I. Call to Order
• GSC meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda
• A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded and passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 2008
• President Kershner informed that since the minutes from February were not yet released to the Executive Committee, they will be approved in April 2008 along with the minutes from today's meeting.

IV. Guest Speaker - Provost Nellis
• Dr. Shanklin introduced our guest speaker, Provost Duane Nellis. Dr. Shanklin thanked Provost Nellis in taking time to visit Graduate Student Council's meeting and noted that the Provost will give a brief overview about the graduate education and its importance relative to Kansas State University.
  • Provost Nellis thanked the opportunity to be present with graduate students and emphasized how much graduate students and graduate programs at K-State helps achieve national recognition. He noted that according to Carnegie's Classification of Universities, K-State is ranked nationally in the top 4%. Partly based on research activity, this is a reflection of the significance of graduate programs. K-State takes pride in continuing to supporting and growing graduate programs in spite of challenges like the dramatic shift in state support for higher education. The level of support for higher education from State of Kansas decreased from over 40% of total budget, two decades ago to about 24% today. As a result, K-State has been looking for alternate sources like private giving and increases in tuition and fees. Even with the doubling of tuition and fees in the last five years, K-State is still in the lower third of Big-12 institutions. Private giving and commitments has increased tremendously in the past two years. The Provost Office has increased efforts to raise funds to support fellowships for graduate students and provide special funds to support graduate students' travel. In the last 7 years, part of the Changing Last Campaign has been to raise 500 million dollars for the university— it has exceeded this goal.
  • Provost Nellis referred to "2012 Plan" which is a latest strategic planning process document and that his office is soliciting input. Over the next five years, he will be focusing on nine key schemes. One of which is to enhance graduate education and research programs. Underneath this scheme there are a series of action of items that his office would like to focus on. Action items that are relevant to graduate students: 1. Continue to recruit top-level graduate students from United States and abroad by offering competitive compensation packages including tuition assistance and health care. 2. Generate new sources of revenue to provide competitive compensation provides to graduate students through private giving and tuition raise. He noted that private givings are typically endowed and that an endowment of half-a-million dollars for a graduate fellowship generates a pay-out of 4%. Recently a five-year tuition plan was finished which included some additional revenue for graduate students. The next five-year tuition plan is in talks, the committee includes a graduate student representative. The plan this year is to raise tuition by about 4.4%, which is significantly less than past increases. Under this new plan, about $250,000 per year will be carved out to dedicate for graduate student stipends and tuition waivers. 3. Emphasized a systematic approach for professional development opportunities for
graduate students and welcomed any comments and ideas. 4. Explained the Targeted Excellence programs which are given to faculty on a competitive basis across the university and can include multi-year grant support for graduate student stipends. 5. Inter-institutional opportunities, wherein collaborations between participating Big 12 schools will be supported.

- Announced the anticipated timeline for appointment of a permanent dean for Graduate School. He noted that the recruiting process will involve a national search that may take up to 9 months and will start late summer or early fall. The candidates will be on campus early next calendar year 2009. Once a selection has been made, the new dean may begin his/her job late spring or early summer, depending on their availability. Graduate Student Council will be represented in this search process.

- Question 1 by Kyle Ross, Economics: What teaching awards are available specifically for Graduate Teaching Assistants for excellence in teaching on a University wide basis?
  - Answer: A presidential distinguished graduate student teaching award is given every year. There is a review committee that reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the president.

- Question 2 by Steven Bellinger, GNOMES: How does the university go about in recruiting outside students to the graduate programs at K-State?
  - Answer: The graduate student recruitment is dependent upon the reputation of colleges and departments and their faculty and so it occurs at that level and not at the broad university level. International graduate students are also recruited at the departmental level based on student-faculty interactions and through webpage. The faculty members go to other countries and give seminars about the research programs at K-State.

- Question 3 by Walter McNeil, GNOMES: How will $250,000 be distributed to the graduate students?
  - Answer: There would be a meeting with key Deans and money would be distributed proportionate to the number of students a college has. Once the money is allocated, the Deans decide how the money is spent. They could spend that money to increase graduate stipend, start a tuition waiver plan, or provide new assistantships.

