



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

General Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2016
Graduate Education Building Auditorium, 7 pm

ATTENDING: Baker, Burbridge, Gilley, Hawkins, Jeter, Johnson, Kimbrough, Marino, Morse, Ordorica, Shahria, Sims, Vranovci, Ward, Whiting, Wilkinson, ASG Treasurer Shelby Cormack (reporting for Flocks) ASG Chief of Staff Taylor Farr, Michael McAllister (coadvisor), ASG Senator Trevor Villines. *Absent:* Park (professional), Blanchard, Callahan, Edmund, Gerner, McGee, Medina, Nguyen, Turnage.

I) Call to Order: Johnson, 7:01 pm.

II) Attendance: above. Quorum met.

III) Approve Minutes. Approved.

IV) Approve Agenda: approved with the addition of GSC Resolution 3 below.

V) Special Orders

A) GSC Advisor Amanda Cantu: no report.

B) ASG Advisor Michael McCallister. Elections:

1. Spring vacancy elections: applications open 1/9/17 and close 1/26/17
2. General spring elections: applications open 2/2/17 and close 2/16/17

C) ASG President Connor Flocks; no report

VI) Reports

A) Speaker Scout Johnson

1. Met with the Student Advisory Board and Dean Needy met the Tuesday past re: Chancellor's Committees and all aspects of graduate education and size of programs—not up with undergrad populations and programs. It treats grad graduation issues. The guest was Dr. Jim Rankin, a VP for Research and Development. Referenced a research.uark.edu program called Pivot. Concerned with funding (private, industry, etc.); those who are interested can visit Dr. Rankin.

B) Vice Speaker Arley Ward

1. End of semester: caucuses should have had their meetings and by January/early February, work with deans.
2. We need to start recruiting for spring. Meeting with External Affairs to recruit.

3. Tracking office hours: Google Doc.

C) Treasurer Korab Vranovci

1. 1 meeting with the Committee. Set goals for the year.
2. Worked with Dean Koski and Blanchard re: travel funds. Meeting shortly to discuss.

D) Secretary Garrett Jeter: no report

E) International Concerns Chair Min-Ji Park: no report

F) Social Chair, Emily Hawkins: no report

G) External Affairs and Marketing Co-Chairs Rachel Gerner and Katie Wilkinson, (Wilkinson reporting):

1. Picture of Jeter on Facebook during the Unity Day community dialogue in the Union.
2. The Chancellor approved the What to Fix (WTF) website

H) Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director Jesse Sims:

1. He is on the committee to select commencement speakers, and the committee submitted a list to the Chancellor today.
2. He is tracking legislative bills for the next session.

I) Graduate Student Life Chair Johnathan Blanchard: no report

J) Facilities Committee Chair Nghia Nguyen: no report

K) Parliamentarian Joshua Burbridge: *For the following discussion, Burbridge and MARINO referred to a special document, with white paper and budgeting/funding information, that they had disseminated previously and which the Secretary emailed to all with other legislation. ***

a) Proposed Restructuring of ASG (Supreme Constitution)

1. This document will dramatically restructure, with a dramatic split with the undergraduate branches of ASG, but not complete
2. Shared judicial branch
3. Marino wrote the document, met with Administration officials, etc. as research for this proposal
4. MARINO: draft/proposal—not yet finalized. Soliciting feedback and comments. The more eyes, the better.

This document should last for decades—a durable, longer-lasting document. The Constitution now has flaws/mistakes.

Supremacy is the idea. This Constitution creates and gives powers, and has the bare number of regulations.

There are other documents.

The new Constitution renames the GSC to Graduate Professional Student Congress.

Supremacy—not every detail about offices—save for the Code.

The point is not just separation and independence—also about cleaning up documents such as Standing Rules.

5. BAKER: Any kind of qualifications if you belong? Will it include everybody, e.g., law school, outlier schools?

6. MARINO: Graduate Professional—the Supreme Constitution better defines. It would define membership.

7. BAKER: make sure we don't leave out anyone.

8. MARINO: Code and Constitution break down who goes into what body.

This will come back in January as a bill—2/3 vote.

