



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

15 November 2017, 6:00 PM
Graduate Education Auditorium

ATTENDANCE: Aguilar, Atkins, Belote, Birch, Blanchard, Bohlen, Burbridge, Callahan, Cervellere, Diaz, Dye, Elkin, Jeter, Kimbrough, Koenigseder, Marcon, Marino, Morse, Nardo, Nunn, Shaffer, Sumler, Taylor, Tidwell, Ward, Whitehead, Whiting, Tetley, coadvisors McAllister and Hartwell. *ELECTRONIC VOTING*: Ames, Bakare, Braddock, Conrad, Dougherty, Ehlers, Kaijage, Moore. *PROXIES*: Koshkarbaeva, Oramous, Wilkinson. *ABSENT*: Abdalhadi, Beals, Brooks, DiLoreto, Gamage, Ravishankar, Rowlett, Scott, Sturdivant, Wilbanks. *GUESTS*: Ashley Shackelford, Library Committee; ASG Sen Amarachi Onyebueke.

I) Call to Order: Ward, 6:02 pm

II) Attendance. Quorum met.

III) Approve Agenda. MOTION to remove GSC Res 3 (VIII. A below: GPSC handling of student fees) because it has been taken care of. 2nd. Approved.

IV) Approve Minutes. Approved.

V) Special Orders

A) GSC Advisor Vicky Hartwell. No report.

B) ASG Advisor Michael McAllister:

1. There's a new ASG Chief Justice, Andrew Hanson
2. 11/17 at the Greek Theater: coffee and donuts for the Donut Drink and Drive.
3. Martin Luther King vigil on January 15, 2018 in honor of MLK Day.

VI) Reports

A) Speaker Arley Ward

- a) Research Panel Discussion: Thursday, November 16, 2017, 5:30 pm at the Grad Ed Auditorium. Discussion will be on identification of topics for projects

such as dissertations, theses, etc. Please come if you can. The speakers are those who run projects. Open to undergrads.

b) NAGPS National Conference funding. We won regional and national awards at National this November, plus winning the bid to host the National Conference in Arkansas November 2018. We don't get a percentage of the registration fees, so we have to go to donors and sponsors. All facilities will be open during the Thursday and Saturday of that time period. The Chancellor will host and pay for the welcome party at his home. Ward discussed the financials aspect. It will be open to all at UA.

c) Library Committee – Ashley Shackelford.

Ward: met with Dean re: grad library space during the remodeling.

Shackelford: will have a library committee just for grad students. Outlined his plans and invited grads to join him on this committee.

d) Ward: we will need to have a committee of awards, a committee for elections and Constitution and spring research forum.

e) Ward: 12/2, 7 pm—ASG end of semester pizza party at U.S. Pizza.

B) Vice Speaker Josh Burbridge. Working on website—still working because of difficulties. Should be running by end of semester.

C) Treasurer Ashley Whiting. No report.

D) Secretary Garrett Jeter. No report.

E) International Concerns Chair Anthony Marcon. No report.

F) Social Chair—Courtney Brooks. No report.

G) External Affairs and Marketing Chair Josh Aguilar. Remember social media. Also, there will be the 3-minute thesis competition.

H) Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director JD DiLoreto. No report.

I) Parliamentarian Leah Morse.

1. Tonight we will look at the Constitution. Discussion will be clarification only.
2. At the last meeting, there were some violations of Robert's Rule of Order, namely, people speaking without the Speaker recognizing reps who wanted to speak, speaking out of order.

J) Graduate Student Life Chair Jenn Oramous (by report through Ward):

The Graduate Student Life Committee met on October 27 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. There were 6 members in attendance and 6 that emailed their regrets. We discussed the Homecoming Parade specifics. We discussed the development of the Professional Development Series. We concluded that Isabelle will write a survey for the grads to find out what topics may be wanted, what times would be best. Isabelle will send the survey to Jenn and then Jenn will send to the committee for approval then we will send it out through the grad school. Jackson will explore options for the location of the events.

We also discussed the field day for spring. Courtney will be checking on pricing for dessert. Pranshanth will get a list of food trucks. Jenn will check on what games are available. The site of Wilson Park was suggested and Russell will check if there is anything that needs to be done to reserve the area. It will be April 7th at 11-2...if that works with the overall schedule.

The social activity for this semester was discussed. It was decided that it will be November 11th at noon at Hobbs State Park. Victor will also check on sports schedules to have a grad night that is on Friday or Saturday. The social activities for next semester were tabled for next meeting.

