**Graduate Student Congress**

Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**16 February 2017**

**Graduate Education Building Auditorium**

**6:00 PM**

*ATTENDING:* Baker, Blanchard, Burbridge, DiLoreto, Jeter, Kimbrough, Koenigseder, Marino, Ordorica, Shahriar, Stoudenmire, Vranovci, Ward (PRESIDING for Johnson), Whiting, Wilbanks, Wilkinson, coadvisor McAllister, coadvisor Cantu. *Proxies*: Callahan, Deshpande, Morse. *Absent*: Gerner, Johnson (academic-professional), Medina, Park, Sims. *Guests*: Alex Nguyen, Dan Elkin.

1. Call to Order: Ward presiding for Johnson, 6:01 pm
2. Attendance (above). Quorum met (NOTE: 3 proxies)
3. Approve Minutes. Motion to approve. 2nd. Approved.
4. Approve Agenda. MARINO: MOTION to revise agenda. Passes.
5. Special Orders
   1. GSC Advisor Amanda Cantu. No report
   2. ASG Advisor Michael McCallister. No report.
   3. ASG President Connor Flocks. Not present, but sent the following (WARD reporting):

1. Signed Executive Order 2 for Council of International Leadership

2. Encouraging priority registration for graduates. Will send Johnson update concerning this issue. Graduates get 3rd-day priority.

3. Faculty Appreciation Award applications. Also, GSC award applications will go up shortly. Senior Walk fundraising campaign—2/27 kickoff.

4. International Student Bill (JB 5) passed in Senate. No effect on us.

1. Reports
   1. Speaker Scout Johnson –Conference
   2. Vice Speaker Arley Ward (REPORTING for Johnson). GSC awards applications will run shortly. Seeking committee members. Ward will select them. Volunteers: Burbridge, DiLoreto, Whiting, Jeter.
   3. Treasurer Korab Vranovci: overseeing committee process.
   4. Secretary Garrett Jeter. No official report. Referred to correction in the *Arkansas Traveler* article caption re: his role in the process of JB4—email correction to the staff.
   5. International Concerns Chair Min-Ji Park. No report (absent).
   6. Social Chair—Vacant. No report.
   7. External Affairs and Marketing Co-Chairs Rachel Gerner and Katie Wilkinson (WILKINSON reporting): alerted all new representatives our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
   8. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director Jesse Sims. No report (absent).
   9. Parliamentarian Joshua Burbridge. No report.
   10. Graduate Student Life Chair Johnathan Blanchard. No report.
   11. Facilities Committee Chair—Vacant. No report.

SWEARING-IN OF NEW REPRESENTATIVES (coadvisor McAllister) from the recent vacancy election: Stoudenmire, DiLoreto, Koenigseder, Wilbanks.

1. Elections
   1. Social Chair. No nominations forthcoming.
   2. Facilities Committee Chair. Burbridge: only 2-month commitment right now.

Kimbrough: self-nominates because she is angry about the campus parking situation and wants to address it with legislation.

Jeter: MOTION to close nominations. 2nd. Pass

Blanchard: MOTION to suspend rules and vote by acclamation. 2nd. Passes. Kimbrough elected by acclamation.

1. Old Business

\*\* WARD delivered a special address in response to a failure of JB 4 (GSC autonomy within ASG; the bill failed in ASG Senate on February 14)

Burbridge: dissemination?

Jeter: can send in email to all, including undergraduates

* 1. JR 8—Campus Climate (Sexual Violence) Survey

Baker: demonstrates awareness and gathers data. We will donate money to NW Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault if we take the survey. Cabinet amended resolution to making a donation.

Burbridge: opens on 2/20/17.

DiLoreto: money going to Haven? There was some criticism about Haven and its research.

Baker: another professor did research, but the University did not support it because of problems.

Blanchard: if the Senate meets on Tuesdays, this situation would shorten time for completion because the Resolution has to go through 1st and 2nd reading.

Ward: we can have online meeting and voting, and pass our version.

Jeter: you can email to all a link to the survey

Ward: announce it to your classes as part of campus well-being.

Baker: just for voting members of GSC and ASG.

Blanchard: does the resolution say we will disseminate it?

Baker: it opens next week. Ll. 61-65 cover that.

