

Graduate Nursing Senate  
January 29, 2008  
Meeting Minutes  
SON602

Recorder: Lyzz Caley

**Call to Order**

Lyzz Caley called the meeting to order at 5:10PM.

**Members Present:** Kathryn Sexson, Laura Jenson, Katie Kern, Jacqui Martin, Yupwan Thongtanunam, Rebecca Scobee, Chris Green, Lyzz Caley, Yi Yan and Maureen Moncada.

**Open Forum for Student Concerns**

*a. Study Space for Graduate Students* – At a previous meeting, there was a concern about why this room was not available for masters level students. Lyzz shared the response about the reading room from Gail Houck which stated that it was due to space limitations. However, she understood the need for quiet study space. The group discussed this issue and decided that more information on the need should be collected. It was recommended this be referred to the Life & Learning Committee.

*b. Tort Cap Ruling* – There was a group discussion on the impact of the Tort Cap ruling on students and how the Graduate Nursing Senate could best advocate for students. There was a consensus to ask for an audience with the dean and senior associate dean to discuss the possible impact on students. Lyzz will follow-up.

*c. Graduation Reception* – Maureen Moncada told the group that due to the Tort Cap ruling, there was a need to cut back on graduation expenses. Her suggestion was to eliminate the after graduation reception next to the Schnitzer due to the rising costs of catering. Instead, she proposed that we have it in the SON the day before and make a big day of it. There was group discussion and the consensus was to support this change in graduation celebrations.

*d. Suggestion Box* – Katie Kern followed up on a previous meeting discussion about creating a suggestion box. There was group discussion about who would read the contents of the box and where the box would be placed. There was group consensus that students need more guidance on where to send their comments and how to advocate effectively. Katie agreed to follow-up on the creation of a flow-chart for students to accompany the suggestion box.

*e. Office of Academic Affairs Focus Group* – Lyzz reminded the group about the Focus Group to be held on February 5, 2008, 1PM-1:45PM in SN349 to gather graduate student feedback on centralized student services.

**Committee Reports**

*a. Social Activities/Welcome Back Breakfast* – Yi Yan reported that the welcome back breakfast was held the week prior and was a large success. It rose awareness about the presence of the Graduate Nursing Senate. The Social Activities committee is also planning on giving graduation gifts.

*b. Conference Funding* – Rebecca Scobee reported on the number of conference attendees funded thus far. Those funded have been from a variety of programs. There was discussion about whether conference funding could be given for a conference that was required

of a program. The consensus was that funding would be requested as long as the requestor met the requirements of funding by presenting results.

*c. Leadership Succession* – The group discussed the vacant positions. It was decided to move the current at-large positions into the vacant program representative positions and advertise for available at-large positions to increase participation. Lyzz will send out an e-mail. Lyzz also stated that she would not be returning as President of the organization next year. She encouraged GNS members to begin to think about succession and stated that she would be available for mentoring. She also brought up the idea of Co-Presidents.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.** Next Meeting will be scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March.