



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

25 January 2017
Graduate Education Building
Auditorium
6:00 PM

ATTENDING: Blanchard, Burbridge, Callahan, Gerner, Jeter, Johnson, Kimbrough, Marino, Morse, Ordorica, Shahriar, Sims, Vranovci, Ward, Whiting, Wilkinson, coadvisors Cantu and McAllister, ASG President Flocks, ASG Chief of Staff Taylor Farr. *Proxies:* Baker, Nguyen. *Absent:* Medina, Park. *Guests:* former representative Michael Shane Powers and Dan Elkin of the Fulbright Project.

I) Call to Order: Johnson, 6:03 pm

II) Attendance (above). Quorum met.

III) Approve December Minutes. Approved.

IV) Approve Agenda. Approved.

V) Special Orders

A) GSC Advisor Amanda Cantu. Newswire—Graduate School has a new office for graduate fellowships, funding, and support. Wants feedback on services, etc.; email feedback to Cantu or to Vicki Hartwell.

B) ASG Advisor Michael McCallister:

1. Reminder about spring vacancy election happening next week. Applications close Thursday 1/26 at noon online. Voting from 1/31 9 am through 2/2 4 pm. Friday 2/3: candidate expenditure reports due noon online at AU A665. 2017-18 General Election for Exec, Senate, and GSC—applications run 2/2 through 2/16; Wednesday 2/15: mandatory candidate orientation session, 5 pm, AU 308. Thanks to Gerner and Wilkinson for posters that they generated for the vacancy election. Showed 6 of them. Good that people worked on election.

C) ASG President Connor Flocks

1. Provost Jim Coleman now in office
2. Campus Carry—we passed Resolution. Controls only faculty and staff. Arkansas legislators are very concealed-carry.
3. YIELDS TIME to Farr. Farr: ASG has 3 phases for initiatives and events. Phase I: planning initiatives for completion this semester. Phase II: organizing for events and initiatives to occur. Phase III: execution of initiative or event. 3 events/initiatives: family-friendly registration, veteran-friendly registration, food

security representative announced, Senior Walk restoration. Be sure to reach out to Farr for questions.

- D) Graduate School—Vicky Hartwell. No report
- E) Stacy Kimbrough—COEHP Caucus Report. Kimbrough, Park, and Gerner met with the dean of COEHP. Discussed graduate student housing and for discovery of ways to address graduate student issues and reaching out of caucus. Discussed how administration and graduate students can work to help graduate students. Addressed parking issues—full parking lots prevent graduate student parking; this issue impacts COEHP—we're expanding professional development programs, but parking impacts grads coming in the evening. There is a need for housing and childcare. Need for professional graduate student life and experience, for connecting and collaborating with the faculty. GERNER: mentioned the language education center.

VI) Reports

- A) Speaker Scout Johnson
 - a) Vacancy Elections: less than an 18-hour window now. Encourages the body to recruit candidates for them; asked us to recruit friends to apply for election candidacy. Applications for fall election: 2/2.
 - b) Trying to get GSC representatives to attend ASG Cabinet meetings. Looking for volunteers to give graduate student perspective.
 - c) This semester all general meetings will begin at 6 pm.
- B) Vice Speaker Arley Ward
 - a. Housekeeping: tracking service hours—reminder to access Google Docs.
 - b. College caucuses: still need to hear re: meetings this semester.
 - c. General Meetings this semester: 2/16, 3/15, 4/20
 - d. Vacancy elections going on right now. We're reaching out to deans on campus to talk with graduate student coordinators and to get recruits; we reached out to campus organizations. Feb. 8: Graduate Student Lounge at Ozark, 2 pm—informational session to get people to run. Powerpoint session, not just walk-in. We have a list of 300 students interested. Ward showed 6 recruitment posters by Gerner and Wilkinson; we will print and distribute them Monday 1/30 for on-campus dissemination. We want reps in the GSC office during the entire period in case interested candidates stop by. Determined to get 50 people into seats.
- C) Treasurer Korab Vranovci: working out when next financial meeting will be.
- D) Secretary Garrett Jeter. No report.
- E) International Concerns Chair Min-Ji Park. No report.
- F) External Affairs and Marketing Co-Chairs Rachel Gerner and Katie Wilkinson. Showed posters for recruitment.
- G) Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director Jesse Sims. Discussed bills in the Little Rock General Assembly.

- a. Guns on campus—going to Judiciary Committee 1/26.
- b. Prohibiting sanctuary campuses in Arkansas—going to Education Committee 1/26.
- c. Renters' rights and failure to pay rent—permitting eviction. Senate will address 1/26.
- d. Rumor of possible bill: limiting number of law schools. Legislators think there are too many in Arkansas.
- e. The National Association of Graduate Professional Students will have a Legislative Actions Days program in March.
- f. 2/16 and 2/17: going to Little Rock to meet with governor's office and with Higher Education Committee.