Marino: MOTION to suspend debate and vote by acclamation. Passes.

Blanchard: we have to vote.

VOTE: passes by acclamation.

* 1. JB 5—Bill to Amend ASG Constitution to Create a Permanent Senate Seat for International Students

Marino: how will treatment of this bill work if no sponsors or authors are present?

Blanchard: good bill. Takes seat reserved for freshmen to give to international student—diversity. Makes sense to pass even if we are unhappy with the Senate (over failure of JB 4).

Marino: has served in Senate with international students. Served 4 of 6 years with internationals without a bill changing things.

(ASG Senator) Agare voted against international students in voting against JB 4.

Discussed proportional disparities between ASG and GSC.

This cannot go to the voters yet. Cannot go to vote of all students.

Blanchard: tabling would kill it. Best to have arbitration.

Marino: missing specific line re: question to voters and what election. We can submit to ASGJ first. We can fix the “5%” language. Can make positive amendments. Disproportionate numbers of Greek and others in the Senate; his students complain about not being represented.

Ward: this is shared government.

Jeter: “diversity” is questionable as a word. Bill sets questionable precedent since other groups may want to have dedicated seats. However, it doesn’t affect us in GSC.

Blanchard: giving seats to internationals parallel with giving to freshmen. They’ll be here a short time—they get their own representation.

Shahriar: taking away 1 freshman seat is not good. Robs freshmen of representation.

Stoudenmire: slippery slope. Internationals go through special admissions processes. We can fix to insulate us from the slippery slope. It empowers internationals—inclusion and welcome despite the fears going on now (with the travel ban).

Marino: MOTION to amend. 2nd. Greeks have disproportionate representation because houses vote for members.

AMEND l. 58: “1” to “2” seats.

Blanchard: MOTION to pass amendment.

Burbridge: against changing. We have repeatedly said that we do not have business telling the ASG Senate what to do. For tabling, but supports diversity.

Blanchard: ASG told us we are part of their body—we deserve a voice in the body. He will be proposing a bill to have speaking privileges in the ASG Senate—we have right to speak on it. Senate says we cannot interfere—we should vote.

Burbridge: we can change in committee, making it nonviable. They have argued that we are part of ASG. We disagree.

Shahriar: for amendment, but wants to hear from the author.

Blanchard: MOVE to previous question—vote on amendment.

VOTE: Passes, with 2 nay, 1 abstention.

Burbridge: MOTION to table and remand to Policies and Procedures Committee.

Blanchard: What if it passes with us? What happens to the bill?

Marino: our amendment—we might have to do a conference committee. No going to referendum.

Burbridge: no going to referendum anyway.

Marino: not sure that they would follow rules, but would make us conform.

Blanchard: MOVE to table and remand to Policies and Procedures Committee.

VOTE: Passes, with 1 abstention.

* 1. JB 6—FLF Coordinator. No author present.

Blanchard: MOTION to table indefinitely.

VOTE: Passes, with 1 nay, 1 abstention

* 1. JB 4—Report (see above, pg. 3—Ward’s report)

1. New Business

Marino presented for treatment and discussion **GSC Resolution 6: Resolution to Advance Creation of an Independent Graduate Professional Student Government**. \*\*\*

Marino: Senate is not interested in working with us, and does not consider us viable. The Chancellor has power over the ASG. This is a unilateral declaration of independence.

Ward: resolution will not go into effect until the new GPSC President enters office. Speaker Johnson will meet Tuesday with the Chancellor to discuss JB4. Marino is preparing briefing materials for this meeting.

This communicates to the Senate that we are serious and can initiate conversation re: shared governance.

Burbridge: addressed number of lines of signatures on votes

Marino: Pres. Flocks and Treas. Cormack said that it would be unfair that they be presented with this decision.

Worked on this for 6 years and countless hours. Impacted marriage. Many people have worked on this, have worked hard. Does not want any more graduate students to have to deal with this. Flocks was advised by past presidents not to do this.

Ward: we have had help all across the nation—came for 3 years. We held a National Leadership Summit—the only school to do this that does not have an independent branch. The Senate does not hold their power rightfully.

Marino: should pass, but it goes to Pres. Flocks for signature.

Burbridge: why subject to presidential veto?

