The regular meeting of the Graduate Student Association Board was called to order at 5:05pm on February 24, 2010 in the CUB room 317 by Michael Killion.

Reports from Committees

University Forum
- Possible replacement of Blackboard with Desire 2 Learn
  - Will cost $1 million to extend the blackboard contract
  - May be more difficult to learn update than Desire 2 Learn System
- Academic Master Plan is working on a task force, there will be open forums on March 23, 24, 29
- Banner implementation and an online catalog to keep up with curriculum changes instead of waiting 2 years for the print version
- Student Association Board Participation in Keystone Cares (April 24 or May 1)

University Curriculum Committee
- 20 proposals addressed: 19 passed and 1 tabled– focusing on graduate changes
- Changing women’s studies to women’s studies and gender studies
- Everything UCC has done this past fall has been approved by the president
- All summer online courses must be 5 weeks long
- Not enough faculty to teach is not a valid reason to implement a summer course,
  - We need to make a case to hire more faculty
- TCH 511 Elementary School Curriculum and Assessment approval for summer online course
- Master’s in Computer Science will now be implementing an exam for basic skills in order to ensure that students are not continuing in the program until these skills have been met
  - Free exam, second week of every month- examples on website
  - Must be complete within first 9 credits or cannot register for further classes
- Psychology Department did an overhaul of the Master’s Degree Program.
  - More rigorous, new mission statement, same learning assessments
  - 3 tracks to address the needs of the 3 populations of graduate students
    - Doctoral program
    - Support of current career
    - Immediate service field entry
  - MS in Psychology is now MS in Psychological Sciences
  - Students who want to pursue Doctoral degrees will be required to complete a 6 credit Master’s thesis
  - Applied (workforce) track 6 credits of field experience
    - Sites include Chambersburg hospital analyzing surgical success rates, drug and alcohol program evaluations in Hershey, Lancaster, and SIAC Frederick
  - General track has 6 elective credits and an exam
- Removed history from required courses and added a second research and statistics course
- 400 level no longer allowed for graduate credit because graduates were not taking this course, but maintaining the number of seats for undergraduates in 500 level courses
- Human Factors is now a 500 level course to reach more graduate students, which will increase number of UG seats in other 400 level classes
- Declare track at end of 1st year
- Field 1 and field 2 students together

**Graduate Council**

- Researching the two CSP GA positions that are stationed at HACC
  - Shippensburg is paying their tuition, HACC is paying their salary
  - Possibly convert the two positions into internships
- Looking at paying GA’s in a stipend form instead of at an hourly wage
  - Generate even pay distribution every two weeks
  - Would maintain the $5,000 a year
  - Body in favor of stipend, but questioned what currently happens beyond 250 hours
- Problem of GA’s working beyond 250 hours
  - Willingly required to do work that exceeds 250 hours a semester
  - Lack of resources in offices to support GA’s
  - Against GA’s being used in place of a resource role
  - No way to fund the extra hours put in by GA’s
- Ship is up 300 graduate students from last year
  - More females
  - Increase in African American and Hispanic students
  - Decrease in Asian and Native American students
  - Total graduate student body - 1,289
- Two “C” Rule
  - Committee was considering moving to a strict 3.0 GPA rule
  - Last semester there were 42 “C” Rule appeals
    - 0.5% of graduate class had appeals
    - Unsure of non-appeal rate under the two “C” rule
  - Asking departments to keep the two “C” rule and maintain 3.0 GPA
    - Faculty backing to support this
  - Issue of departments with several Pass/Fail courses, as students have less classes to effect overall GPA scores

**Graduate Assistantship Allocations**

- Currently no end of semester reviews/evaluations for GA’s
  - In the works to install end of semester surveys
- Converting GA’s to SPP’s- creates position receiving minimum wage and no tuition reimbursement
  - SPP’s often not sought after by graduate students, but are taken because of no other options
- Currently about 20 GA’s outside of academic affairs- Trying to move to having all GA positions fall under the Graduate Dean or change the name of Student Affairs “GAs” to something else
  - The possible change from hourly pay to a stipend would affect all GA’s
• Considering if the university can/should limit a graduate student’s work outside of Shippensburg University
  o GSAB agreed that this should be an issue between graduate student and supervisor, not restrictions placed by university
• Resignation language and the language around GA’s changing between departments mid-semester was found to be ambiguous
  o Will be attempting to clarify the website and the language used
• Tuition waivers
  o Discussion has been given to what should happen if a GA does not work at least 90% of his/her hours (225) as currently required.
    ▪ Tuition waiver is prorated based on amount of work.
    ▪ One suggestion is the GA should have to resign to open the position to someone else willing/able to do more work
• Move to relying on the colleges and departments to select GA’s
  o Considering two year awards for a GA position

