**Graduate Student Congress**

Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

**AGENDA**

**Thursday 20 April, 2017**

**Graduate Education Building**

**Auditorium**

**6:00 PM**

***ATTENDING:*** Burbridge, DiLoreto, Jeter, Johnson, Kimbrough, Koenigseder, Marino, Medina, Morse, Ordorica, Sims, Vranovci, Ward, Whiting, Wilkinson, Spencer (special April 2017 vacancy election), ASG Sen. Gairhan, ASG Sen. Villines, ASG Sen. Agare, Dr. Katherine Sloan, ASG Treasurer Shelby Cormack, coadvisors Cantu and McAllister. *Proxy:* Callahan. *Abse*nt: Baker, Blanchard, Deshpande, Gerner, Medina, Park, Stoudenmire. Wilbanks, Frierson.

1. Call to Order: Johnson, 6:02 pm
2. Attendance (above). Quorum met.
3. Swearing-in of special April vacancy election reps: Rep. Stetson Spencer
4. Approve March general meeting minutes. Approved.
5. Approve Agenda. Approved.
6. Special Orders
   1. GSC Advisor Amanda Cantu: no report.
   2. ASG Advisor Michael McCallister: University Committee applications due at the end of April—many are grad student-oriented.
   3. ASG President Connor Flocks: unavailable—schedule conflict.
   4. GSC Awards (Ward):

1. Administrative Ally: Dr. Katherine Sloan (History Dept.)

2. Outreach: Rep. Ashley Whiting

3. Alex Marino Service Award: Rep. Jeter

4. Faculty: Dr. Jim Giantino (History Dept.)

5. Staff Ally: Tess Gibson, Interlibrary Loan (Mullins)

6. Research: Aaron Shew, graduate student, ENDY program

7. Representative of the Year: Rep. Jesse Sims

8. Outstanding Representative of the Year: Rep. Samantha Baker

1. Reports
   1. Speaker Scout Johnson.

1. Official inauguration: May 5, 2017 (Dead Day), 3 pm, Union Theater. Business Dress.

2. Met with Graduate Student Advisory Board. Mayor Jordan attended, was appreciative of the Civil Rights Ordinance Resolution (fall 2014). We are having impact on the community.

3. Requested special alteration of the meeting rules—3 minutes authorship, 3 minutes for questions, and 1 minute debate/speaking. No opposition to rule change.

* 1. Vice Speaker Arley Ward: will be conducting grad appreciation lunches May 2-4 each day midday at the GSC office (for raising awareness of the presence of GSC and its central office location) and the Gearhart Grad Lounge.
  2. Treasurer Korab Vranovci: attended administration meetings.
  3. Secretary Garrett Jeter. No report.
  4. International Concerns Chair Min-Ji Park. No report.
  5. Social Chair—Vacant. No report.
  6. External Affairs and Marketing Co-Chairs Rachel Gerner and Katie Wilkinson (Wilkinson reporting).

1. Reiterated Ward’s announcement re: the grad appreciation lunches

2. Please follow us on social media.

* 1. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director Jesse Sims. Has finished up the year with the Razorback Action Group, and RAG will publish a legislative scorecard.
  2. Parliamentarian Joshua Burbridge. Policy & Procedures Committee met and discussed the new Supreme Constitution that we will address tonight and at ASG Senate next Tuesday.
  3. Graduate Student Life Chair Johnathan Blanchard. No report.
  4. Facilities Committee Chair Stacy Kimbrough. Will meet with Transit & Parking on April 27 re: concerns and issues. Asked reps to send her talking points/issues/concerns to bring to the T&P committee meeting.
  5. Old Business
     1. OFA Standing Rules (Ward and Cormack). Addressed changes:

1. Ll. 32-39)--Changed funding-round dates to conform with 2017-18 AY calendar.

2. Ll. 100-01--Changed old ways of submission—templates, password-protected budgets, etc.

3. L. 175—Changed RSO conference funding to $1500 max per AY.

4. L. 177-79-Individual conference registration fee up to $500 max per AY, approved by student’s academic advisor.

5. L. 246-sustainabilty—no funding for canned drinks unless there is a cultural value.

Ward: individual conference funding—travel and lodging will be trial and error for this year—still addressing it.

Johnson: what will be the burden on Miss Jody?

Cormack: mostly advising, but this move will lighten the burden on her.

Burbridge: please approve because Cormack worked hard on this.

Marino: she has worked well with us, and he supports her work.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. Passes.

* + 1. JR9—Life Event Survey

Jeter: this resolution removes the previous language re: UAConnect because the original contemplated system would burden UAConnect during registration. Rather, the resolution requests placing a hold on the student’s account until s/he completes the survey. The resolution also changes survey creation and implementation to more general language about “student life and wellness leadership.” The student who expresses interest in pursuing assistance would receive an email listing resources plus a link to U of A Cares.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. Passes.

