



**Graduate Student Congress**  
Associated Student Government  
University of Arkansas

## **AGENDA**

**1 December 2017**

**Geosciences Conference Room, Gearhart Hall, 217**

**12:00 – 2:00pm**

I) Call to Order

II) Attendance

a) Physical

(i) Arley Ward, Josh Burbridge, Ashley Whiting, Garret Jeter, JD DiLoreto, Jenn Oramous, Michael McAllister, Vicky Hartwell.

b) Electronic

(i) Anthony Marcon, Courtney Brooks, Josh Aguilar, Leah Morse, Kristen Callahan.

III) Approve Minutes

a) Yes

IV) Approve Agenda

a) Yes

V) Special Orders

A) GSC Advisor Vicky Hartwell (5 minutes)

a) Glad to announce that the Graduate School will be sponsoring the 2018 NAGPS National Conference closing dinner.

B) ASG Advisor Michael McAllister (5 minutes)

a) At this time during the semester, one-on-ones, or official meetings with ASG members and staff generally declines. However, we are here an available until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

VI) Reports

A) Speaker Arley Ward (10 minutes)

a) Tax Reform

(i) We continue to work with our national and local partners on this. Thus far, the provisions most damaging to graduate students is not included in the Senate version. Now we must keep calling and pay attention to the proceedings during the conference committee.

b) Autonomy Updates

(i) At this point, the split has been formalized, the Constitution should be passed in our next meeting, and the of graduate student activity fees to be paid back in to PAB has been agreed upon.

c) December Social/Holiday Party

- (i) The final GSC Social will be on Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 at Farrells on Dickson, followed by the ASG Holiday Party at US Pizza at 7:30.
- d) NAGPS National Conference
  - (i) The Conference Planning Committee has been organized and is currently working to secure sponsorship/funding for remaining events.
- B) Vice Speaker Josh Burbridge (5 minutes)
  - (i) Continuing to work on the website and currently waiting to hear back from IT for assistance.
- C) Treasurer Ashley Whiting (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report.
- D) Secretary Garrett Jeter (5minutes)
  - (i) No report.
- E) International Concerns Chair Anthony Marcon (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report.
- F) Social Chair—Courtney Brooks (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report.
- G) External Affairs and Marketing Chair Josh Aguilar (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report.
- H) Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director JD DiLoreto (5 minutes)
  - (i) Continuing to work on last month's projects.
- I) Parliamentarian Leah Morse (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report
- J) Graduate Student Life Chair Jenn Oramous (5 minutes)
  - (i) Grad Life Committee has not met since the last meeting but will be doing so on Friday. We will also be making props for the photo booth during dissertation de-stress week next Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- K) Facilities Committee Chair Kristen Callahan (5 minutes)
  - (i) No report
- VII) Old Business
- VIII) ASG Joint Resolution 4, A Resolution in Opposition to the Elimination of Educational Tax Incentives
  - a) The Senate voted to amend this document in a move that largely seems designed to drag out the process so that it is no longer relevant. I (Ward) recommend that we accept the amendments in hopes of this passing next Tuesday.
  - b) Recommend Pass – unanimous
- IX) New Business
- X) Office of Financial Affairs Standing Rules
  - a) (Ward) – These are the product of the review undertaken each semester and largely deal with changing dates and transitioning to the HogSync platform. We will walk through each of these before we vote.

- b) Recommend Pass – unanimous
- xI) GSC Bill 6 A Bill to Authorize the Funding for Symposium on Human Trafficking in Conjunction with the American Constitution Society
  - a) (Ward) This resolution is designed to fund a speaker on Human Trafficking in conjunction with the American Constitution Society.
  - b) (Ward to McAllister) Is it acceptable that we partner with this group?
  - c) (McAllister) Yes.
  - d) (Ward) This seems like a reasonable request and we have the funding to support this. The authors, Marcon and Callahan, have designated that Cole will work with Treasurer Whiting to see that this is carried out.
  - e) (Ward) There are structural issues which must be corrected before the meeting.
  - f) (Ward) Additionally, it seems that \$400 for airfare may be low. The problem being that if the body votes to spend \$400 and the airfare exceeds that amount, we cannot increase the amount without the permission of the body. Oramous and Whiting concur.
  - g) (Ward) We will communicate these concerns to the author and recommend changes.
  - h) Recommend Pass contingent on changes. – unanimous.
- XII) GSC Resolution 6, A Resolution in Support of an Office for Every Graduate Assistant with an Emphasis on the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
  - a) (Marino) This resolution does three things.
    - (i) It address the concerns of my constituents regarding the removal of library carrels.
    - (ii) Creates a living document that can be referenced back to in the future.
    - (iii) Highlights that this is an acute problem within the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
  - b) (Marino) In Kimple Hall, the English Department has to place up to 30 people into a single bullpen office with tables and one computer.
    - (i) This is unsustainable.
    - (ii) The formulas used to calculate the average amount of office space for graduate assistants always skews the reality and inevitably fails those at the bottom.
    - (iii) Those at the bottom are always in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
    - (iv) These same areas are the ones that lose when it comes to funding.
    - (v) Administration has expressed no future goals related to space relative to these areas.
    - (vi) In the last five years, graduate students in the humanities have continued to be removed from the center of campus.

(vii) In response to the above, this resolution must be targeted to the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

c. (Whiting) I like that this specifically stresses Social Sciences as well and that it stresses the need for a safe office space.

d. (DiLoreto) How successful have these resolutions been in the past?

e. (Ward) Food insecurity resolutions were very effective at changing the conversation on campus. But we have not specifically addressed office spaces before.

f. (Marino) This is the starting place.

g. (Hartwell) Include language about the work of graduate students.

h. (Marino) That was originally included but removed due to length concerns.

\* This is not a space for graduate students only, this is about students having their needs addressed in a safe and effective way.

i. (Whiting) – This is a baseline giving a right to a safe office space. Many offices are too private and removed from the center of campus to be truly safe.

j. (Oramous) In Peabody, it is exactly the opposite, it is far to public to be effective. But this is a starting place to then move forward from the Humanities. We have to be specific. If you are general, you get general results.

k. (Jeter) – It's about time. I love this. The English Department continues to lose space and it gets worse every year. We cannot effectively meet with students. The University must accommodate for growth. I am very much for this.

l. Recommend pass.

XIII) Special Orders – The GPSC Constitution

A) (Ward) Remember, we will be voting on, and hopefully, passing the GPSC Constitution next week. Let me know if you have any last minute questions, comments, or concerns.

XIV) Public Comment (10 Minutes)—reserved for those who do not have speaking privileges.

XV) Announcements—Reserved for those who do have speaking privileges.

A) Holiday Party.

XVI) Adjourn