New system of government—looks similar to the old one. We would have truly our own body with our own rules. There would be departmental representatives. The current Constitution can't allow departmental representative model. It would allow us to structure best for us as grads. The overall model is from Clemson; 2 grads used the model for GSC, which was not palatable to Administration in 2012.

We will add Articles of Cooperation as Mizzou did—use it as a code document to support the Constitution. Requires 2/3 vote of GSC and ASG Senate. How do we define membership, share funding, etc. This would define these. If we pass this in January, we have this and next year to work on further documents.

9. WARD: We do our own Constitution?

10. MARINO: Yes. It takes a year to figure all out. Will address fees—2-year discussion.

11. MORSE: What has been your experience discussing this with the undergrads?

12. MARINO: No one objected, but lots of questions. The undergrads don't think it will work; it doesn't seem wrong, but they don't know much about it. I gave a deadline to the ASG ExComm to decide whether to sign on as author or sponsor; we'll know in January.

13. KIMBROUGH: Will the bill have a final draft?

14. MARINO: January's version will be the final draft, with charts.

15. KIMBROUGH: Opportunity for input?

16. MARINO: Yes. Now or by email. We can amend in January. We can pass in January and Senate can amend. We can pass amendments in February. We need to have issues and solutions and be ready.

17. BAKER: Confused about funding. We get a percentage of OSA funding—we're driving our funding from grads and professional students.

18. MARINO: We may need editing re: funding.

19. BAKER: Sounds like we get grad and professional students.

20. MARINO: We pay more than we get back.

Administration is fine with a political separation, but funding is a longer issue to treat. Currently, there is 13.5% of budget for us; the new form is 20%. If Mizzou is the model, we get money first. Funds should be separate. It's not a big windfall—needs change, 2 ½ years to figure out.

MOTION to extend 2 minutes. Pass.

21. JETER: Supreme Court composition: after the quiz deadline issue that came up several years ago, what kind of voice do we have on the Supreme Court?

22. WARD: The election issue won't happen because we set election rules.

MOTION to extend 2 minutes. Pass.

23. JETER: Where do the justices come from?

24. MARINO: We approve the Chief Justice, but we might do all justices. ASGJ is independent as it is now—they can deal with their own when they're a separate branch.

Note: The body will revisit this bill as a final draft in the January 2017 general meeting.

VII) Old Business

A) JB XX-- **The Campaign Reformation Act of 2016-17 *****

1. CORMACK and FARR: Cormack visited the SEC Exchange and met with SEC Treasurers, discussing budgets and campaigns. The question arose about how much each school spent individually, and the other treasurers were surprised to hear how much Arkansas allowed for campaign expenditures. The numbers on the CRA are from the University of Mississippi. The University of Florida has no cap. Cormack noted support from others during her campaign. The CRA creates more diversity.

2. WARD: Same percentage cut for everybody?

3. FARR: \$310 was the amount that someone thought good/enough.

4. MARINO: includes in-kind donations?

5. CORMACK: We're unusual, rather high, compared with other schools.

6. SIMS: this increases diversity. Do other schools see more diversity?

7. CORMACK: a chance. I haven't seen it personally. Campaign finance came up during the conference.

8. WHITING: team or individual?

9. CORMACK: makes us more consistent with others.

10. KIMBROUGH: does it address ticket running?

11. CORMACK: only for ASG.

12. CORMACK AND FARR: technically individual.

13. BURBRIDGE: average amount for Senators?

14. FARR: they have Greek support.

15. MARINO: worked on campaign reform bill and reviewed receipts. Vast number of Senators don't spend large amounts of money. Only one spent \$500.

16. JETER: The \$40,000 amount looks large, but the Spring 2017 campaign was unusual (4 teams of 4, then a runoff of the top 2). Chills speech under the 1st Amendment. Wont' necessarily create a flood of applicants if we open the gates.

