**Graduate Student Congress**

Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

**GSC October Meeting Minutes**

**19 October 2017**

**Graduate Education Auditorium**

**6:00 pm**

ATTENDING: Abdalhadi, Aguilar, Ames, Atkins, Bakare, Beals, Belote, Blanchard, Braddock, Brooks, Burbridge, Callahan, Cervellere, Conrad, Dougherty, Dye, Elkin, Gamage, Diaz-Gomez, Jeter, Kaijage, Kimbrough, Koenigseder, Koshkarbaeva, Marcon, Moore, Morse, Nardo, Nunn, Oramous, Rowlett, Scott, Shaffer, Sturdivant, Sumler, Taylor, Tetley, Tidwell, Ward, Whitehead, Whiting, Wilkinson, coadvisors McAllister and Hartwell. *Proxy*: Birch, Marino, Wilbanks. *Absent*: DiLoreto (excused), Ehlers, Ravishankar. Guests: ASG members Andrew Counce, Trevor Villines, Spencer Bone.

1. Call to Order: Ward, 6:05 pm
2. Attendance. Above. Quorum met.
3. Approve Agenda. MOTION to add Library Committee appointment. 2nd. Passes.
4. Approve Minutes. MOTION to approve. 2nd. Vote: unanimous yes.
5. Special Orders
	1. GSC Advisor Vicky Hartwell. No report.
	2. ASG Advisor Michael McAllister.

1. Welcome to all. Pleased to see a full agenda. Keep and preserve momentum, especially re: upcoming autonomy.

2. Get out to your constituents and talk with them. Engage with social media, community, students, constituents.

3. We have a lot of work to do, especially with spring elections coming and with the upcoming GPSC.

4. Homecoming King and Queen: now interviewing candidates. Vote on ASG website 10/30-11/1.

5. Watch for potential partners in the undergrad sector of ASG.

6. Next Wednesday, 10/25, 6 pm, the Union, the Provost for Diversity and Inclusion will speak about inclusion and diversity initiatives. You’ll get to see what UA is doing and will be doing in this area.

C. ASG Pres. Andrew Counce:

1. Excited to be here and see what we’ll accomplish and what’s ahead.

2. Thanked all who participated in the It’s On Us sexual assault awareness week.

3. ASG will be conducting Diversity and Inclusion Week 10/23, 10/25, 10/27.

4. 10/24: nursing students will do screenings.

5. 10/20: Chancellor’s Ball with Ben Rector at the Fayetteville Town Square. Invited all to come. You get in with your student ID.

6. Pleased that the autonomy initiative passed last month.

7. Regardless of what branch any of us represent, we’re here to represent all. Please reach out to ASG if you need anything. Thanked Ward for good working relationship.

1. Reports
	1. Speaker Arley Ward
		1. Relationship with Grad School good.
		2. Life Event Leave still in progress. We have to figure out the logistics. Explained what the Life Event Resolution is. The University is still considering the resolution.
		3. The Grad School will launch an emergency relief fund, but still needs to work it out. Dean Needy and husband endowing it.
		4. 11/1 Homecoming Research Reception, Gearhart Lounge, 6 pm. Mentioned the presenters.
		5. 11/16, 6 pm, Research Panel Discussion—first ever research panel discussion—faculty and reps will help with identifying topics.
		6. Spring: inviting UA publication editors to speak about publishing.
	2. Vice Speaker Josh Burbridge

a. Official date for Spring Research Colloquium in the Union is 4/20/18. Needs authorization. 50-60 posters possible. Applications will be available in the early Spring.

b. Moving forward with the website—WordPress for the GPSC. The URL will likely be gpsc.uark.edu.

c. College Caucus chairs—let him know when your caucus will meet.

Blanchard: date for the Colloquium application process.

Burbridge: early spring.

* 1. Treasurer Ashley Whiting:

1. Outlining goals of the Finance Committee

2. setting up meeting time and biweekly meetings—RSO funding, etc.

* 1. Secretary Garrett Jeter.

1. Reminded the body about Coffee with the Chancellor.

2. Reminded the body about upcoming Chartwell’s focus groups.

3. Asked the body to notify of any absences

4. Asked body to mention name when speaking.

* 1. International Concerns Chair Anthony Marcon.

1. Met with international reps. The internationals feel disconnected. Want space for outreach.

2. Internationals need student leaders to help interaction.

3. Concern with housing—want clarity and info on resources.

4. They feel overworked by their advisors during breaks.

5. Need to have more meetings and dialogue.

* 1. Social Chair—Courtney Brooks. No report.
	2. External Affairs and Marketing Chair Josh Aguilar: please post and share on social media.
	3. Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director JD DiLoreto (report through Ward):

1. Title IX and sexual assault: good idea to follow what other places have done—RazAlert, after broadcasting a report about rape/alleged rape, the system could include info to those who have experienced rape about how they can seek help. Places that have implemented this aspect experienced good results with a rise in reports. Title IX is uncertain right now.

