Meeting called to order at 3 pm.

Report of the Committee Chair

Dean Tate spoke to the committee about parking for the upcoming year. He emphasized the importance of disseminating information about the lottery and getting people signed up for the lottery. He mentioned that there will be meetings and town halls. Dean Tate recognizes that many graduate students are concerned about access to parking given their changing and busy schedules. Dean stated that faculty and staff are weighted more heavily than students. Dean Tate said that although there will be enough parking and the school is not overselling like an airline, some of those spots will be at West Campus, where shuttles will be available regularly.

Danielle Bristow mentioned that incoming students without WUSTL key won’t be able to enter is the concern.

Dean Tate responded that he was told that this has been recognized as an issue and that it will be addressed. It will be a major disruption to the lives of our students, faculty, and staff, stated Dean Tate. He also said that there is no more advocacy on this front, the decision has been made, and all he can do is encourage people to make sure they get their name in the lottery.

Student reps to Trustees

The Student Representatives to the Trustees reported on the Leadership Institute initiative.

Top findings: Students were less satisfied with feeling part of Wash U community. First year students desire to live with other students, have the support and resources of staff, and have common spaces. Students also expressed a desire for leadership and interdisciplinary training. The Skandalirs Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship, they reported, focuses on entrepreneurship and leaves out a large faction of graduate students. They reported that only 60% of Ph.D. graduates secure post-docs in their field of study and that students have trouble finding tenure track positions and non-academic positions.

They also reported that peer institutions have stronger leadership training than Wash U. MIT, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and Duke were all mentioned as examples. MIT has fully developed leadership institutes. Stanford has leadership courses, common spaces, structured programming, a social startup fund, and mentorship at their institute. It also includes a space for organic networking and collaborative opportunities, and is not residential. Harvard has an alumni board to advocate for these issues. Yale has a 4-year leadership program. Duke’s institute is focused on social advocacy. MIT’s institute operated on the all, many, and few principle. All graduate students are part of it and can access the resources, many are more engaged at the institute, and few have fellowships.
Wash U’s design principles include dedicated housing (like McDonnell institute), longitudinal leadership training, an emphasis on entrepreneurship and social research, fellowships, and a social start-up funding. All of these ideas are based on peer models. A site has been chosen at Enright and Westgate. An architect has been engaged to render visualizations. The representatives report that they have been approached by Maxine Clark with a proposal for potentially combining with Delmar Devine.

The goal is to gain a competitive advantage in recruiting transformative students, attract and leverage grants and funding, foster start-ups, engage alumni, encourage transdisciplinary approach, and help with branding and visibility of our grad schools to launch Wash U to a higher tier.

Dean Tate: When talking with the board, start with the opportunity because over the years they have heard that we don’t have competitive advantages. Starting there gives a position of strength to make your point that it’s not just another project. Also, it’s good that they chose gold standard of institutions that we aspire to be like. Also make it more personal, talk about how you have been affected by it.

Danielle Bristow: It talks about helping all students but would actually be a small group, so you’re not solving that larger problem. Just keep in mind that helping 100 students is not going to help ALL students feel connected.

James Parker: The all, many and few is a very good point. You can talk about housing if you want but focus on other aspects of program and benefit to university, such as prestige.

Dean Tate: Point out that these universities are training future presidents of universities and chairs of medical departments.

Mary Campbell: They are in the middle of a 7-year plan to address housing so that aspect isn’t going to appeal to them. They have been committed to quality housing and are making changes. Focus on other aspects, not just about housing and warehousing people and the mechanics of how to get to class, but rather how to create environments of opportunity and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Joe Fox: The mission of the institute and the multiple ways it addresses it is important. The residential aspect is just a space where it can sometimes occur.

**Report of the Graduate Professional Council President**

Haley distributed copies of the strategic action plan. She reported that it has the GPC’s summarized recommendations. She stated that it is the first time they have done this in this manner and they felt it was important to do so.

Haley: GPC is looking to expand interdisciplinary opportunities. There’s a certain isolation that is felt due to the way the school is constructed. We also want to be included on decisions made in terms of messaging and marketing. We represent 50% of the student population and we think that this is important. Mental health visits is something we have heard at every single meeting. We have talked about recommendations and we want to make this a priority. We want the university to strive to hire more minority and women staff. We would like to have a single space where we can meet because right now for a private meeting we have to rent space, use Lieberman after hours, or use public space. There are empty spaces in the DUC and we feel that we deserve this, especially as the Student Union has a very large space. We want to continue to be represented on committees and boards and we would like that process to be more transparent in terms of who is appointed, how, and how to be a part of the meeting. We would also like to be included in the scheduling of the meetings seeing as president of GPC and GSS are very busy as well and are required to be at many of these meetings.
Dean Tate: What types of committees? For ad-hoc meetings, you are always subject to schedule of the chair. Standing committees should be amenable to input from graduate student representatives.

Haley: This is the first year we have had liaisons to connect GPC with the institutional framework that is available at the university. It was a slow start for this first year but are excited for the way the next GPC will use these positions. We will be sending out a GPC survey to see exactly what it is that students are enjoying and would like to see from GPC to make sure we are meeting graduate student needs.

James Parker: Student Union pays a lot for their space, just be aware of that because that argument might not stand.

Dean Macrander

Graduate Students with Children: Dean Macrander reviewed the requirements for a student group to become an official group. Dean Macrander reviewed academic makeup of the membership and events that they have conducted this school year. Dean Macrander said they are up for vote from provisional status so soon because they have been functioning for several years as a mentoring group. Dean Macrander moved to vote. Mary Campbell seconded. All voted in favor.

Dean Macrander then brought up the St Louis Neuroscience Outreach Consortium (STLNOC). They have been running on a grant but want to be group to fund things that the grant will not, like meetings and food. They need an extension on provisional status. Mary moves to vote for one year, James seconds. All voted in favor.

Dean Macrander reported on Liberman Leadership Awards.

Recommendation for Agenda Topics for Next Year

Dean Tate said mental health will remain an issue as it has been brought up many times, and asked for further input on other topics.

Joe Fox stated parking will inevitably be a topic, we should have someone from parking come to present to this committee so they will be ambassadors of goodwill instead of punishers. Haley reported graduate students are ranked above undergraduate students in lottery system for parking.

New Business

None

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.