



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

## **AGENDA**

**19 January 2017**  
**Arkansas Union, AU 640**  
**Noon**

*ATTENDING:* Johnson, Jeter, Vranovci, Burbridge, Sims, Park, Gerner, Blanchard; coadvisors Cantu, McAllister. *Guests:* Reps. Ashley Whiting, Alex Marino. *Absent:* Ward, Wilkinson, Nguyen.

- I. Call to Order: Johnson, 12:05 pm
- II. Attendance (above) Quorum met.
- III. Approve Minutes last Cabinet meeting. Approved.
- IV. Approve Agenda. Johnson moved for change: move Parliamentary report to the front under VI to enable departure for academic concerns. Agenda approved.
- V. Special Orders
  - a. Advisor Reports
    - i. Amanda Cantu. Thanks to all who helped with the spring orientation
    - ii. Michael McCallister. Announced that vacancy elections are occurring right now. Will close 1/26/17, noon.
- VI. Reports

Burbridge: JB3, re: the Associated Students' Supreme Constitution. Yields rest of time to Marino.

- a. Speaker
  - i. Rep. Hawkins has resigned from position of Social Chair. Johnson asked help in recruiting for this position.
  - ii. Vacancy election signup is happening now. Closes on January 26. Candidates need to complete the quiz by that time.
  - iii. We need a representative to attend ASG Cabinet meetings.
  - iv. General meetings this semester will all be at 6 pm.

- b. Vice Speaker (Johnson reported for)
  - i. Reminded all about office and service hours, plus college caucuses (email reminder went out today).
- c. Secretary
  - i. Need all official ASG/GSC emails from those who have them. Official emails will streamline communications.
- d. Treasurer
  - i. Will have committee meeting to discuss goals for the committee.
- e. Parliamentarian. Discussion on legislation under VIII. b.
- f. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy
  - i. Gun forum at Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce on 1/20/17 at 4 w/ Reps. Collins and Leding.
  - ii. Not many issues in Little Rock re: graduate students, but a bill came up about automatic voters' registration
  - iii. Another bill concerns purchases of too sugary foods under the SNAP program.
  - iv. A bill would ban Arkansas campuses as "sanctuary campuses" for undocumented students. Passage of the bill would expose UA to fines if investigated.

Johnson: any undocumented students at UA?

Park: a few undergraduates are undocumented, but no known graduate students

Park and Sims: UA is allowed to admit, but not to fund.

Blanchard: question about the gun forum.

Marino and Sims: in the Chamber of Commerce, 123 W. Mountain—small room. The resolution (*note: Resolution submitted to the December 2016 General Meeting*) was to support UAPD in declaring UA to be a gun-free zone. Not anti-gun. The governor supports the current law, i.e., local choice.

- g. International Concerns
  - i. Discussed housing market for internationals. 45, a small number, showed interest. Will follow up with them. Facebook is a venue. Not many in contact or know about it.

There will be update to the information. Easiest and most accurate way to get the information out.

Blanchard: has had a few constituents talk with him about the gun issue and the health care insurance issue. Wants to conduct a survey, get statistical data. We should take action. Is survey yearly?

Johnson: a survey is a large undertaking.

Blanchard: if we have an end-of-year survey, our constituents wouldn't prefer to wait till the end of the year. Wants to submit data to survey.

Johnson: we can compile and the send to Dean Koski.

Blanchard: re: the health care issue—it was an international student that uses it, but wasn't satisfied with it. Survey on health care: there should be options, knowledge of it.

Park: international students have been coming to her office complaining about health care. It was easier to waive years ago. Questions about health care come to the ISS office, including the return of corpses to native countries.

Marino: that's part of faculty working abroad—one must get health care in case of decease in a foreign country.

- h. External Affairs and Marketing. No report.
- i. Social Chair. No report due to vacancy/resignation.
- j. Facilities. No report.
- k. Grad Student Life. No report.

VII. Old Business. None.

VIII. New Business

a. A Resolution to Promote Awareness of Veterans' Educational Issues

1. Jeter: this resolution repeats language (e.g., waiving application fee and providing tuition fellowship in case assistance benefits expire before completion of degree) in

last year's resolution re: the same issue because resolutions expire at the end of the academic year.

Johnson (reporting for Ward): Ward supports fully

MOTION TO VOTE: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Recommend to pass unanimously.  
Passes.

b. JB4-- An Act to Support the Chancellor's Guiding Priorities  
by Creating the Associated Students Constitution \*\*

Marino: we incorporated all suggestions from December into the new draft. This bill addressed how we're advised—the Constitution spells it out. Researched various graduate student governments, and we're the only one without independence. The Guiding Priorities would cover all of this—help in recruiting graduates, providing best practices, etc.