- H) Parliamentarian Joshua Burbridge. GSC will discuss JB4 on 2nd reading (see below).
- I) Graduate Student Life Chair Johnathan Blanchard. Committee needs to meet this month.
- J) Facilities Committee Chair Nghia Nguyen. No report.

VII) Old Business

- A) GSC Res 5—A Resolution to Promote Awareness of Veterans' Educational Issues.

Jeter: Resolution is self-explanatory. It asks for 3 things: waiving application fee for admission, priority in registration and enrollment, and full or partial tuition fellowships that would provide funding to complete degrees when/if benefits expire before degree completion.

MOTION TO VOTE. Passes unanimously.

- B) JB4—An Act to Support the Chancellor's Guiding Priorities by Creating the Associated Students Constitution **

Johnson: will not participate in debate/discussion.

Marino: this Constitution makes changes to graduate school and advising—proposed amendments to advising sections. It addresses how we do student government in the future. This continues the bill we treated in December, but there have been 5 drafts.

Proposed change—add *Supreme* to title for “Associated Students Supreme Constitution.”

The Chancellor made it guiding priority to support this. A vote in favor is a vote in favor of support for his Guiding Priorities. It addresses graduate student life, experience, services, housing, support and funding for a flagship university. We're not a flagship in graduate education.

Met with Senate Internal Relations and with Executive. They have until 2/1 to sponsor/author. Senate—respectful reception, many fair questions. Issue re: sustainability and whether we will continue. Questions re: judgment call in draft—veto, choosing justice. No one said it was a terrible idea. Imminent election is causing hesitation; there is concern about what the tickets will look like, and how President Flocks will react. We're hoping Flocks will sign on. It would be good to pass unanimously and have all sign on to sponsor.

MOTION TO EXTEND by 5 minutes. 2nd. Pass.

Marino: We need to have all names to sponsor. All of the Cabinet has signed on. This is the future; otherwise, we will keep fighting every year. Vote needed by Senate, then referendum, then the Chancellor.

Scout and Alex met with others to further the bill. We want to keep this dialogue rolling, get this to the Chancellor and support him.

MOTION TO AMEND. 2nd. Add Supreme to title and appendices.

Marino: An associate dean asked to strike Sect. 3 re: advising—remove and call Finance and include in the ASG Constitution. Marino also updated titles of administration officials.

AMENDMENTS pass.

Marino: We need representatives to come to the Senate and Cabinet meetings to discuss these.

Jeter: who will advise?

Marino: it will stay the same until we decide what the change is. It will remove OSA, but still flexible to discuss. We don't know yet. It's all in the Constitution. It has to go up the chain to the Chancellor. We still don't know what we want.

Johnson: streamlined Constitution—hard to change. GPSC constitution will be easier to change.

Marino: Committee wants to bring in departments, to empower them in the conversation. Constitution—need to take time—will write on Code more. Treasurer will figure out how to disburse funds.

Burbridge: Are there positive comments about helping undergraduates in the Senate?

Marino: supportive, but has a "wait and see" attitude. Respectful, but not enthusiastic. Questions re: funds and how the funding situation will work. We don't want a 20% increase—bad for us to get ASG chunk of money. Some don't want us to have seats on the PAB—it's a poison pill. No one said it was great. Supportive

senators said, "Wait and see." Some may not want to support unless Pres. Flocks supports it.

MOTION FOR UNTIMED PERIOD to add sponsors. 2nd. Passes. Marino added as sponsors Blanchard, Sims, Kimbrough, Whiting, Park, Callahan, Wilkinson, Shahriar.

Burbridge: in favor. We've been working hard on this. Marino has worked hard. Glad to see it go forward. Benefits: good for funding graduate students to go to conferences and for promoting research. Former Chancellor Gearhart wanted UA to get to the Top 50 of research institutions; this is a good way to get to that top.

Morse: part of our mission is to serve better graduate students on campus. It gives more standing to graduate students. Good for undergrads because we have special concerns. It's the best thing for us to be able to serve our constituents.

Blanchard: concerns about the preamble language to JB4—Chancellor's GPs and separate governing body should exist. This language concerns our own perspective. Wants to add language to highlight that it gives undergraduates chance to run their own branch.

Ward: good point, but we should let the undergrads add this language instead of us telling them why it should/would be good for them.

Marino: the undergrads don't know how it works, but can't think of any better. Their feeling that their oath binds them prevents them from giving in to big change. Good to put in language because it would need to sell it to them. Hopes that we can have leaders to strengthen it in Senate. It needs something profound to persuade the undergrads.

MOTION TO EXTEND DEBATE by 10 minutes. 2nd. Pass.

Blanchard: not opposed, but concerned with the pressure. Doesn't think that this could be written differently. One body had to take responsibility to change. Doesn't want to send it to die. Delay to next meeting to let undergrads have chance to weigh in. Question to Marino: if we pass this, we have to have codes?

