**Graduate Student Congress**

Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

**CABINET MEETING MINUTES**

**13 October 2017**

**Arkansas Union, A640**

**12:00 pm**

ATTENDING: DiLoreto, Oramous, Morse, Callahan, Burbridge, Ward, Jeter (arrived late), coadvisor McAllister. *Oramous recorded minutes for a significant portion of the meeting.*

1. Call to Order 12:03
2. Attendance
3. Approve Minutes-Approved
4. Approve Agenda-Approved
5. Special Orders
   1. GSC Advisor Vicky Hartwell (5 minutes)-not present
   2. ASG Advisor Michael McAllister (5 minutes)-Applications to the Razorbacks Game, LSU, one or two gs have applied, pay $50 for going, pays for food, ride and tshirt. Next Friday is the Chancellor’s ball, formal town center, with Headliners Joan and Ben Rector, pick up tickets in advance and night of event, free but need student id, will be running shuttle. Keep momentum from referendum, keep up online presence, saying what was accomplished with the vote, stay on top of social media. Any questions? Yield at 12:08
6. Reports
   1. Speaker Arley Ward (5 minutes)
      1. gave Communications strategy for how to send out messages (see handout)
      2. Coffee with the Chancellor (Garrett emailed earlier in the week)
      3. The Graduate School is close to launching a program that will grant emergency funds for Graduate Students. The grants will be funded via an endowment established by Dean Needy and her husband.
      4. The process to develop a Graduate Life Event Leave Policy continues.
      5. There is a specific communication strategy we need to be following. Speaker and Secretary email the body and the Speaker communicates with Dean Koski when we need emails to be sent via her graduate student list-serv. Promotional materials for events are produced by the External Relations and Marketing Chair. After production the Chair will post via social media and email copies to the Speaker and the individuals in charge of the events being promoted.
      6. We have invited the Anthropology Club to the GSC October meeting. Each month we will invite Graduate Student Organizations to meetings.
      7. The Homecoming Research Presentation will be held on November 1st in the Graduate Student Lounge. 5:30-7:30. More details are forthcoming.
      8. The Research Panel: Identifying a Research Topic will be held November 16th in the Grad Ed Auditorium from 5:30-7:30. More details are forthcoming.
      9. The Secretary has emailed the body about the upcoming Coffee with the Chancellor. I strongly encourage each of you to register for this opportunity.
      10. Revamping the credit hours for qualify for graduation: Not fair because the MA students must take 24 hours and 6 for thesis so they don’t benefit from transfer
          1. Morse: maybe lower to 18 rather than 24. If they have taken research methods elsewhere why take again here. Dept should be able to review
   2. Vice Speaker Josh Burbridge (5 minutes)
      1. Research Colloquium Reserved Room 518-520, Friday, April 20, 12-4, event time 1-3, equipment reserved and need funding, Room for roughly 50-60 presenters, There's a bill going through to authorize funding for some equipment rental for the event. We will be forming a committee at some point to vote on the applications.
      2. Michael and Bruce for website. Been working with Rosa Edwards on moving the website forward. The URL will be gpsc.uark.edu and it will be hosted by UITS.
      3. Reminder to chairs to send minutes and attendance to Josh.
         1. Ward: do you want to form a committee for RC?
         2. Burbridge: don’t know if wants it to be strictly GSC or sponsored by Grad School
         3. Ward: Any word on WTF Arkansas hosting website
         4. Burbridge: Not yet
   3. Treasurer Ashley Whiting (3 minutes)
      1. First meeting in two weeks…primarily working on OFA for GSOs, in general thinking about travel ideas and funding conferences
         1. Ward November 9 standing rules committee can Whiting attend
         2. Whiting Yes
   4. Secretary Garrett Jeter (3 minutes). Late. No report.
   5. International Concerns Chair Anthony Marcon (3 minutes)
      1. Ward will email report
   6. Social Chair—Courtney Brooks (3 minutes)
      1. Out of Town
   7. External Affairs and Marketing Chair Josh Aguilar (3 minutes)
   8. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director JD DiLoreto (3 minutes)
      1. In DC, conference was not listed correctly so flew home before meetings on Capitol Hill, Great presentations, couple of ideas for putting into draft legislation, Title II—survivors of sexual assault, when give extensive supports much higher retention rate. University of Oregon: In “RazAlert”-like message, has a message saying not your fault please report, another is that professors are required to report and they put that in the syllabus

Johnathan Blanchard and DiLoreto went to the NAGPS fall legislative actions days.

