

Former Students Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2005

In Attendance: Mike Balog, Brian Bunt, Glyn Cook, Jason Eichorst, Alisa Hicklin, Pat Hurley, Stephanie Kern, Paul Stafford, and Misha Taylor-Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 10:10AM by Glyn Cook. Jason Eichorst was introduced as a student representative.

Dr. Hurley talked about the four new faculty members the department hired this year: Robert Walker, Michael Koch, Diego von Vacano, and Marisa Abrajano. She mentioned that Abrajano will be leaving at the end of the spring semester and that Kwan will be moving back to Korea in December 2005. Hurley also outlined the department's ongoing recruiting efforts for this fall semester. Jim Rogers will be the new Graduate Director in January 2006. Bob Harmel is continuing as Director of Undergraduate Programs and has brought about significant changes with new Bachelor of Science requirements and new certificate programs. Stephanie Kern is leaving to take a new position in the TAMU Health Science Center. This is an opportunity for her to move up. Hurley mentions the latest *US News* ranking of our PhD Program. It moved up to #22 overall and 8 or 9th among public institutions. The American Politics Program moved up to 17th overall. Cook asked how we compared to other universities in Texas. Hurley explained that we have the highest departmental rankings in the state. Stafford asked about "overriding budgeting concerns. Hurley said the Dean's "dowry" is gone and that the College of Liberal Arts is currently discussing funding strategies.

Kern gave report on FSAB account inflow-outflow (this did not include June to August 2005.)

Jason Eichorst gave a brief presentation about his research and his attendance at the Midwest Political Science Conference.

Balog brought up the Former Student Survey that the Department's Undergraduate Committee was planning on sending out. He asked for feedback and suggestions. Discussion began on how it would be sent, through regular mail, email, or using the Association of Former Students. The length and when to send it out were also discussed.

Cook asked about the status of the Mentoring Program. He has only one student contact this fall. Stafford has had several students contact him. Kern suggested making a poster for Career Day and to have around the Undergraduate Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Career Committee- Cook said the fall 2005 Career Day was a victim of the hurricane season. Balog said that it went well with Kent Martin speaking at both class times. Balog also suggested spring 2006 dates for Career Day.

Nominating Committee- Stafford stated that Chris Bowers agreed to continue as Development Chair. Cook stated that the Nominating Committee recommends Brian Bunt to be new Chair Elect. Nominations moved by Cook, seconded by Stafford, with unanimous vote for Bunt. Two at-large positions for the Nominating Committee were also discussed. Cook will ask David Davenport and Clint Hackney to continue in those positions.

The minutes from the January 29, 2005 FSAB meeting were approved by members.

At 11:30AM we took a break for lunch.

Alisa Hicklin gave a presentation on “The Effect of Race-Based Admissions in Public Universities: Debunking the Myths about *Hopwood* and Proposition 209.”

At 12:35PM discussion on the spring 2006 Career Day began with Cook asking about the planned format. It was agreed by members that the slide show Glyn has outlined should be used. The group decided to hold Career Day on the last week of March 2006, either on Tuesday (3-28) or Thursday (3-30).

Cook thanked Stephanie for making the meetings look easy for all of the members when he knows it is not. Cook thanked her and everyone gave her best wishes.

The meeting adjourned at 1PM. Discussion started on when to have the next meeting. February 11, 2006 was the first choice with a backup date of February 25, 2006. There are home basketball games on these two dates and everyone said they enjoyed the spring 2005 meeting followed by a group going to the basketball game.