Marino: no referendum necessary. It could pass in April. Full report next Senate meeting. Feb. 7 and 14—questions and then 2/14 vote. If it's tabled, it dies.

Johnson: would require a referendum, but deadline before spring election because of publication requirements. Pass Senate on 2/14 and GSC on 16th. If on 14th it's amended and don't accept it, it won't go to referendum this year.

Blanchard: re: deadline. Should we pass today?

Marino: pass without amendments and we would be done.

Burbridge: if we tabled, it would show that we weren't sure. Passage shows confidence in it.

Ward: passing today looks like we're confident, with no amendment needed.

Marino: regardless, a lot of people did good work concerning graduate student life. Constitutions support because graduate students are fighting for them. We're still fighting for them—we're leaders in Arkansas.

MOTION TO END DEBATE AND VOTE BY ACCLAMATION. 2nd. Passes unanimously.

C) GSC Bill 3—Appropriations Bill for Fulbright Project (Powers and Elkin)

Marino: recuses himself on grounds of conflict of interest as being on the editorial board of the Project.

Powers: this is a digital project. Blogs are up and are collaborative. They have gone out to the public. Discussing current issues, political and otherwise, distilling them for the audience/public. It furthers the Chancellor's Guiding Priorities, intends to disseminate research, and bridges to the community. Good for professional development, for faculty and grads to display research. We are buying cost-effective and durable equipment. Can help in applying for NEH grants.

Elkin: blogs are exploding media. Podcasts are growing in popularity—they need to be accessible to the public, display research. It's an avenue to current events. He showed some current blogs and podcasts from the Project. It's good for graduate students to reach the public. Having GSC back the Project will give us this space.

Powers: it raises the profile of the GSC. The Project can promote GSC on its site.

MOTION TO EXTEND by 5 minutes. 2nd. Passes.

Sims: amend l. 50 to "funding."

Burbridge: What do you do to raise awareness?

Powers: Facebook. We also presented at a conference panel re: digital humanities. Online it's social media outreach. The history department knows of it and approves.

Whiting: an amendment would require reversion of equipment to GSC at expiration of the Project. There will be advertisement on Newswire. Free to all and access open to all.

Morse: do we have funds for this?

Johnson: yes. Professional development money unspent from fall is available.

Shahriar: do you have space for storage?

Powers: Duncan office space suitable.

Elkin: Spoke with others to get College of Arts and Sciences space.

Powers: we will get space.

Whiting: departments reluctant to provide office space for storage right now.

Blanchard: is the studio space an actual space? What about the Carter Center, which houses the local NPR?

Elkin: scheduling difficulties. We've exhausted on-campus space possibilities.

Sims: support?

Elkin: NEH needs institutional support.

Powers: Katherine Sloan supports.

Shahriar: list—estimates or actual support?

Powers: showed links to specific equipment they've identified. It's all peer-reviewed.

Debate:

Blanchard: not against, but concerned with how this project was presented. Humanities is mentioned 30 times, but we need to represent the entire campus. An engineer-heavy proposal would be rejected. Heard some podcasts—good, unbiased, but we need to address imbalance.

Powers: concern of Blanchard valid. Our intention is to be as collaborative and interdisciplinary as possible. Intent to do outreach to all fields. Intent to intersect with other fields and with interdisciplinary efforts.

Gerner: this honors Fulbright's legacy of debate re: history. Supports.

MOTION TO END DEBATE AND VOTE BY ACCLAMATION. 2nd. Passes unanimously.

D) GSC Res 3—Thanking Dr. Saxena

E) GSC Res 4—Welcoming Dr. Coleman

Johnson: we will address these together.

MOTION TO END DEBATE AND VOTE BY ACCLAMATION SIMULTANEOUSLY. Both pass unanimously.

All agree to sponsor these resolutions.

VIII) New Business. None.

IX) Public Comment (10 Minutes)—reserved for those who do not have speaking privileges on the floor. No public comment

- X) Announcements—Reserved for those who do have speaking privileges on the floor
- A) Next Meeting—16 February, 6pm Grad Ed
 - a) Legislation or other agenda requests due by 5 February, 5pm
 - b) Blanchard: Fayetteville public forum on guns between Reps. Leding and Collins. Some may be interested in a debate forum, maybe next week. Email Blanchard for questions and interest; email can go through the secretary.
 - c) Ward: recruit people to run for vacancy and general elections.
 - d) Sims: next forum at Chamber of Commerce on 2/3/17.
 - e) Blanchard: people are trying to get Reps. Leding and Collins to come to campus. Also, can we get a resolution to simplify running for next year. Johnson: we can put that in the Constitution.

XI) Adjourn: 7:35 pm

Submitted for review,

Garrett C. Jeter

Garrett C. Jeter
Secretary

**** Documents not listed that accompany this legislation as appendices:**
Associated Students Supreme Constitution, Organizing Documents Guide, Budget Breakdown, Transition Timelines