* + 1. JR11—Lactation Rooms—Campus-Wide Policy

Kimbrough: HR noticed a gap for staff. Off Campus Connections asked for Union LR. This resolution has the support of the Pregnancy and Parenting RSO.

MOTION for untimed period to add sponsors. 2nd. Passes.

Spencer: asked about regulations re: LR, privacy and background checks.

Kimbrough: conforms with regulations and creates recommended and minimum standards. This resolution would set standards all around campus.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes unanimously.

* + 1. GSCB7—Union Lactation Room

Kimbrough: this bill would allocate $150 to improve the Union LR with the following things: door bolt, table, nonslip doormat, and bulletin board for the parenting/pregnancy RSO. Note: the bill appendix also contained pictures of the current LR.

Spencer: have you tracked the frequency of usage?

Kimbrough: No. Students have no knowledge of where LRs. Off-campus Connections could advertise and raise awareness. Kimbrough can do awareness raising through media and communications.

Ward: commends Kimbrough for work on this issue because this piece addresses GSC causes and issues. Supports it.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes.

* + 1. GSCB 4—Elections Process

Ward: we would be bound by the Code and Constitution as to their original language: no expenditure reports, no candidate quizzes, and no orientation attendance.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes.

* + 1. GSCB 5—Food Pantry Donation

Ward: we can donate funds that are unallocated at the end of the year and zero out that budget line. There is an appendix with detailed costs. This speaks to who we are as a body.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes.

* + 1. GSCB 6—Pack Shack—purchase of dry meals for the Full Circle Pantry

Ward: this bill increases our outreach. Meals are 25 cents apiece—each dry meal we purchase for the FCP. This bill will zero out our legislative allocation budget.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes.

* + 1. JB8—Restore Rights to Students

Ward: this bill concerns ballot initiatives. It revises language and the time-period restriction re: collection of petition signatures during the spring elections. It can be up to 1 year to collect signatures before the petition expires..

Jeter: for spring and fall?

Ward: both.

Burbridge: anything re: the two-time publishing in the *Arkansas Traveler*.

Ward: doesn’t address.

Marino: this still applies to JR8.

Ward: further legislation can address this.

Marino: language re: the student newspaper is in the Constitution.

Ward: we can fix it.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. Passes.

* + 1. JR10—Union Improvement Act, 2 appendices (Jeter, Villines, Agare)

Jeter: this Act requests the Chancellor and Board to expand the Arkansas Union’s square footage to accompany the increase of student population. Ideally, the physical area should increase by 30,000 sq ft.; the Assn of College Unions Intl. standards recommend 10 sq ft per student. When the Union expanded in 1998, UA student population was 15,000; now the population is 25K, but with no accompanying increase in area. Appendix I compares our Union with sister SEC institutions’ Unions—funding, cost, services and amenities. Appendix II is the wish list of desires for more space and its purposing according to the different offices in the Union.

Sims: how will this impact prioritizing other campus projects, e.g., Mullins library improvements?

Villines: I’ve talked with several administration officials at Pres. Flocks’s suggestion, and they very much support it. Uncertain if it will interfere.

Remove 3rd Whereas clause and change Whereas clause.

Not just about us, but reached out to help students in general.

Amend endorsement clause from “Manager” to ‘Director.”

Marino: delete “ASG” in “(GSC/ASG)”.

Villines/Johnson: Remove “SEC” from Appendix I title and replace with “Other”

Jeter: would removing “SEC” from the language remove benchmarking?

Johnson: would not matter. Not all listed institutions are SEC.

Villines: delete in “Be it finally resolved” clause—change “Upon” to “this.”

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. Passes.

* + 1. GSCR 9—No Preconditions Before Independence Negotiations

Marino: Pres. Flocks in the media, in correspondence, and to the Chancellor remarked/stated that he wanted to establish preconditions before beginning talks about autonomy, a tradeoff of reforms instead of independence. This Resolution rejects preconditions—this is trading one thing for another. The piece allows any GSC member to work on whatever s/he wants to. There is no game of tradeoffs, but we can make changes

Burbridge: voted against this one in Cabinet and will again because we’ve already said we’d go through 4 avenues. It’s hostile and will affect vote. Opposes voting on it as resolution.

Ward: understands Burbridge’s point, but supports the Resolution as transparent.

Marino: we went to Senate and met w/ Senators—they asked why we needed to do this.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes. 1 nay.

* + 1. JB9—Act to create the Associated Students Supreme Constitution and the Grad Professional Student Congress (Let Grads Go) \*\*

Marino: I told the Senators that this issue will not go away until we’re independent. We gained Sen. Scott Sims because of the way that we propose spending funds.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: add to Appendix—support letter from Graduate School deans Needy and Koski. They will circulate to other deans for support.

