazier and Jason Redd were elected representatives, with Regina Masiello as an alternate
2. Nomination for RUGSA Executive Committee-  
Nominated: President: Jeff Perlman; Vice President: Brian Keane; Treasurer: Gary Bartlett; Secretary: Robert Hamilton IV. Elections will be held in April.
3. Nominations for University Senate Graduate Representatives-  
Nominated. Michelle Brazier, Regina Masiello, Carrie Preston, Stewart Duncan, Dave Bartlett. Three will be selected. Elections will be held in April.

##### B Proposals

1. Election Bylaws – Jonas Russ – They were discussed during the runoff elections for PSC Reps and passed at this point in time.
2. Participation in Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Jeff Perlman – PSAC is a group of elected representatives from 3 of the 4 New Brunswick GA's, plus RUGSA reps, and a Newark Campus rep. This group works to ensure that the University PSC chooses a new University president that will work with and for the student body. A resolution sponsored by Jeff and Robert in support of PSAC passed. Jeff Perlman, Robert Hamilton IV, and Emilie Stander, who were acting PSAC reps, were authorized by RUGSA vote to continue as representatives.

#### IV. Question Time

There were no questions.

#### V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM EST