**GSC Committee Meeting Form**

**Instructions:** Please complete this form and send it to the GSC president and web master/VP of communication no later than 48 hours after you attend any committee meetings or other meetings on campus where you represent GSC. This form will be made public on the GSC website for graduate students to review.

**Name (GSC members who attended this meeting, bold name of individual filling out report): Tara Young,** Trevor Harris

**Name of meeting/committee:** Graduate Council

**Meeting date:** 03/02/2017

**Start time:** 11:30 am

**End time:** 1:00 pm

**Brief summary of committee purpose:** Graduate Council includes Dean Reyes, deans and members from most/all colleges, and discusses issues involving graduate student life and policy.

**Meeting Summary/Main points of interest (include a bullet point list of any announcements for upcoming events, topics discussed, changes made, and relevant points here):**

* Discussion of proposed changes to College of Business MBA program
* Graduate School Announcements:
  + Down in enrollment by 8% (College of Education and College of business are the only ones that are up)
    - Graduate students must register NOW (before April 17th), this is critical to enrollment status
    - Graduate Assistantships are on the table to be cut this year if enrollment stays down
  + 3 Minute Thesis Competition this Saturday April 8th
  + Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting coming up
  + External review response (report to be sent to provost and shared)
    - Grad school re-organized 5 times since 2002
  + Accelerated master’s program up and running under financial aid

Issue brought up by GSC:

Naveen Dass

This is relevant to international students especially, but I want to share my situation with American students as well:

1. NMSU made an administrative error in classifying our MA in Psychology. As it stands, although we earn an MA in "Psychology", this reads as "General Psychology" on some key documents necessary for international students to establish STEM-designation for the "Psychology" major.

2. I used these faulty documents provided by NMSU to apply for an extension of my permit to work in the US. This application was reviewed by the International Students and Scholars Services dept. (ISSS) who are required by the Department of Homeland Security to find flaws (like the major name discrepancy noted in #1) in the application. ISSS reviewed my application without catching NMSU's error in major name and approved for submittal.

3. My application for extension of my work permit was denied because of the discrepancy in major name.

4. As a result, I lost my job. My legal authorization to work in the US is gone. My legal authorization to live in the US is in jeopardy.

Dominic Simon and Igor Dolgov (along with other staff, faculty and leaders) have been champions for my cause and are fighting to have the situation rectified. Other departments and officials within NMSU, however, have been less than responsive.

I am currently trying to work with NMSU to resolve this.

If that proves fruitless, I'll return to Las Cruces and politely ask for fair treatment.

I have a family to feed so I will exhaust all my options.

Please let your international student friends know about this and to ensure NMSU has their paperwork in order. I would not want the same misfortune to befall others.

Send this to Dean Esqubel and Michael Schmelzle

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