17. MOTION to extend by 5 minutes. Passes.

18. WARD: The total amount is irrelevant. The high cost chills free speech for those who want to run. Energizes students for participating in democracy.

19. MARINO: We treated this in the Senate. It doesn't matter to the constituents. The undergraduates not impacting or appealing to the GSC. The Senate never allowed us to go to \$0. We should pass this not to knock down the undergrads. Let this be our last time; we don't have an impact on the Senate—this is a courtesy and being nice to the Senate.

20. BURBRIDGE: we're trying to make better diversity and support.

21. KIMBROUGH: appreciate that they're taking good steps with this.

22. VOTE: Passes. All yes but 1. 1 no.

B) JR XX-- The Pangburn Safety Awareness Act of 2016 ***

1. WARD: Proud to sponsor and to work with the Executive Committee on this.

2. VILLINES: This recognizes Pangburn, a good student with great impact on the University environment. This uses/will use data and statistics. It raises awareness—flyers and free helmets to pass out. We consider a mandatory online safety quiz. The IFC wants to team with the ASG to promote this. It puts students first.

3. SHAHRIA: stats on safety and accidents?

4. JOHNSON: after encountering this, I took visual stock of helmet wearing on campus; more bikers than scooter operators wore them. \$1600 to promote helmets. The University can store them for convenience if students don't want the extra things to carry around.

5. WARD: shows support for impacted student body. Senate set up money for this.

6. VOTE: Unanimous yes. Passes.

VIII) New Business

A) GSC Resolution 3: Support for a Gun-Free Campus ****

1. MARINO: trusts the Chancellor, etc. re: keeping us safe.

2. BURBRIDGE: laws concerning bringing concealed carry. Staff can't bring concealed guns to campus. We support current campus policies and sentiment. What about in the dorms?

3. WILKINSON; was an RA. More in the dorms.

4. BAKER: Has the University done a survey of faculty and staff to see whether they would leave campus if it would allow concealed carry?

5. MARINO: Texas has a similar situation.

6. JOHNSON: Faculty Senate is opposed to concealed carry.

7. BURBRIDGE: applies to everyone?
8. MARINO: does away with opt-out clause.
9. SIMS: Arkansas State University already committed—appreciate the bill. No statement yet. Rep. Collins said that the people of Arkansas gave mandate because Republicans voted him in, and Democrats voted for it. This sends a message to Little Rock; every public university has opted out.
10. WILKINSON: makes dorm as private residence less safe. The undergrads feel that their dorms are their private residences. It makes RA job more dangerous.
11. MORSE: has a problem with this piece philosophically; it's a governing and mandating issue. Problem with gun control issue. Some of it is Constitutional—people want to defend themselves. Issue giving up gun rights. Not all constituents will agree. It's a constitutional issue.
12. BURBRIDGE: even if we treat political issues, we get political blowback.
13. SIMS: ASG passed similar thing before and no blowback/negative effects. Need to respect viewpoints but show support.
14. KIMBROUGH: reiterate understanding that it's a statement to support the Chancellor and UAPD to opt out. We're in a climate that we can't opt out. Not an anti-gun issue; it's a bill to support opt-out. No basis for Rep. Collins to say what he said.
15. WHITING: law enforcement can have it for an easier job; they're trained to shoot and neutralize.

16. MOTION to extend by 8 minutes. Passes.

17. WARD: we covered this in NAGPS. Agrees with Morse. This is a conservative measure; it supports the status quo. We did run for seats. Resolution is inherently conservative—local control.
18. BAKER: Greatest concern is supporting what the Chancellor and UAPD have as concerns about safety. Law in place: opt-out. It's to force what a legislator wants, forces the University to do what it doesn't want to do. Constituents can come to us re: this. Directed more to the Chancellor than anything.
19. MORSE: language of "support gun-free campus" not parallel with opt-in/out.
20. WARD: we can propose an amendment.

21. MARINO: MOTION to AMEND—remove lines 27-33 and change l. 26 to "then." Purpose: support status quo. Keep lines 34-38. Concerns Administration deciding on opt-out.

