

## **Graduate Student Senate—General Meeting**

**Date: 6-7-06**

Call to order: 12:08 PM

Presiding: President Ray Pugh

Officers Present:

Dailey, Hannah

Maradeo, Marie

Richendrfer, Holly

Shoval, Karyn

Also Present: Karen Huang, Kate Scarpino

**Active Units:** 12/23

**Units Represented:** 9/23

**Inactive Units:** Physics/Math, PolSci/Psych/Soc/Anthro, MBA, Accounting, Ed Tech, Ed Leadership, Special Ed, Tech-Based Ed, Civil, MatSci

### **Agenda**

- I. Visit from Health Center Director, Dr. Kitei
- II. Travel Grant Funds Redistribution
- III. Karen's Announcements from GLO
- IV. Upcoming Events and Activities

### **Minutes**

#### **I. Visit from Health Center Director, Dr. Kitei**

Dr. Susan Kitei, Director of the Lehigh University Student Health Center, visited the GSS to address students' concerns regarding their healthcare at Lehigh. She began her presentation by giving students' a broader perspective on the issues related to health care at Lehigh, both through the Health Center and through external providers as covered by the student insurance plan.

Health care costs in the U.S. are going up every year. This may be due to the increase in malpractice lawsuits. It may also be due to an increasing standard of care. Patients expect more expensive tests as part of their routine care. Technological advances have provided physicians with better tools to care for patients, but these tools are expensive resources. Consequently, consumers must share in the rising costs.

Lehigh has a committee that re-examines the insurance program every year. Representatives to the committee include Dr. Kitei, the Registrar, the insurance broker, and staff members from Risk Management, Athletics, and the International Office. The \$999 fee for student insurance coverage during the 2006-2007 academic year represents a back-and-forth bargain between the committee and our insurance provider. Although our out-of-pocket costs are rising, students will have the same level of coverage as in previous years. Unfortunately, this will be the last year that dependents can buy into Lehigh's insurance plan. After this year, the plan will be for students only. As always, the Health Center is free for students.

During the summer, the Health Center is open M-F, 8:15-4. During the Fall and Spring semesters, the Health Center is also open on Saturdays 10-4. You can find a list of Health Center services at [www.lehigh.edu/health/](http://www.lehigh.edu/health/). If you have a health emergency when the Health Center is closed, call the campus police. The dispatcher will contact one of the on-call doctors at the Health Center who will call you back in about 10-30 minutes.

Dr. Kitei has heard some rumors about a poor standard of care at the Health Center. She reminded students that people don't always tell their friends the whole story and that patients don't always follow their doctor's advice. If you have a specific concern, Dr. Kitei is always available by appointment to discuss the problem with you. Dr. Kitei also answered the following questions from students.

Q: I know our insurance is getting more expensive because we're using the plan and getting tests and prescriptions. How can I stop feeling guilty about using the insurance plan, even if that means costs may go up for everyone?

A: First of all, don't make decisions about your health based on guilt! Talk to the doctors at the Health Center and listen to their advice. If your doctor says you don't need a certain diagnostic test, do your best to trust her judgment. However, your choices about your body and your health care are ultimately up to you.

Q: What about testing for HPV?

A: The Health Center offers routine gynecological care. The only cost is a \$40 lab fee for the pap smear. If a patient shows an abnormal results on her pap test, the Health Center will order the HPV test.

## II. Travel Grant Funds Redistribution

Karyn presented a proposal to redistribute the \$2000 leftover travel grant funding before the end of the fiscal year. Karyn has many pending applications for funding from students in units that have already exceeded the per-unit travel grant limit. However, there are many units that never apply for funding because those students usually get travel funding from their advisors. The proposal is to take the remaining funds and grant the pending applications as long as the individual applicant has not exceeded the per-person limit and the unit was active at the time of the application. The unit reps voted to approve this proposal on a provisional basis for this fiscal year only.

## III. Karen's Announcements from GLO

- *GLO Picnic Cancelled*—For the third time, the Graduate Life Office's picnic must be rescheduled due to rain. The next picnic will be scheduled within 48 hours of the event to accommodate the weather report.
- *Yahoo Group for Rental Information*—Don't forget to post your feedback about your house, apartment, or landlord on the Lehigh graduate student housing forum.
- *Roommate Finder*—If you need a roommate or a place to live, check the roommate finder on the GLO webpage.

## IV. Upcoming Events and Activities

- *Summer Volleyball*—Games are Wednesdays, 6:30-8, at the Sayre Village volleyball court. Email Holly (har3) for more information.
- *Tuesdays@2*—Stop by the Catacombs to make an ice cream sundae or float.
- *World Cup Games*—Come watch the games on the GSS big screen TV in the Catacombs. Check the GSS website for the schedule.
- *Possible Summer Trips*—Hershey Park, Brooklyn Zoo/Glass exhibit, Beach Trip to New Jersey, Poker Night at Lambertson, Wine Tasting, Arena Football, Phillies games. If you have any suggestions, contact [gradlife@lehigh.edu](mailto:gradlife@lehigh.edu).
- The next GSS General Meeting will be July 26<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.