GLBT Concerns
• Safe Zone Trainings
  o Have a train the trainer event on April 16th
    ▪ Re-evaluating the training manuals and training process
• Silent Witness Training
  o Part of Silent Witness PA
  o End of March
    ▪ How to be a human wall at a protest event
• Alumni speaker scheduled to present on campus
• PASSHE has removed sexual orientation from the protected classes in its non discrimination policy
  o Results in each PASSHE school deciding if they will keep/remove sexual orientation in their individual policies
  o Shippensburg has aligned with PASSHE and removed sexual orientation as a protected class
    ▪ Currently working to reverse decision, work toward inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in Shippensburg non-discrimination policy
    ▪ Chair of Criminal Justice Dept aiding students efforts
• Rainbow Room
  o Looking for space on campus
  o Previously through counseling center, now looking for non-staff space
• SALE Conference March 26-28
• Office of Social Equity suggested a gay marriage debate as a Human Understanding
• Deadline for grants has been moved back to Friday, February 26, 2010

Teacher Education
• Need permanent room for Exhibition Day because CUB will not be functioning next year
  o Ideas suggested: Rec Center, PAC, Henderson, Chapel, Tuscarora Room
• Chemistry approved general psychology as a requirement
• English department has broken up Methods 1 and 2
• Dr. Elizabeth City from Harvard will be speaking at Shippensburg on Act 48
• PACTE- members going to faculty development program

Academic Master Plan Task Force
• Formal Academic Master Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis
  o Will serve as the anchor for Ship’s course for the next 5-10 years
  o Feed into the Strategic Plan as the driving force
    ▪ Help with tight budget times to set university priorities and focus financial allocations
    ▪ Serves to stabilize university philosophy
• Developing a mission statement and goals for Academic Affairs
  o For each goal there will be 3-5 objectives to accomplish
    ▪ There will be a strategy created for each objective
• Currently in the middle of focus group meetings
  o Asking representatives to provide feedback in SWOT analysis
  o Will then analyze feedback and provide a summary document for all university shareholders
• Three Open forums planned for March
  o Opportunity for anyone’s ideas, issues, viewpoints to be heard
  o Dates:
    ▪ March 23, 3-5pm FSC256
    ▪ March 24, 3-5pm FSC256
    ▪ March 29, 3-5pm FSC256
• Draft for Academic Master Plan will be submitted to the Provost at the end of the semester
  o Presented to all everyone in the Fall of 2010
  o This will be another opportunity to receive feedback from the community
• Would like Graduate Students feedback on the goals, language, vision, and what to include in the Academic Master Plan
  o E-mail ideas or comments to amp@ship.edu
  o http://www.ship.edu/Provost/AMP/
  o Possible Facebook discussion board on GSAB page
  o Need for faculty to engage students about importance of their input in AMP
  o Possible program advisor/department chairs identification of students with an invested interest

Website Tabled

Fundraising

Knute’s Fundraiser
• GSAB benefit night on Tuesday, March 2nd from 4pm-10pm
  o Flyers will be distributed to all graduate students electronically
  o Students can make additional copies to hand out to others
• 20% of sales associated with a flyer presented at purchase will be donated to the GSAB funds
Sheetz Coupons
• Graduate students can pick up Sheetz coupons to sell for a GSAB fundraiser after spring break
• Pay $4 for a coupon (which is redeemed for a MTO sandwich, wrap, melt, etc. and a fountain drink)
  o Profit $1.50 from each coupon sold
• Can pick up a book of coupons to sell or purchase a coupon from Mike Killion
Graduate Symposium
- About 2 months away
- Need a head count so transportation can be provided
- Please help with advertising! Let all your colleagues know about it
- To learn more about the symposium, visit http://www.ship.edu/gsab/symposium/

GSAB Positions Available for Fall 2010
- Due to graduation, three positions will be available in May
- Positions available:
  o Co-Chair
  o Committee’s Coordinator
  o Webmaster
- If you would like to learn more about a position or you would like to run for a position, contact Mike Killion

Graduate Open House
- April 10th
- Looking for representatives for each program

Volunteer Opportunities Tabled

End of the Year Social
- April 30th after the Graduate Symposium
- Location of restaurant in Harrisburg is TBA

May Graduation Tabled

Meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm by Michael Killion. There has not yet been a date set for the next general meeting.