2. Title II: we can support this piece. It impacts retention.

* 1. Parliamentarian Leah Morse:

1. Policies & Procedures meeting and trying hard to get a new copy of the Constitution to the body in November and vote December in order to get it out for spring 2018 elections. P&P is meeting every week and is working hard on this document.

* 1. Graduate Student Life Chair Jenn Oramous:

1. The committee met and talked about Homecoming presentation of research and parade. Discussed spring research colloquium.

2. Looking at doing panels with themes. 1 is a primer for teaching—looking to have help in COEHP Curriculum and Instruction Design help out. Another is teaching strategies and engagement program, career development, elevator speech for thesis.

3. Discussed Spring Family Day—a field day. Need ideas for this event.

4. Ideas for social events include hiking, biking, kickball tournament, and bowling. Open to ideas for suggested activities.

5. 10/27, 6 pm, Peabody—next meeting.

* 1. Facilities Committee Chair Kristen Callahan:

1. Met with Parking & Transit. They won’t be buying any more land or building any new garages—very expensive.

2. Crosswalks: P&T did put one, but said crosswalks cause more accidents, quoting survey study. She’s still not letting up on this. Mentioned a few places that need crosswalks: Garland and Wedington, Lindell and Cleveland, etc. Contact her if you want more crosswalks.

3. Housing: survey out—negotiating off-campus price remissions or on-campus housing options.

4. Wants more lighting on campus.

5. Law school TA program—wants to secure a TA/GA room to keep computers in.

1. Old Business: committee appointments. Nomination of Ashley Shackleford for the Library Committee. Ward read Shackleford’s statement. Shackleford wants a drop-off box for time-crunched grads to deposit due books. Wants dedicated space for Mullins library.

MOTION to approve appointment. 2nd. VOTE: unanimous yes.

1. New Business
	1. Approve Budget: Whiting presented on 2017-18 budget.

Ward: we get 5% of revenue. Detailed spending parameters and approval conditions. $10K unallocated for funding events and programs.

Blanchard: what is the phone/long distance line item?

Whiting: UA has a code for input during these calls. It comes out of our budget.

Blanchard: MOTION to approve. 2nd. VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. ASG Joint Resolution 1 Old Main Oath Enshrinement Act: Spencer Bone.

1. Bone gave the history of the Oath. The Oath gives the reason for why we are who we are.

2. Wants to present to the GSC and the Faculty Senate before going to Facilities Mgt. Will keep consulting GSC during the process.

Tetley: Discussed with Faculty Senate.

Bone: Will wait until passage through both branches.

Blanchard: MOTION to vote by acclamation. VOTE: 1 abstention (Bohlen), all else yes. Passes.

* 1. ASG Joint Resolution 2 Arkansas Union Food Court Expansion Act: Villines and Conrad.

1. Villines referenced a related previous resolution that he presented last spring: the Arkansas Union Improvement Act. This was an idea of a committee member on the Arkansas Union Advisory Committee.

Jeter: addressed payment lines during heavy times. What was the reaction of Chartwell’s?

Villines: we visited other sites around the state and country. Suggest that we are able to pay at the individual vendors’ locations instead of a separate pay location, or also splitting up registers around the food court space.

Blanchard: appreciates the spirit of the Resolution and supports it, but not supportive of the content. Seems frivolous. No specifics or specificity. It needs more specifics such as placement of registers.

Jeter: can we amend to provide the specificity that you want?

Blanchard: it needs more research and study before passage.

Villines: Chartwell’s, Villines, and others have spent much time in research and study already. Visited multiple sites off-campus and out-of-state. Chartwell’s is forming plans and implementing now—it will be too late to study.

Morse: this is a resolution of support. Not actually changing things because construction will occur. We need to show support and that we’re engaged. We’re sending a message that we’re engaged.

Blanchard: MOTION to amend, striking ll. 31-37. No 2nd. Amendment fails.

Blanchard: MOTION to vote by acclamation. 2nd. VOTE: Blanchard nay; all else yes. Passes.

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

Ward presented and explained. We respect that grads have commitments and responsibilities that may conflict with attending meetings: research, family, etc. This bill allows electronic voting if a representative can’t make the meeting. Reps will receive the legislation ahead of time and have certain options for voting: yes, no, abstain. Allows flexibility for reps if time and commitments impede attendance. Allows one to vote. Ward outlined the procedures: vote tallies would go to the Speaker, then to the Secretary. If one can’t attend, then s/he sends a proxy; 2 absences constitute removal from the body. We’re all adults and have to be responsible as adults, especially since we’ll be larger as a body [GPSC] next year.

Question: maximum time to participate electronically?

Ward: constituents want you to represent them.

Oramous: If we pass tonight, will it be effective next month?

Blanchard: how will it affect quorum if you don’t weigh either way?

Ward: counted as abstention.

Question: Is there talk of virtual meetings?

Ward: testing this year. May be possible next year. In the past, electronic voting was a disaster.