Marino: interpretation of the Constitution. It works for both of us.

Nguyen: General Council movement?

Blanchard: MOVE to extend discussion 5 minutes. 2nd. Pass.

Marino: General Council once pushed back on our initiative to drive voters to the polls.

Nguyen: we need the GC to help with interpretation of the Constitution, interpretation re: terms of the document. We can play hardball.

Marino: to show that we are serious—do everything we can.

Nguyen: with the GC, and with controversy, things will move.

Stoudenmire: we can list preferences of what we want and will do.

MOTION to amend legislation—place paths of approach to list in preferential order.

Marino: work with ASG first—best thing. Amend to approaching Board of Trustees 2nd. Apply to Chancellor—toward bottom of list. Made changes to l. 65 with additions.

Blanchard: send to Policies and Procedures. We can pass on it at the next meeting.

Nguyen: prefer to work with ASG to iron out wrinkles—not attacking, but moving forward.

Whiting: we have tried to work with ASG, but it has not been productive for 3 years.

Nguyen: this is conciliatory language.

Stoudenmire: attempt to amend so later we can put in right language. Listing in order, but to define when something is no longer viable—failure to achieve an option means we can move to the next one.

Marino: Senate has shown unwillingness to work with us. They took us off the table.

Blanchard: MOTION to send Resolution 6 to Policies and Procedures Committee. 2nd. Pass—sent to committee.

Blanchard: MOTION to have cake at the next meeting to welcome the new representatives.

Ward: motion not needed. We have money available for that already.

Blanchard: according to the Constitution, we have the power to call vacancy elections if we have more than 5 vacancies. Wants to call for vacancy election if we have more than 5 vacancies—can call now.

Marino and Ward: cannot do it now.

Burbridge: working on new Constitution to give President appointment powers.

Blanchard: MOTION—wants to call for vacancy election now, this semester, for the last 2 months.

Marino: likes this. MOTION to hold vacancy elections for this semester.

Ward: we had only 5 people run. How will this work?

Marino: MOTION to move this to Old Business.

VOTE to hold vacancy elections: 11 yes, 1 nay, 3 abstention.

1. Public Comment. None.
2. Announcements

a. Stoudenmire: working as GA in Study Abroad—2 projects. Working with scholarships and fellowships, etc. for graduate students to work abroad. Wants to bring the question to us—what keeps us from leaving the classroom. Wants group discussions—was asked to do this. The Graduate School wants to see movement on this. We’ll carve out time to discuss this.

b. McAllister: introduced himself. OSA and GSC relations have not been warm. OSA was hands-off—hard not to state that we wanted to make it work. If you want to pursue autonomy, OSA staff will help to make it work. The GSC has advocates in OSA.

Marino: vouches for Mike. Former ASG Presidents were used to hands-on advisors. Mike corrected false information and past Presidents depended on false information and gossip. Mike has an open door policy and OSA can have a place in our operations. OSA is not an ASG area in pushing back against us.

McAllister: coadvisor Cantu also has an open door.

Stoudenmire: McAllister is ex-graduate student.

Ward: nothing is personal—just an unsustainable system. No Senate authors showed up to support their bills.

c. Kimbrough: idea about parking—lots at Maple (across from the Grad Ed building) are are occupied weekdays. Wants to change the lot from green sticker to off-campus lot. Wants to meet with Parking and Transit.

Vranovci: talked with Parking and Transit about graduate student parking.

Kimbrough: thinking about commuter sticker. Majority of students are commuters.

Blanchard: will help coauthor legislation re: commuter lots.

DiLoreto: voiced complaint about lots and who parks there.

Kimbrough: continual adult student issue.

d. Blanchard: PSA—Thursday, Feb. 23, Ark Union 11-12 noon and 12:30 to 1:30 pm: several different groups working on the Pack Shack project to pack meals for the needy.

Ward: GSC can do appropriations bill for the Pack Shack.

1. Adjourn: 7:44 pm

Submitted for review,

Garrett C. Jeter

Garrett C. Jeter,

Secretary

**REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**: \*\* *Response to failed bill JB 4* (Johnson and Ward, authors). The full text is on the GSC webpage. \*\*\* GSC Resolution 6: Resolution to Advance Creation of an Independent Graduate Professional Student Government.