

**GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2016, 6 pm, Graduate Education Auditorium**

ATTENDING: Baker, Blanchard, Burbridge, Callahan, Gerner, Gilley, Hawkins, Jeter, Kimbrough, Marino, Medina, Nguyen, Ordorica, Park, Shahria, Sims, Vranovci, Ward (PRESIDING in Johnson's absence), Whiting, Wilkinson, Shelby Cormack (ASG Treasurer).
Absent: Johnson (academic), McAllister (conference), Cantu, Flocks, Edmund, Turnage.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ward, 6:05 pm

II. ATTENDANCE. See above. Quorum met.

III. APPROVE AGENDA. Second. Approved.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Second. Approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT. None

VI. SPECIAL ORDERS:

- a. MICHAEL McALLISTER. No report.
- b. AMANDA CANTU. No report.
- c. CONNOR FLOCKS. No report.
- d. Speaker, STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. No report.

VII. REPORTS:

- a. SPEAKER: through Vice-Speaker
- b. VICE-SPEAKER (reporting for Johnson).
 1. ASG Election Commissioner applications open. Due 11/22/16.
 2. University Committee applications will reopen soon
 3. Applications open for students to attend the 2017 Inauguration in Washington, DC, in January. 4-5 seats available.
 4. December 1: 25% discount and free gift wrapping at the Campus bookstore.
 5. Thursday, November 17, 3 – 4 pm: Seminar, Finding a Job in Academia, Fine Arts Bldg. 213. Ward encouraged the body to attend. It's on social media.
 6. Fri, November 18, 12 – 2 pm, Union 403, Community Conversations about Diversity. MEDINA: 6-8 groups.
 7. Sat, November 19: Lunch and Learn food resource showcase.
 8. December 6: All-ASG Christmas party at U.S. Pizza
 9. Social hour to follow this meeting
- c. SECRETARY: no report

- d. **TREASURER:** committee meeting this week. Meeting with Financial Affairs Board will occur.
- e. **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** committee working on legislation for the next meeting.
- f. **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS/ADVOCACY:** Razorback Action Group for strategies for Little Rock this upcoming year/session.
- g. **INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS:** Park is collecting information on housing for grad students, but it is taking time. Information collecting entails how grad students, especially international students, find housing and the issues and challenges they face looking for and finding housing.
- h. **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/MARKETING:**
 - 1. Please follow social media for upcoming events
 - 2. Soliciting ideas and suggestions
 - 3. Announced that the Chancellor is considering WTF (“What to Fix”) as a URL, whether to use it.
- i. **SOCIAL CHAIR:** last coffee will be December 5, 8:30 to 9:30 am, for Fulbright College, GSIE Lounge.
- j. **FACILITIES:**
 - 1. Linking with International Concerns for housing.
 - 2. Working on the bus schedule for Sunday, especially for off-campus graduate students, especially international students, who don’t have cars. It would be great if the bus could run 11 am to 7 or 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday.
- k. **GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE:** no report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS. None

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **OFA STANDING RULES, 2016-17 (CORMACK reporting):** Cormack and several GSC reps worked on the OFA SR during the past summer. The following are lines that she addressed:
 - 1. 1. 67: kids/non-students at events—change from 10 to 15. Desire to be more inclusive. Met with VAC and pinpointing events where food was left over and could be recovered for donation. Use of scanners only for data collection as to attendance, not to deny anyone admittance. If scanners indicate more than 15 non-students attending, then we can revisit that number. OFA Board not responsible for determining how many children/non-students come.
 - 2. L. 83: conference funding
 - 3. L. 178: maximum for conference funding goes from \$1000 to \$1250.

4. L. 212: awards ceremony
5. L. 228: applies only to transportation from XNA. There had been abuse of rental cars, etc. No rental cars.
6. L. 244: sustainability—no funding of Styrofoam cups because they're not recyclable.
7. L. 265: encourages recyclability.
8. Kimbrough: do kids under 3 count toward the number of 15?
9. Medina: data about 3-year-olds to determine line, not 4-5-year-olds
10. Cormack: no rationale here.
11. Kimbrough: suggested 5-6
12. Cormack: not a big deal.
13. Ward: it's how the negotiation worked out. The Board is trying new things. No denial of food.
14. Cormack: audit may increase that line after data analysis.
15. Marino: Echoes thanks to Cormack. She is the 4th or 5th Treasurer to address this issue and is willing to work on and with it. Marino previously encountered pushback, but this is a great development and legislative victory.
16. Kimbrough: supports this move.
17. MOTION to suspend rules and move to vote. Second. PASSES unanimously.

b. JOINT RESOLUTION 3: OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AT UA.

