

Brian Riley, UC Davis, Candidate for Director of Outreach board position of NAGPS, Dec. 18, 2016

Issues:

Students of diverse identities feeling safe – per the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution

Job prospects for newly graduated students – always a pertinent concern

Reinstate the Stafford government subsidized loan program, lower interest rates

Sexual assault – Tragically rampant across the country, to a significant degree due to alcohol abuse

– drinking age should be lowered, such as in European countries

– which would lessen the prevalence of abuse

Alternative to academic careers/non-academic careers – This issue could be part of a "Life & Work" concerns group, to be added once we triple in size

Funding for NAGPS staff in DC – Possibly consider raising dues to finance this

F1 Visa Revalidation – Let's start a fundraising effort among international students

Advocacy Support Network – We shouldn't just rely on boards to get the job done (national boards and regional boards), a grassroots network is needed

Open access – generally a great idea and inevitable trend of the future

Student loans/debt – need cap on interest rates at a lower level, reinstate subsidized loans for grad students

Research funding – funding assistance for research conducted by grad students

Housing crunch due to influx of international students – survey needed to track this potentially nationwide issue

General student funding (scholarships, etc.) – more needed to foster well intellectual growth and well being of grad students

Food security – Related to lack of general funding for grad students and tuition increases

Tuition hikes – Much of this is due to easy availability of federal loans for students

- administrators raise tuition because they can
- more federal oversight needed on how loans are handled

Term limits needed on advisory board

- perpetuation of non-pertinent founder-effects, inbreeding
- goes against democratic principles and the best of US higher-ed trends

Organization cannot be considered a legitimate voice of grad students nationwide with less than 100 out of 4,000 higher ed institutions [1,900 with graduate programs], less than half of AAU institutions, and 19 states completely unrepresented (more than 1/3 of US states). We need to take a careful look at structural issues, social forces and trends (both within NAGPS and without, historically and in the present) that contribute to not making progress on member growth.

All these issues I would "bring to the mix" of interactions between board members, which ultimately need to come from grad student constituents in a bottom-up fashion, the Director of Outreach, then, needs to follow the results of other concerns groups within NAGPS