- Question by the Student Representative of Plant Pathology: Is there a relationship between increase in tuition fee to the payment of graduate student stipend?
  - Answer: This depends on whether a student is on a research assistantship or teaching assistantship. However, the increase in tuition fee doesn’t necessarily translate to a proportionate increase in the graduate student stipend. Because, a graduate student on teaching assistantship gets a tuition waiver and so an increase in tuition fee doesn’t have an impact on stipend. But a student on research assistantship might end up with higher tuition fees than the increase depending upon how the increase gets distributed relative to the dollars that come into the college for tuition waivers. Provost Nellis encouraged sending in creative ideas to his e-mail ID at dnellis@ksu.edu on as to how to distribute dollars from such an increase.

V. Officer Reports
A. President – Kellan Kershner
  o Announced the officer elections next month for Graduate Student Council. The positions are President-Elect, which is a two-year term, Secretary and Treasurer, both of which are one-year term. Nomination forms will be sent out through GSCLIST-L listserv in the near future and available on the website. There is a small scholarship associated with these positions.

B. President-Elect – Shiva Garimella
C. Treasurer – Kara Ross

- Announced that notifications to the travel award recipients will be sent soon which will inform of the award amount.

  - SGA FY08 Travel Grant Funds
    - Spent $9120
    - Allocated $1400
    - Available $7480
  - SGA FY08 Operating Funds
    - Spent $
    - Allocated $
    - Unallocated $1531.01
  - KSU Foundation Funds $835.09

D. Secretary – Pradeep Malreddy

- Secretary Malreddy requested that if a GSC representative is not able to attend the monthly meetings, he or she should send in a proxy for attendance at the regular GSC monthly meetings.

VI. Advisor Report

- Dr. Carol Shanklin, Interim Dean of the Graduate School and GSC Advisor
  - Following up on Steven Bellinger’s question to Provost Nellis, she noted that Graduate School does some general recruitment that focuses on all programs university wide. The Graduate School attends conferences abroad representing various programs at K-State and is involved with recruitment of students into graduate programs. 50% of student application fee for graduate school goes back to the program, to support graduate program’s administration and recruitment activities.
  - Announced the Timothy Donghue Fellowship program where outstanding graduate students are nominated by the departments.
  - Reminded that the deadlines for James Pearson’s Study Abroad program and Rhodes Scholar International are April 1st and March 14th respectively. Encouraged everyone to visit the fellowship/scholarship opportunities webpage of Graduate School’s website.

VII. Graduate Student Senator Reports

- Graduate senators present at the meeting were Sanjayan Santharaman and George Weston.
  - Senator Weston announced the upcoming student body, SGA elections. He said that there are now two persons on the ballot. He said there are eight slots for graduate students to represent in the student senate. President Kershner emphasized that people should do write-ins only for serious candidates.

VIII. Committee Reports

- Professional Development Seminar Committee, Chair: Kellan Kershner
Announced that four Professional Development Seminars were organized this semester and the final one is coming up this Tuesday in Big 12 Room at 4:30 p.m. The seminar is on manuscript writing. He noted that the attendance at these workshops is typically low. The speaker for manuscript writing is the Head of Department of Agronomy who has served as editor for soil journals.

Question: How to request for a specific topic to be covered?
Answer: E-mail any requests to egsc@ksu.edu and include Professional Development in the subject line. President Kersher noted that there would not be any further Professional Development Seminars for the rest of this semester. For next fall, GSC will be working together with Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) in organizing more seminars.

- **Ice Cream Social Committee, Chair: Natalie Brown**
  o Thursday, April 17, 2008 is the next Ice Cream Social. She requested volunteers to help serve ice cream. The Ice Cream Social is on the East side of Fairchild Hall. She can be reached at nbe@ksu.edu

- **GRA/GTA/GA Affairs Committee, Chair: Pradeep Malreddy**
  Announced that an application has been submitted to IRB for the approval of survey questions and that it usually takes about 4 weeks for the approval. And upon approval a survey will be sent to all the graduate students on campus.