Blanchard: support this, but concern with it as written. Re: people not attending: unethical—can’t represent what they don’t know especially if the agenda receives an addition during the actual meeting and they don’t specify, and a rep is absent. Not comfortable supporting if one doesn’t know what s/he is voting for.

Morse: abstentions by definition = not voting. Doesn’t’ think amending will happen often. Being present doesn’t mean that you’re voting—not an issue. Should pass as is.

Bakare: MOTION to strike language and correct in l. 67.

Vote: unanimous yes.

Whiting: this is a good time this year to test this bill before the body gets larger.

Blanchard: understands test run, but we’re GSC and not a test run. MOTION to amend: l. 66—“Be it further resolved that any vote not specifically indicated not be counted as abstention or for quorum.”

Oramous: only for that particular issue and not others/all?

Blanchard: for all issues?

Oramous: quorum for whole meeting or for specific vote?

Blanchard: do quorum for a vote and check attendance.

Morse: quorum = quorum for meeting.

MOTION to amend. 2nd. MOTION to vote by acclamation. 2nd. Burbridge OBJECTS, thinks that we’re overusing the acclamation vote.

The body goes to paper ballot vote.

VOTE as follows: 10 yes, 27 no, 0 abstentions. Amendment fails.

Moore: supports bill, but wants accountability. To be present, you must vote specifically in ***all*** issues. Helps with quorum. Not voting on any = absent.

Moore: MOTION to amend—to be counted as present, a rep must vote on all issues to ensure that count as present.

Blanchard: if missing 1, all other votes don’t count.

Moore: should vote all pieces.

Kimbrough: MOTION to amend amendment. Amend l. 67 and add “Should additional eligible items be added after votes counted, participation not counted toward quorum in additional items.” After consideration, Kimbrough withdraws motion.

Morse: add “and presence won’t be counted toward quorum.”. 2nd.

Bohlen: can imagine scenarios where he might read emails and overlook and forget to vote.

VOTE on amendment to amendment: MOTION for show of hands. 22 yes, 10 no, 3 abstention. Amendment passes.

Move to discuss amendment.

Conrad: specify rep that won’t be counted.

Moore: adds 1 step to accountability. Not to make harder, but more effective.

Blanchard: MOTION to vote by show of hands.

VOTE: 20 yes, 14 no, abstention 1. Amendment passes.

Moore: MOVE previous question. 2nd. Blanchard: opposes. VOTE to vote: carries.

VOTE: Blanchard MOTION to vote by show of hands. 2nd. Carries. 3 no.

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

Ward explained. Recognizes grad student work and research and teaching—rewards for academic prowess, service, grants, publication, etc. It’s self-reporting.

Bakare: how do you determine eligibility?

Ward: apply and be verified. A committee votes and awards.

Burbridge: unlimited awards?

Ward: Yes, but no more than 1 per category.

Burbridge: vote yes or no on each candidate? Is it only self-reported/nominated or can others do it for them?

MOTION to amend ll. 67-8. 2nd. VOTE re: self-nomination: 1 abstention, all else yes.

Cervellere: MOTION add “MS [degree].” VOTE: all yes.

Kimbrough: MOTION to change l. 70 to read “being in masters, doctoral, JD, or other graduate degree program.” MOTION to amend. 2nd. Unanimous yes.

MOVE to previous question. Passes.

Morse: MOTION to change agenda to move GSC Resolution 2 up because of its time-essential nature. 2nd. VOTE: passes.

* 1. GSC Resolution 2 A Resolution to Submit a Bid to Host the 2018 National NAGPS Conference [MOVED from original position to earlier treatment].

Ward explained this resolution, laid out history of GSC with NAGPS. Wants to hold the National Conference here next year. Gives us national recognition and for grads to connect. Good for UA nationally. Needs support from the body.

Oramous: repeats earlier request [by email] to be added as sponsor.

Jeter: add as sponsor with Callahan, Bohlen, Kimbrough.

Sponsors added.

VOTE: carries.

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

Ward presented. In the past, several grads came to us with problems. This permits navigation through the administration and University structure. Constituents would meet with college/school caucus chairs. Chairs would work with the aggrieved through the process, telling them whom to contact, walking them through the process. The ombudsman may recommend resolutions and redress.

VOTE: unanimous yes. Passes.

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

Burbridge presented on what we need to fund.

Cervellere: how do we present posters?

Burbridge: easels, but we will make it easy.

Ward: possibly some funds will not be spent and be unallocated. Not sure yet.

VOTE: unanimous yes.

* 1. GSC Resolution 1: A Resolution to Approve the 2017-2018 Budget *(see A above)*
1. Public Comment. None.
2. Announcements.

Ward: Rep. Chris Birch is running for office. Needs help with his campaign.

1. Adjourn. MOTION. 2nd. Adjourn at 8:04 pm.

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW,

Garrett C. Jeter

Garrett C. Jeter

Recording Secretary