

## General Student Affairs Committee 2021-2022 Report Membership

Chair: George Colligan (SOMT)

Members: David Burnett (ECE), Karen Haley (COE), Heather Petzold (UNST),  
Bethany Potts (Enrollment Management), Ariana Peters (Student)

Liaisons: Michele Toppe, Vice Provost for Student Affairs; Alex Miller,  
Executive Assistant

### Committee Charge (from Faculty Constitution)

1. Serve in an advisory capacity to administrative officers on matters of student affairs, educational activities, budgets, and student discipline.
2. Have specific responsibility to review and make recommendations regarding policies related to student services, programs, and long-range planning, e.g., student employment, educational activities, counseling, health service and extracurricular programming.
3. Nominate the recipients of the Presidential Community Service Awards.

### Report

- One of our main accomplishments this year was the revival of the PSU Presidential Awards for service. Out of 35 eligible candidates, the committee selected 4 candidates (2 at the undergraduate level and 2 at the graduate level) to receive these awards based on service to the community or the university, respectively. All of the candidates were extremely impressive. The committee reviewed materials submitted by faculty members and staff from the various units within the university. The awards were presented during an SALP event on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.pdx.edu/student-affairs/presidential-awards>

- The GSAC acted as a liaison between the Faculty Senate and the Pronoun project. The members of the project (Andrea Garrity, Delaney Ybarra, Cliff Allen, Jeff Conn, and Nicolle DuPont) made a presentation at one of our meetings and the GSAC members agreed that they should present their ideas in a Faculty Senate meeting.

- The committee has worked closely with Michele Toppe and will continue to do so. Specifically, Vice Provost Toppe's collaborations with PSU Landing, the Incident Management Team, the Student Communications Network, the "Persistence Network," and other student life offices have kept the committee apprised of ongoing efforts to promote campus community and student well-being.
- While this past year has seen a reopening of the campus and in some ways a return to normal activities, Covid -19 is not exactly over. The mask mandate is not currently in effect, however, masking and other aspects of in-person activities have become more based on personal choice and personal risk factors. Quarantine regulations have eased, but many students and faculty are getting sick, although it seems as though generally the new variants have a much milder effect, especially for the fully vaccinated and boosted. While there is the appearance of normalcy, the effects of this somewhat tumultuous period should not be underestimated. GSAC can be part of the effort to help the transition back to as normal an experience as possible.
- George Colligan will continue as chair of the GSAC for 2022-2023.

#### Recommendations to the 2022-2023 Committee

- The implementation of the PSU Presidential Awards for service is the most definitive achievement of the GSAC committee this year. We consider these awards to be extremely valuable. The awards are incredibly symbolic, however, we agreed that adding a monetary component to the award would add to the value. Even \$500 dollars would be incredibly useful to our deserving students. The committee should push for funding from either the President's office and/or finding a donor to help with the funding of this award.
- Continue collaborating with ASPSU, including but not limited to student members of the committee, on addressing the most pressing concerns that students face and the sense of campus culture and "belonging" more broadly. Although we tried to recruit students for participation on the GSAC committee, we were only able to have one student (Ariana Peters) attend meetings on a regular basis. The committee agreed that we need more students on the committee and to make sure we listen to them and address their concerns.

- Continue working with Vice Provost Toppe's office on student communication, student resource publicizing, and possibilities for reinvigorating a Fall Convocation for new students (possible now that on-campus activities have returned for the most part.) Finding the best way to communicate with students and making sure they are aware of activities, opportunities, and resources has been an ongoing discussion with the GSAC Committee.
- Find new opportunities for public-facing education and engagement efforts that have emerged from the last two very difficult years; investigate ways of working with the surrounding communities on questions of public health, drug safety, and social justice.
- Campus Safety continues to be an ongoing issue and a discussion topic with the GSAC committee. While there are other committees who are dealing with this issue more directly, it is important to have a forum where students can voice their opinions and concerns on the issue.