

GAPA  
Friday, February 22, 2019  
9:00-9:45am, 1110 LNCO

## Minutes

1. Grammarly update: Reminder that a free, premium account given to all post-baccalaureate students, goal is to build up graduate writing resources. Can be used on anything web based such as outgoing email.
2. Upcoming Events:
  - a. Finding Funding for Those Outside STEM Fields Workshops
    - i. March 4 & March 18
  - b. Dissertation and Thesis Writing Bootcamp at the Marriott Library
    - i. March 29
  - c. CTLE Workshop: High Impact Practices in the Classroom
    - i. March 29
3. New Diversity Offerings for Prospective Students
  - a. Top Off Award/Diversity Recruitment Bonus: Extra money from Diversity Office to woo underrepresented students. Enhances departmental support, above and beyond your efforts, department applies. Visit Diversity Office website for details.
  - b. Campus Visits for Diverse Students Program: Help students find out more about the university and Salt Lake Valley area as an underrepresented student. Intended to show resources in university and community. Does take time, give a bit of advance notice so Diversity Office can setup. Is a free benefit
4. Graduate Office Updates
  - a. Reminder: Faculty Committee Lookup now live
    - i. For outside committee members, university wide searches will show all committees
    - ii. University Report can be run by leaving the Program and Academic Plan fields blank
5. Three Minute Thesis Winner
  - a. Martin Jensen, Biomedical Engineering
6. GAPA Business
  - a. Emily Williams new Secretary: will now have minutes for GAPA meetings, slightly more robust record keeping
  - b. Survey: Still plan on sending. Asking about meeting productivity, social event, basic information. "What can we do as an organization to better serve you?"
7. Student handbook
  - a. Mandatory changes/updates (email went out to the Dogs) including safety resources such as reporting and using language that promotes safety on campus. Graduate School will be looking to make sure student handbooks are up to standard, as we get closer to summer. Links to updated handbooks need to be sent to Danny to keep his records up to date, if the link changes.

8. Tuition & Benefits Office Overview & Announcements – Jolyn Schleiffarth
  - a. Fullbright is a program open to graduate and undergraduate students in all disciplines who wish to perform research, teach English, or study in a foreign country. Workshops are also in session to help students prepare (see flyer for details). 9 Semi-Finalists from the U, a testament our students are competitive on a national level.
  - b. Currently working on fellowship and scholarship decisions. Committees are reviewing applications for the Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Teaching Assistantship, Steffensen Cannon Scholarship, and Marriner S. Eccles Graduate Research Fellowship. Decisions will probably go out early April.
  - c. Some fellowships and scholarships rely on tuition benefit and others pay tuition directly. Steffensen Cannon and Eccles cover tuition directly. Graduate Research and University Teaching Assistantship rely on tuition benefits for tuition coverage. Important to figure out students who are out of tuition benefit but receive one of the scholarships that relies on it before fall. Will send out more info once ready to announce awardees.
  - d. Health Insurance: Most of the fees for subsidized students have posted, however there are always stragglers. Sometimes your tuition benefit won't have posted for every student by the census deadline, if it hasn't awarded the student most likely they are not on our list of insurance enrollees. Rest assured that we will catch any students who should be but aren't when we do our reconciliation, which we're working on now. If there's any urgent issue feel free to reach out, I don't mind expediting solutions.
  - e. Changes to tuition benefit report:
    - i. Column heading updates for clarity.
    - ii. Students will select insurance (yes/no on eligibility) when completing approval form for tuition benefit. Less work for department, puts responsibility on student. Will provide explanation on options, fees, and coverage periods on insurance to student so they make informed decisions.
9. Open Forum:
  - a. Q: Will eye and dental ever merge with regular insurance?
    - i. A: Not at this time, we are subject to the companies that bid on us. Not a lot of people respond to student healthcare coverage, so we don't have a lot of options. We will be EMI for about 3 more years. We would like to do that but there aren't a lot of companies that engage in student health care, and even fewer who engage with it granularly and who are good at it.
  - b. Q: Could we get a way to resend emails of tuition benefit to students when they don't get them?
    - i. It is possible and we are looking into it