Jeter: what is the relationship with the ASG Senate? Good?

Marino: ASG seems supportive. Pres. Flocks has not attached his name yet because of Constitutional reasons—still considering, but must attach his name by Feb. 1. Marino met with ASG people—support from senators and senators' committee, but some are shaken. If Pres. Flocks doesn't sign, we might still pass, but past presidents are pressuring him to take a hard line. Senators co-sponsoring would make it easier.

Park: student fees going to grads?

Marino: there is a 2-year incentive to agree on student fees. This would fund us at a higher level. After 2 years, it can go to 20%.

Blanchard: sees more resistance.

Marino: Dean Needy sees that too. Marino met with ASG Treasurer Cormack over the summer.

MOTION to extend discussion by 5 minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passes.

Marino: Cormack—the previous treasurer said it would kill the student fee section. Feb. 1 to attach name.

Blanchard: breakdown of student fees?

Marino: Shared services—we control student activities fee. Most students support ASG and Distinguished Lecture Series. Our graduate fees less than undergraduate fee structures.

Jeter: why would fees rise with separation of branches?

Marino and Johnson: fees go through PAB.

MOTION to extend discussion by 5 minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pass.

Marino: student fees went up this year. Constitution—polling on fees—idea to have more control. Creation of separate grad student fee—pay to PAB. Likes the Missouri model of student fee allocations.

MOTION TO PASS. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pass to recommend passage by general body. Passes.

Marino: needs sponsors for this Resolution. Accepted sponsor names. Requested that minutes reflect that all present volunteer to be sponsors.

c. GSC Bill 3—Appropriations Bill for Fulbright Project

Whiting: funding request for studio equipment. Needs institutional support. Need dedicated space and funds to generate content.

Johnson: dedicated space or purchase of space?

Whiting: Convert office space into studio space and house equipment in that office space.

Johnson: dedicated space and point of contact.

Marino: full disclosure—will recuse himself during deliberations because he is on the editorial board affecting this issue.

Sims: is this an RSO?

Johnson: not an RSO. This is why we didn't go through the OSA.

Johnson: GSC would sponsor.

Marino: whether RSO or departmental organization impacts funding and funding sources. Deans of Fulbright supportive, but history department is still deciding.

Sims: what about permanence?

Whiting: we hope to make this permanent.

Sims: chance to develop and expand to other departments?

Whiting: interest in interdisciplinary area. Podcasts are in different areas—insufficient because it is spread out.

Vranovci: is there a radio station space?

Whiting: not sufficient for digitized reception of podcasts.

MOTION to extend discussion by 5 minutes. Pass. Question on quorum because of departures. Quorum remains.

Blanchard: has reservations. Take steps to ensure permanence and that students have access to the final product. Need additional access.

Whiting: absolutely free for students—reception on iTunes. We can advertise this.

Blanchard: publish articles through Newswire.

Jeter: timeline to expand to other disciplines?

Whiting: the means not big enough right now to do so.

Blanchard: suggests an amendment to the last part—RSO and advertisement about podcasts as condition to release of funds.

Johnson: suggest as amendment. If it becomes an RSO, we can't fund the Project. We can incorporate amendment stating language re: dissemination and advertisement—good. Also, language should reflect an explicit agreement that the GSC would get a return of equipment at project end.

Jeter: where is this space?

Whiting: Stone House and Duncan.

Blanchard: move AMENDMENT to lines 69-70: Insert language: Upon receiving agreement in effect to advertisement of the project in Newswire once a month. On expiration, there is to be return of equipment to GSC.

MOTION TO PASS AMENDMENT. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passes.

Gerner: supports the Resolution as innovative.

Sims: supports this because it supports UA's mission and legacy.

MOTION TO PASS AMENDED VERSION OF THE BILL to the body. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Recommend pass. Passes.

- d. GSC Res 3—Thanking Dr. Saxena
- e. GSC Res 4—Welcoming Dr. Coleman

Johnson: recommend treating these 2 resolutions together.

MOTION TO PASS. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Recommend pass. Passes.

- IX. Public Comment: none.
- X. Announcements
  - a. Vacancy election going on right now.
- XI. Adjourn: 1:10 pm.

Submitted for review,

*Garrett C. Jeter*

Garrett C. Jeter  
Secretary

**\*\* Accompanying documents not listed above:**

1. Appendix II. Organizing Documents Guide
2. Appendix III. Budget Breakdown
3. Appendix IV. Transition Timeline
4. University of Arkansas Associated Students Supreme Constitution