The joint resolution for HeForShe was discussed and members determined who wanted to be added as a sponsor. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned

Since the meeting, I have met with Laura Moix with the Graduate School and discussed helping out during a "Dissertation De-Stressing Week" the last week of the semester. We discussed the GSC helping to sponsor the event as well as creating a photo booth for Thursday. The booth will be open from 9-5 (we have 9-11, 2-5 covered but need someone from 11-2). We will have props for the students to hold and will make them during our next Graduate Student Life Committee meeting on December 1 at 6pm. To man the booth, you will need a phone or camera that you could take pictures for the grad school if the people agree otherwise you would just take them with the students' phones. Once you take the pictures, you will need to email them to Laura for the grad school to use.

K) Facilities Committee Chair Kristen Callahan.

1. Met with Mike Johnson last Monday about more lighting. Included lighting between Arkansas Ave. and West St. Johnson replied that people shouldn't be stupid and walk at night. Next step: go to town council and Town and Gown.
2. Grad student housing.

TETLEY: met with Gary Smith of Parking and Transit. Said that there was a feasibility study re: garage space. They had met with someone big in Seattle who said the city was moving toward autonomous buses by 2060, promoting the autonomous buses. Moving transit to Beechwood and moving to a regional transit. Problems concerning CashNet.

Marino: asked about remote parking lot.

Tetley and Callahan: moving to Beechwood

Ward: discussed the 2 dorms that UA would take offline in 2019, whether we could get them for grad student living and office space, maybe for families. Talked with Mike Johnson to get 5 rooms for hold—10 beds for internationals to occupy for 1 semester till finding permanent housing.

Callahan and Ward: crosswalk at Arkansas Ave. coming.
Garland and North: crosswalk coming.

Ward: we're leading as grad student government across the Us. We have momentum and are big. We can demand and push for changes.

L) College Caucus Reports

a) Reports from College Caucus Chairs:

Nunn, Space and Planetary Science along with interdisciplinary studies: Directory not complete. In ID studies, not enough TA positions—they place you where they need you best. Funding issues. Vision survey goes out on funding. SP TAs have Stone House offices; there are service problems—wifi, maintenance, etc. Dean Koski wanted to ask GSC if there were any internal programs that allowed bringing in certain people to speak.

Tetley: any environmental study there at the Stone House?

Nunn: some things there don't work.

VII) Old Business. None.

VIII) New Business

- A) GSC Resolution 3 A Resolution to Reaffirm GPSC Control of Graduate Student Activity Fees—REMOVED from the agenda (III above).
- B) GSC Bill 5 A Bill to Authorize the Purchase of Meals from the Pack Shack of Northwest Arkansas. Ward explained. This set funds for the event. Allocated money.

Marino: is this new business?

Ward: old business? It had a 1st reading.

VOTE: unanimous yes (This includes 8 electronic vote yes). Passes.

- C) ASG Joint Resolution 3 A Resolution to The University of Arkansas Supporting the United Nations HeForShe Initiative. Onyebueke spoke. Wants International Women's Week. Involve gender studies people and department getting help from partners.

MOTION to pass. 2nd.

VOTE: 1 abstain, all others yes (This includes 8 EV yes). Passes.

- D) ASG Joint Resolution 4 A Resolution in Opposition to the Elimination of Educational Tax Incentives [NOTE: GSC Res 4 has the exact same language as this JR]

Ward: Both are here for the vote in case the ASG Senate amends this one or votes it down, we have our own [GSC RES 4], and this legislation is time-sensitive [vote in Congress to happen shortly].

Burbridge: Explained the current situation in DC re: HR 1, the tax reform/tax cuts bill currently in Congress. The bill taxes grad student assistant tuition waivers.

Marino: re: ll. 10-12, private universities. Why this line when UA is public and this provision doesn't concern us?

Burbridge: doesn't affect, but we can amend this line re: private schools.

Dye: opposes this resolution strongly and supports the tax reform bill.

Burbridge: this resolution doesn't oppose all of the bill in Congress, but specific provisions.

Dye: still opposes.

Marino: supports the resolution. If the reform bill in Congress passes, the fight is not over. It doesn't cost UA the list price to grant waivers of tuition. We need to keep fighting.

Ward: ADDED sponsors.

Marino: MOTION to vote.

VOTE: 2 no (This includes 1 EV no), 3 abstentions, all the rest yes (This includes 7 EV yes). Passes.

Ward: ADDED sponsors to ASG JR 4.

Marino: MOTION to amend. Strike ll. 10-12 and remove section re: private universities.

