

GPSA Office of External Affairs – October 2009 Assembly Report

Arizona Students' Association Update

Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) Tuition Work Group: The first two meetings of the ABOR Tuition Work Group covered background information and data for tuition and fees within the Arizona University System. At the first meeting, I requested that ABOR provide data specific to graduate students. By the second meeting, this information was not yet available. Of the limited graduate data provided to date, one trend is raising red flags – the percentage of graduate students with educational debt is increasing faster than the percentage of undergraduate students with educational debt. (Note: The data does not reflect graduate students with undergraduate debt and no graduate debt).

Student Indebtedness	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Undergraduates	47.2%	52.3%	52.9%	52.4%	53.0%
Graduates	36.2%	47.9%	48.0%	51.6%	53.7%

ASA Graduate Issues Ad Hoc Committee: The committee has held one meeting to date; the result of the meeting is that the following three issues are common priority concerns for graduate students around the Arizona: Financial Aid, Tuition and Cost of Attendance, and TA/GA/RA pay and benefit issues.

ASA Executive Director: On October 16, 2009, Serena Unrein tendered her resignation letter to the ASA Board of Directors. Unrein's resignation is effective December 18, 2009. Unrein states in part in her letter of resignation the following:

This was not an easy decision to make. Working for ASA has been one of the best experiences of my life. I could not ask for a more important cause or for better colleagues. In my six years at ASA, I have learned a lot and have really enjoyed my time here. The organization has grown immensely during the time I have been here and I take tremendous pride in what we've been able to accomplish, particularly our dedication to grassroots organizing and empowering the students we represent to advocate for themselves. – Serena Unrein

Office of External Affairs (OEA) News

The OEA committee sent out a brief survey to all graduate students on 10/09/09 in response to the recent change in Arizona state law and ABOR's subsequent change to the ABOR policies. To date, over 1145 graduate students have shared their opinions regarding firearms on campus and in parked vehicles on campus. The OEA committee will publish the results of the survey soon.

Firearms on Campus Survey Information Paragraph

GPSA is seeking graduate student opinions on the recent change in Arizona state law (A.R.S. § 12-781) that affects University policies regarding weapons on campus. This new law required that the Arizona Board of Regents change Board Policies 5-303 "Prohibited Conduct and 5-308 "Student Code to be consistent with state law. These new policies allow "a person to lawfully transport or lawfully store a firearm that is both 1) in the person's locked and privately owned vehicle or in a locked compartment on the person's privately owned motorcycle, and 2) not visible from the outside of the motor vehicle or motorcycle although the Board or a University may require that vehicles transporting or storing firearms be parking in alternative parking" (http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/meetings/board_book/2009-09-Sep/Item-20-2009-09.pdf)