

GPSGA – Graduate & Professional Student Government Association

2012-2013 Assembly Meeting Agenda * Wednesday, January 23rd, 2013 – 5:30 PM * Location: 035 Murray Hall

Meeting Agenda * Meeting date: 1/23/13

A. Call to order

B. Approval of minutes from November 28th Meeting

C. Approval of Agenda

D. Officers' reports:

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentarian
- Communications Director
- Intergovernmental Liaison
- Social Chair

E. Guest Speaker:

1. Cindy Washington
 - a. Stress Management & Student Counseling

F. Old business:

1. Reminder: GPSGA Rep role & responsibilities
 - a. "Active Committee Work"
 - b. New Reps – sign up for committee
2. Research Week Update – Andrea Payne
3. Campus Safety Survey – Launching TOMORROW! (open for 2 weeks ONLY!)

G. New business:

1. Academic Calendar suggestions for change – From Dr. Kenneth Bartels, Chair of Faculty Council
 - a. See email correspondence information (below)
2. Phoenix Awards, Outstanding TA Award, Grad Coordinator & Supporting Staff Awards
3. Humanities Conference – March 1st & 2nd – **EGSA Rep**
 - a. http://english.okstate.edu/orgs/egsa/Conference%202013/osuegsa_conference_2013.html
4. Nearly Naked Mile Event – SUAB; Register (FREE), sign waiver, donate 1 piece of clothing – RUN!
 - a. <http://union.okstate.edu/SUAB/>

H. Announcements:

- a. Spring Co-Sponsorships Applications are due Wednesday February 6th to GPSGA Office (211N SU)
- b. Group Funding Applications are due Friday March 15th to GPSGA Office (211N SU)
- c. Summer Fellowship Applications through Grad College are due Friday February 22, 2013
- d. February 27, March 5, and March 6 are Thesis/Dissertation Draft Format Review Workshops

J. Motion to Adjourn:

Email from Dr. Bartels:

At a past meeting with President Hargis, he mentioned his interest in considering a later start date for the OSU Fall Semester. As a Faculty Council (Officers, Executive Committee, and Council as a whole) we have mentioned and discussed the issue. We then met with the Registrar, Dr. Campbell, to consider this "early start" issue as well as other options.

Dr. Campbell provided a very useful synopsis of the current long term schedule plans as well as answers to a number of questions posed by both faculty, staff, and students. Attached is her report.

To summarize, we asked consideration of the following:

- 1) The early start date
- 2) Increasing the length of the "intercession" between fall and spring semesters
- 3) Increasing the length of classes from 50 - 55 minutes
- 4) Consideration of changing when the fall break should occur

I will say other ideas were discussed but the 4 preceding issues were studied closely.

Summary:

- 1) The early start date does not seem feasible - see below
- 2) Increasing the "intercession" to 4 weeks has a number of very positive advantages that perhaps something we should consider
- 3) Increasing the class time is problematic - please read the email excerpt below regarding impact of lengthening individual class time
- 4) Changing the time for Fall Break seems feasible but needs to be considered from a number of perspectives such as "Do we need a fall break?; Could it be moved to coincide with the Thanksgiving break?; Could it be coupled with Homecoming - that is the Friday before Homecoming?"

If you see other options or opportunities, please contact me. What I would like to do is get written feedback from faculty, staff, graduate students, and students. Once I have your opinions and arguments, I can compile those comments and present it to Faculty Council. Our plan would be to request that Registrar to consider the input and work on contingency plans to implement potential positive changes to enhance our program and academic year.

1. The fall and spring semesters contain several sub-terms, such as two 8-week terms and four 4-week terms. A 15-week semester does not lend itself to such clearly delineated sub-terms.
2. The maximum number of credit hours a student could complete during a 15-week semester would be less than what can be completed during a 16-week semester. State Regents' policy<<http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/policy-procedures/part3.shtml>> (3.12) and OSU Academic Regulation 5.2<http://registrar.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=471&Itemid=74#5.2> define "academic overload" as "the number of semester-credit-hours 25 percent or more than the number of weeks in the applicable academic term." For a 16-week semester this translates to a limit of 19 credit hours for undergraduates. The use of a 15-week semester would reduce this maximum to 18 credit hours per semester.
3. The proposed lengthening of MWF class times from 50 minutes to 55 minutes would result in fewer course offerings. For example, the standard MWF class schedule, utilizing 50-minute class meetings, provides 10 daytime class periods (the first classes beginning at 7:30 am and the last daytime classes ending at 5:20 pm). If the class periods were extended to 55 minutes, the last daytime classes would end at 6:10 pm. This would result in forfeiting the final class period of the day because it would interfere with the 5:30 - 6:30 pm time slot that is reserved for common exams. Evening class periods for undergraduates begin at 6:45 pm. I have attached the official class time schedule for course offerings.
4. State Regents' policy<<http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/policy-procedures/part3.shtml>> (3.18) stresses a uniform academic calendar for institutions in the state that is based on a 16-week term. This policy also defines a semester credit hour as "the standard and traditional unit of credit to be used by institutions in evaluating a student's educational attainment," and indicates a credit hour is normally awarded for completion of 800 instructional minutes (50 minutes per week for sixteen weeks).
5. OSU Academic Regulation 4.8<http://registrar.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=470&Itemid=74#4.8> states that a semester credit hour is "equivalent to (a) sixteen 50-minute class sessions (including examinations) conducted under the guidance of a qualified instructor plus 32 hours of preparation time, or (b) sixteen 3-hour laboratory sessions, or (c) sixteen 2-hour laboratory sessions plus 16 hours of preparation time."