22. BURBRIDGE: wants to see whether Little Rock legislature passes and files this bill.
23. JOHNSON: 1st LR bill will be Jan. 9, too late for us in January.
24. MARINO: we thank UAPD, Chancellor, Pres. Bobbitt re: their choice/decision
25. BURBRIDGE: When will they pass? Iffy re: removing this part until after the fact.
26. SIMS: 1st meeting?
27. JOHNSON: January 25, 2017, a Wednesday.
28. BAKER: deceitful if removed.

29. BURBRIDGE: concerns bill that will be filed.
30. WARD: remove it and change to keeping gun-free status.
31. MOTION to end debate and amend lines 26-33. Second. Amendment passes.
32. WARD: MOTION to AMEND lines 28-30: "GSC supports the status of the University of Arkansas as a gun-free campus."
33. VOTE TO AMEND: Passes.
34. BURBRIDGE: submit to the General Assembly.
35. MOTION to suspend rules and move to second reading. Passes.
36. MARINO: Grad government at UT Austin gave us the last "Resolved" paragraph—spreads it around, supports status quo.
37. JETER: lines 24-26 (no shootings on Arkansas campuses since 2013) unsound.
38. MARINO: premise—correlation. Arizona State had a situation with a suicidal student. Current system works.
39. BURBRIDGE: do we want resolution to say we don't support it?
40. MARINO: no bill filed. Being progressive about guns in public. Gave local control. Respecting gun rights and local control.
41. SIMS: Senate concerns?
42. MARINO: no need for joint resolution—separate student body as grads. As a teacher, I want to protect my students. People are afraid of blowback.
43. KIMBROUGH: propose AMENDMENT: strike lines 24-26 and add to 28-29 "Resolved that the GSC supports local and University governance".

AMENDMENT debate follows:

44. MARINO: against. Fayetteville is seen as out of line with the rest of the state. Keep spirit of amendment, but shows we recognize Little Rock legislature.
45. WARD: AMENDMENT: GSC supports cooperation between different levels of governance—state, local, and University governance.
46. MOTION to vote re: lines 24-26 AMENDMENT. Passes.
47. VOTE re: lines 28-30. Other amendment passes.
48. GILLEY: re: open carry. Alter line 32 to "GSC supports University of Arkansas opposition to concealed carry."
49. BURBRIDGE: change says the same as below. MOTION to AMEND: delete lines 32-35. Second.

50. MOTION to AMEND AMENDMENT. Passes. VOTE to amend amendment. Passes.

51. MOTION to extend debate by 1 minute. Second. Passes.

52. BAKER: MOTION to AMEND title: Resolution to Support Opt-Out Version/Provision of Arkansas Act 226.

53. JETER: supports. Specific, gentler language.

54. MOTION to vote for amendment.

55. MARINO: MOTION to suspend and for time to solicit sponsors. Added sponsors: Burbridge, Wilkinson, Baker, Whiting, Morse, Kimbrough, Vranovci.

56. MOTION to vote on legislation. VOTE: 12 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no. Passes.

IX) Public Comment. VILLINES: re: the Campaign Reformation Act—spent \$310 and appreciates GSC passing it.

X) Announcements:

1. Project Unify breakfast for veterans on December 9
2. BAKER: announced that she is working with victims local and state for an amendment to the Arkansas Constitution allowing standing for victims in the courts.

XI)Adjourn: 9:12 pm

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW,

Garrett C. Jeter

Garrett C. Jeter
GSC Secretary

**** REFERENCE UNDER VI. (K) ABOVE:** Document titled “Associated Students Supreme Constitution Proposal,” with the following: Organizing Documents Guide, Draft Budget Breakdown, Draft University of Arkansas Associated Students Supreme Constitution, Articles of Cooperation Proposal, and PAB White Paper

*** As of this writing, the marked pieces of legislation do not have specific numerical designations.

**** This piece did not appear on the original disseminated agenda. Added late.