Burbridge: why amend this one and not the other?

Ward: helps the GSC bill and strengthens.

Blanchard: mixed about eliminating lists. We need to support all, not some. Pro-cutting tax deductions, but doesn't cost the University anything.

Callahan: MOVE to the previous question. 2nd. SEE BELOW.

E) GSC Resolution 4 A Resolution in Opposition to the Elimination of Educational Tax Incentives

VOTE: 2 no (This includes 1 EV no), 3 abstentions, all the rest yes (This includes 7 EV yes). Passes.

IX) Special Orders – The GPSC Constitution Introduction

Ward: as graduate students, we have the right to self-governance. Policies & Procedures wanted approval not by the ASG President, no undergrad approval, since

this move would defeat the purpose and intent of the Constitution and autonomy. Thus, we are presenting this as a Special Order and taking no amendments tonight. All we will do is ask questions and have until December's general meeting actually to vote.

Morse and the P&P Committee PRESENTED on the Graduate Professional Student Congress (GPSC) Constitution article by article, each member of the committee addressing one article. **

The Departmental Student Organization (DSO) is the core—representation by departments. Mimics the University government model. Wanted departments to form strong organizations as the foundation. UA doesn't recognize a list of departments. DSOs would submit lists to GPSC. The Chancellor will provide contact info of each department; in fact, the presentation stressed that departments would cooperate or answer to the Chancellor. There's no 1 email list as a unified contact directory.

Question: does the DSO count as 1 vote only, or can it be multiple votes?

Marino: 1 vote per DSO. A department/school can apply to have more than 1 rep.

Shackleford: DSOs and impact.

Marino: submit paperwork as a DSO to get recognition. Different from an RSO—dependent on departmental decision.

Ward: leave it to the department to determine how to form the DSO.

Marino: RSOs can still exist and apply for funding as occurs currently.

Ward: DSO's membership determines travel grant funding, but RSO status doesn't.

Burbridge: GPSC monitors elections?

Marino: yes. Runs elections without DSO interference.

Shackleford: what if 1 person applies without others'/departmental knowledge?

Marino: Constitution allows member reps to vote that down. Assembly can determine the procedure and admit/not admit. The Assembly will pick the 1 person if a rogue individual applies.

Ward: others can apply and say that they're legitimate. The Assembly can overturn a rogue application.

Nunn: has ties in different/multiple departments [as interdisciplinary]. This situation impacts funding.

Marino: we can combat that. We can't control assigning ID assignment for funding and representative because we'll anger someone.

Ward: you can join a different DSO if one impacts negatively.

Morse: you might have multiple DSOs to choose if you're ID.

Tetley: protection for those who might have hurt someone and cause anger?

Marino: there's protected speech in shared governance. No protection from abuse, but the Chancellor is supportive in resisting abuse, such as actions, sanctions, etc. The GPSC could respond forcefully. We have the power to respond to inappropriate behavior.

Tetley: GA or TA—protected just as faculty? Protected as speech from retaliation?

Marino: some grads prefer to be staff.

Marino: the Constitution is more powerful than Staff Senate is.

Ward: DSO rep is protected unless something preempts. The Chancellor and deans support this and will help implement and support against faculty and department interference, resistance, etc.

Marino: GPSC will be more powerful when it has a departmental organization basis for representation.

Burbridge: about the quorum requirements in the document.

Morse: we can determine our own quorum requirements. The 1st 3 years are the "Wild West Years" that will determine what amendments will be necessary.

Marino: 70-130 reps depending on department. This gives flexibility re: quorum requirements. Amendment could come later if needed.

Dye: supermajority of all or a quorum of those present?

Morse: will define supermajority and simple majority.

Jeter: re: the majority for amending. The U.S. Constitution requires $\frac{3}{4}$ of states to ratify amendment to discourage capricious amendment, but this document requires only a simple majority.

Ward: will email the Constitution to all. P&P and Ward are open to discuss this document anytime.

Marino: P&P meets Wed, 6:30 pm and are busy with the other document too.

Ward: will meet anytime you want.

X) Public Comment. None.

XI) Announcements:

1. Research panel 11/16/17. Please attend.
2. ASG end-of-semester party at U.S. Pizza December 2,
3. Dissertation Distress Week 12/1, with photo booth.
4. Apply for 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

XII) ADJOURN: 7:48 pm.

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW,

Garrett C. Jeter

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Recording Secretary

**** Not included here, but cross-reference with November 2017 draft of the Constitution.**