While scheduling conflicts did not allow for us to meet with Arkansas’s representatives,

we were able to attend some extremely informative information sessions regarding

current legislative issues impacting the graduate school. In particular, we attended two sessions in regard to campus sexual assault and Title IX. My hope is to take some of that information and utilize in future legislation seeking to help combat the issue on our campus.

* 1. Parliamentarian Leah Morse (3 minutes)
     1. Meeting weekly, have a first draft done, goal to finish this month and present next month to Cabinet and whole body, third reading in December for whole body. Great committee having good meetings, also doing some code at the same time, standing rules will be after the first two…trying to get it in January election
        1. Burbridge: how many grad students have to turn out and how many have to approve
        2. Marcon: 50% plus one
        3. Ward: as it stands about 180 have to turn out
        4. Burbridge: Why not doing as legislation?
        5. Marcon: Because a bill would have to be signed off by ASG, constitution is different because it is a constitution
        6. Burbridge: How do we vote on it? Move to Adopt?
        7. Marcon: Move to adopt, reason for three readings
        8. McAllister: Thinks correct, come in as special adoptions and special orders
        9. What university has just done this?
        10. Ward: Will look that up…not to disparage
  2. Graduate Student Life Chair Jenn Oramous (3 minutes)

The Graduate Student Life Committee met on October 6, 2017 at 6 pm in Peabody 204. There were 8 members present including myself and Speaker Ward. We discussed the upcoming Homecoming events; the parade and the research reception, as well as the Research Panel Discussion: Identifying a Research Idea presentation and the spring poster colloquium that have already been planned.

We also discussed developing a professional development series for this year and into the future. This year’s theme will be a Primer on Teaching. To develop graduate students, who have teaching experience in the K-12 classrooms, in the Curriculum and Instruction Department of the College of Education and Health Professions, we will approach the GA’s there first as possible presenters. We would like to include some teaching strategies for engagement, classroom management (particularly management of large classes and freshmen who may not know how to handle a college course), how to lead effective classroom discourse, and classroom technology. Some possible future themes were also discussed, such as Career Development and Preparation of Research Presentations.

Ward presented an idea for a true elevator speech competition in Old Main which was well received. A spring family field day was discussed and tabled for the next meeting so members could brainstorm possible activities and could check on some possibilities for the day. Finally, we had an open discussion time to propose some other fun activities that we want to pursue for this year. Hiking, biking, a kickball tournament, women’s basketball grad night game, and bowling night were some of the suggestions that we are going to consider for future social activities. The committee is also open to any suggestions from the body for activities as well.

* 1. Facilities Committee Chair Kristen Callahan (3 minutes)
     1. Student crosswalks: response for more was that there was a study that there were more accidents in the crosswalk; GA computers, Grad student housing need a survey to the student body, check on discounts, lactation rooms; Parking is a Moot point at this time, don’t want to buy land or build a garage, open to more ideas but limited; parking meters-let know if there is any problems; safety flyer would like to work with GS Life Committee
     2. Ward: Gary Smith sent about crosswalks, ASG had first reading of crosswalks, Today Smith said that of course that we are going to do crosswalks, pressure works, 4 years ago plans were made for AR Ave, plans are there for AR Ave we just need to push there
     3. Callahan: Remote parking by Baseball Field Beach Lot, shuttle runs every 10 mins. Level 2 is going back to Faculty only
     4. McAllister: Clarifying question, two separate issues of on-campus housing and off-campus housing
     5. Callahan: Yes, two different plans, on-campus—Anthony Marcon, off-campus talking to apartment
     6. Ward: Get questions to cabinet and body for survey about housing
     7. McAllister: spoke about experiences in the Housing Office.

1. Old Business. None.
2. New Business:

***NOTE: all votes following included those of 2 members who had to leave early: Reps. Morse and Callahan. Both voted “yes” to all measures. Exception: amend votes did not reflect this aspect.***

* 1. Approve Budget.
  2. ASG Joint Resolution 1 Old Main Oath Enshrinement Act

Ward: This piece is morally acceptable. No money/funding involved from our end. Admin supports.

Jeter: how will it be paid for?

Ward: ASG funds.

No debate followed.

Ward: Some concern in a previous meeting regarding this being an oath.

VOTE: Unanimous yes. Passes.

* 1. ASG Joint Resolution 2 Arkansas Union Food Court Expansion Act

Ward: this is ASG member Trevor Villines’s concern. This Res supports renovations to the Union Food Court to occur during winter break. It accounts for more space, and supports extra lines for payment of food during operating hours.

VOTE: unanimous yes. Passes.

* 1. GSC Bill 1 A Bill to Establish Electronic Voting

Ward: grads have many demands on their time and can’t always make it to meetings. This bill ensures that we have effective voting occurring in our body. We’ve had a lax attendance policy in the past.