Supreme Constitution—the deans required changes re: certain enrolled students.

Senators required changes re: GPSC payments to PAB.

Jeter: asked about payments by GPSC to PAB.

Ward: payments are for Distinguished Lectures, etc.

Marino: we get all fees, but some monies go to the general pot.

Ward: The University of Missouri has this system as well, and it is an SEC institution.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote on AMENDMENTS by acclamation. 2nd. Passes.

Jeter: asked about funding mechanisms and funding authority?

Marino: will be effective Dead Day 2018. There will be talk with the administration about funds. No 2-year delay.

MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes unanimously.

* 1. New Business
     1. JB5—International Senate Seat (Gairhan and Agare)

Gairhan: this bill will create and broaden perspectives—attempts to be diverse—real and plausible way to get broader perspective. It will remove 1 freshman seat and give it to an international student in fall vacancy 2017.

Agare: this bill will diversify and allow hearing and representation of international student voice on campus. We want to show other campuses that we’re uncommon.

Spencer: any blockage to international students previously in running for/getting elected to a seat.

Gairhan: no.

Marino: when would voting be and how would the language be? We still have to submit a ballot initiative—which one, fall 2017?

Gairhan: would have to go through spring referendum. Would have to go in next fall.

MOTION TO AMEND to include language—referendum in fall 2017 vacancy election and include referendum text asking whether students support allotting 1 Senate seat to international students. MOTION TO AMEND. 2nd. Passes.

Marino—MOTION TO AMEND: remove 2 GSC Representatives as joint subcommittee members to implement in accordance with Code and Constitution.

MOTION to suspend rules and move to 2nd reading. 2nd. Passes.

VOTE: 16-0. Passes unanimously.

* 1. Speaker’s Address: Johnson

1. Public Comment. None.
2. Announcements. None.
3. Adjourn: 7:45 pm
4. Reconvene: CALL TO ORDER, Johnson, 7:50 pm
5. Swear in GSC Reps for 2017-2018: McAllister.
6. Executive and Cabinet Elections for 2017-18 AY.
   1. Speaker.

Nominations: WARD

MOTION to close nominations. Closed.

Ward spoke on favorite issues and causes

Closed discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous yes.

* 1. Vice Speaker

Nominations: BURBRIDGE: accepts. MARINO: declines.

MOTION to close nominations: Closed.

Burbridge spoke on favorite issues and causes, as well as foregoing other extracurriculars to pursue this.

Marino: Burbridge led Policies & Procedures Committee well. You’ll be overseeing all committees as to frequency of committee meetings. What will be your policy?

Burbridge: meet at least once a month, have attendance counts and minutes for accountability.

Closed discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. Secretary

Nominations: JETER. Accepts.

Jeter outlined experience and a desired change on the website.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. Treasurer

Nominations: VRANOVCI. Declines. WHITING. Accepts.

Whiting spoke about her experience in budgeting and finance with places on campus, including the architecture school.

Jeter: will you be able to handle the changes in funding and allocations with the forthcoming independence of the GSC?

Whiting: I have experience with the Architecture School and budgeting there.

Closed discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. International Concerns Chair

Nominations: VRANOVCI. Declines. No other nominations.

Election delayed till the fall.

* 1. Social Chair

Nominations: None. Election delayed till the fall.

* 1. External Affairs and Marketing Co-Chairs

Nominations: WILKINSON. Accepts.

Wilkinson stated that she could step up to it, but without a co-chair it would be more difficult.

Closed discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director

Nominations: DiLORETO. Accepts.

DiLoreto spoke about experience, particularly the guns on campus bill. Stated that he was very vocal and wrote editorial pieces on it. Worked on several political campaigns in Massachusetts.

Marino: we seem to have issues in Little Rock that are partisan. Do you have experience dealing with hot-button issues?

DiLoreto: experience in Massachusetts politics. Vocal re: guns on campus bill.

Closed discussion follows.

VOTE: all yes.

* 1. Parliamentarian.

Nominations: MARINO. Declines. Election delayed till fall.

* 1. Graduate Student Life Chair.

Nominations: NONE. Election delayed till fall.

* 1. Facilities Committee Chair

Nominations: KIMBROUGH. Accepts.

Kimbrough: spoke on favorite issues and causes

Marino: Re: the Transit & Parking Committee meeting next Tuesday—do we want to have a seat on the T&P committee?

Kimbrough: we want a grad student rep to be on the committee, regardless of title or position.

Closed discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

1. Adjourn: 8:38 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

***Garrett C. Jeter***

Garrett C. Jeter

Recording Secretary

***\*\* ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT:*** Appendix—University of Arkansas Associated Supreme Constitution.