1. Ward: L. 48: "investigated"—Senate sent it back. We already have an office to investigate it. This relevant office concerns curriculum assignment.
2. Marino: l. 22: "modify, etc." What is the meaning? It sounds like Wikipedia—manipulable text.
3. Ward: can't change text. Can't manipulate.
4. Burbridge: can be copy and paste of material
5. Jeter: for open, large-enrollment classes?
6. Ward: yes. Smaller classes are too expensive to allow this.
7. Blanchard: large enrollment classes in math and science use MATLAB. Does OER replace these resources?
8. Ward: this resolution doesn't demand. It just asks for the issue to go forward.
9. Medina: changing interface with large survey classes?
10. Blanchard: discussed OWL and MATLAB—online access to textbooks
11. Ward: Chartwell's competitive bid process is coming and will connect with this issue. Also connects with Blackboard and whether BB will continue here.
12. Kimbrough: are we saying we are encouraging OER? Is it a brand?
13. Ward: it directly aligns with policies we've passed or approved before, and aligns with policies of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS).
14. Marino: should pass. Harmless. Not compelling anyone to do anything. He is against the NAGPS push for OER because we'll be publishing and it's part of our

career. Against push re: the cost of books. School/higher ed costs are because of state sponsorship going down and high-level administrators. He has academic freedom concerns—we should be able to keep choice of books that may have academic rigor or address certain issues/themes that the teacher wants. Don't attack for price. It's just a numbers game.

15. Ward: does STEM get to choose?
16. Marino: still departmental decisions on choices of books.
17. Gerner: husband teaches chemistry and has negotiated the prices of chemistry textbooks. He's advocating use, but faculty in his department say that students don't care about costs. Passing shows that we do.
18. Medina: this is only 1 small piece of the discussion. Other parts of higher education costs need addressing. We should pass this and study other areas too.
19. Burbridge: texts' costs are barriers and lead to decreased academic performance.
20. Wilkinson: she finished her undergrad education here at UA in biology and had expensive texts, but chose not to buy, but to rent. She wishes now that she could have bought them because she could use them now as resources. That's thousands of dollars.
21. Jeter: evenly spread costs? Publishers' pushback?
22. Ward: not worried about publishers' marketing strategies.
23. Medina: a lot more complex. Not a simple issue.
24. Blanchard: discussed departmental choices, especially if faculty write and then require their own textbooks in classes. We need to look at other resources.
25. MOTION to vote by acclamation. Second. Passes.

c. JOINT RESOLUTION 4: REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO ON-CAMPUS EARLY VOTING CENTER

1. ASG pushed to have Early Voting Center (EVC) during the election cycle. There was heavy resistance at the county level despite ASG providing money for parking, pollworkers, and pollworkers' pay
2. Vranovci: it's absurd for the University to pay for it all when the University can pay for other things that the students need.
3. Ward: doesn't say anything about money/funding. Resident halls could spend as discretionary funds and voted to spend it on an EVC.
4. Burbridge: how much money did we offer to spend
5. Sims: A few thousands. About \$3000.
6. Ward: Parking took part of the money
7. Marino: every time students tried to work on it, Republicans voted it down. This would increase Republican voters, and ASG Presidents tend to be Republicans.
8. MOTION to suspend debate and vote by acclamation. Second. Passes unanimously.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT. None

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Lunch and Learn: Sat, November 19
2. Professional Development Seminar: November 17
3. Callahan: wants to write a resolution to support Project Unify. Participants welcome. Contact her and Ward. Sunday: game at Jones Center, Springdale.

XII. ADJOURN: 7:05 pm

Submitted for review,

Garrett C. Jeter

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GSC Secretary