Jeter: what constitutes valid reasons?

Ward: this bill doesn’t consider validity of reasons.

Burbridge: concerns about how it may be used or abused. Example: departments being funded when a grad drops out of attendance. Also, from where does/must the voting originate? Texting? Twitter? It should be from an official uark account since voting must be public record.

MOTION: AMEND language to reflect that the email voting must come from an official uark account. 2nd. Unanimous vote yes.

Burbridge: are uark accounts official, public record? Are separate grad accounts public?

DiLoreto: GA emails are public record. The university looks for excuses not to give out information.

McAllister: pushback because requests were too broad.

Burbridge: concerns about hiding behind FERPA because that can forestall disclosure.

Ward: it hits the Speaker’s account.

Jeter: can we have a 24-hour cutoff for voting before the meeting begins. Concern with advance notice time.

Ward: unexpected life event may happen at that period. We’re all adults and can handle this.

Burbridge: doesn’t like electronic voting. Shouldn’t count toward quorum.

Whiting: good for those who have obligations. This is a good time to test the effectiveness of electronic voting because of forthcoming autonomy and a larger group of 50.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Bill 2 A Bill to Establish the Graduate Veteran of the Year Award and the Excellence in Gradate Education Awards

Jeter: described professional development point system. Based partly on Continuing Learning Unit credits found with the American Bar Assn for its member lawyers. The system applies to any work and/or leadership that a representative takes beyond fulfilling mandatory duties. It includes rewarding for publications, winning grants, winning teaching awards, etc.

Ward: self-reporting. A grad is eligible for only 1 award. No double-dipping.

Jeter: MOTION to AMEND to add language re: the period of eligibility—April 2 of the current year to April 1 of the following year.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Bill 3 A Bill to Establish a College Ombudsman Service

Ward: an ombudsman investigates complaints. College caucus chairs would assist constituents with complaints.

DiLoreto: what is/would be the authority of this officer?

Ward: representative will direct the person to proper resources, persons, offices, etc. even if someone does not want to talk with anyone.

Burbridge: any service already existing? Did some research and found that this service existed at one time, then the administration eliminated the position.

McAllister: decision by previous administration to eliminate the role.

Burbridge: also say we hire an ombudsman?

Jeter: this helps parties navigate the system.

Burbridge: helps navigate the system.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Bill 4 A Bill to Fund Equipment for the Graduate Student Research Colloquium

Burbridge: explained the different elements of the bill’s line items. The Colloquium will be April 20.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Resolution 1 A Resolution to Approve the 2017-2018 Budget

Ward and Whiting presented on the 2017-18 budget.

Ward: presented on restrictions and division of line items of the budget. Said that preference on allocations is for them to be early.

McAllister: certain changes don’t require legislation.

Burbridge: where does the personnel budget go?

McAllister: webmaster.

Burbridge: what are the “classified fringes”?

McAllister: Miss Jody defines those.

Vote: Unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Resolution 2 A Resolution to Submit a Bid to Host the 2018 National NAGPS Conference

Ward: NAGPS recognized us as the GSC first, before anyone else did. Ward outlined our history with an involvement in the organization. We’re seeking support to submit a bid for the conference. This move is to support grads, for recognition of the University, etc. Based on experience from previous national conferences, we can expect 100-110 attendees. It will be easy to make money from this venture, but cash flow and recovering the expense will be slow and difficult. We need to set aside 10K to 15K in our budget. We hope to have a reception in the Chancellor’s house to host them.

Burbridge: attendance number?

Ward: 100-110.

Oramous: possibility of higher or lower numbers?

Ward: depends on the distance from the participating schools. East Coasters might not come or be inclined to come. We can also introduce new issues and topics that others previously haven’t: race, LGBT, etc.

Burbridge: it shows that we’re a legitimate organization especially in GPSC’s inaugural year.

Ward: at that time, requests for travel grant funding will be at their lowest, so it will be the best time for the conference.

Burbridge: what about work with a local hotel?

Ward: Carnall Hall [on campus]. Also, we will hold it on a non-football-game day to ensure maximum lodging possibilities.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

1. Public Comment (10 Minutes)—reserved for those who do not have speaking privileges. None.
2. Announcements:

Ward: working with Joe Daniels regarding Hurricane Harvey relief. Taking books down there. Possible creation of Relief Council to take care of aid after catastrophes.

Also, representative Chris Birch will be running for a state seat from his district.

1. Adjourn: 2 pm.

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW,

***Garrett C. Jeter***

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Recording Secretary