- **Research Forum Committee, Chair: Shiva Garimella**
  o Announced that this Friday, March 7th is the K-State Research Forum (KRF). There were 65 abstracts submitted of which 10 comprised from undergraduate students. Within graduate, there are three sessions- Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Education, and Mathematics and Physical Sciences.
  o Everyone is encouraged to attend these sessions to support fellow graduate students. He noted that the poster session begin from 10:00 a.m. He informed that all presentations that need any changes could be corrected tomorrow in the Union from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.
  o Dr. Lease added that the event is publicized online and the Manhattan Mercury and Collegian are covering the event.

- **International Student Affairs Committee, Chair: Sanmitra Barman**
  President Kershner informed about the International Buddies program and welcomed and introduced the new ISC director, Sara Thurston-Gonzales.

- **Union Governing Board Graduate Student Representative: Kendra Kobiskie**
  o Announced that Subway's contract ends this year and that the Board will consider either renewing the contract or replacement with a different vendor. Currently, Quizino’s is also being considered.
  o There are also two new concepts that are being considered for the Food Court and hence encouraged the students in attendance about their opinions so that she could pass on them to the Board.

- **Health Insurance Committee, Chair: Michael Hinkin**
  o Announced that Kansas Board of Regents had their meeting for Spring semester just last week. He reported a few points on accuracy of processing claims. There
was a 99% claim turn-around in less than 30 days, there was a 99% financial accuracy in less than 30 days, speed of answering phones was 91% and the abandonment rate was under 4% at 1.9%. These data indicate that the new insurance policy is doing well with the claims turnout amongst other things.

- He informed that the dental and eye options are also being considered for future.
- He noted that Human Resources is also conducting a survey on Health Insurance issues and that his committee will co-ordinate with them on the survey.

• Allocation Committee, Chair: Kara Ross
  - Announced that the deadline for travel grants is April 15\textsuperscript{th} for the travel period between July 1\textsuperscript{st} to October 31\textsuperscript{st}.

**IX. Old Business**
President Kershner tabled the discussion on GSC Newsletter.

**X. New Business**
Senator Weston summarized the K-State SGA Bill No. 07/08/64. President Kershner looked for a motion to pass this bill. A motion was made to reject Bill 07/08/64 as a constitutional amendment and seconded. The floor was opened for debate.

Positive Debate:

- Visitor Lidia Peele commented that a lot of college councils are inactive and the student governing body cannot act on a particular bill unless they vote and hence this bill for amendment of SGA constitution came up.

Positive Debate
- President Kershner yielded control to President-Elect Garimella

Negative Debate: President Kershner noted that just four councils could vote an amendment down.

President-Elect Garimella returned control to President Kershner
Positive Debate
Vote: 32-10-4-4-14 (Total-Yes-No-Abstain-Absent)
Bill 07/08/64 was rejected as a constitutional amendment.

**XI. Open Forum**
President Kershner introduced the guest speaker, Ms Lidia Peele who is running as a candidate for President of Student Governing Association, Kansas State University.

Lidia Peele gave a brief overview of the three main issues that her campaign wants to address if elected to the office. One issue is the safety of students on campus and the other one is related to the parking garage construction. If elected to the office she would implement a policy of having security at all times once the garage construction is completed. The construction is scheduled to be completed by January 2009. Lastly, her office would push for increased transparency in the budgeting of student privilege fees especially to the Lafene Student Health Center. Ms. Peele informed that her campaign’s slogan is ‘more peace of mind, more for the future and more for your money’.

**XII. Announcements**
1. Professional Development Seminar on Manuscript Writing - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday 3/4/08, Big XII, K-State Student Union
2. K-State Research Forum, all day, Friday, 3/7/08, K-State Student Union
3. Capitol Research Summit, 9:30-1:30, 2nd Floor, State Capitol Building, Topeka
4. Next GSC Meeting, 12:00 p.m., Monday 4/7/08, Waters 137
5. Travel Grant Deadline, 4/15/08

XIII. Adjournment
• Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.