**GSC MEETING MINUTES: INAUGURAL AND BUSINESS**

**GRADUATE EDUCATION BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, 6 PM**

**INAUGURAL SESSION**

I. CALL TO ORDER (JOHNSON): 6:01 pm

II. WELCOME (JOHNSON):

1. recognized Student Affairs and Student Activities guests; administration and staff; partners from the other branches of the ASG; representatives elected last spring and new representatives.
2. Thanked those before us who served.
3. Welcomed new representatives and recognized their decision to serve and to provide service to the community.

III. SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY-ELECTED GSC REPRESENTATIVES: Associate Dean of Students Lander and co-advisor Michael McAllister administered the oath of office.

IV. INAUGURAL ADDRESS: JOHNSON

**\*\*\* RECESS AND RECEPTION\*\*\***

**BUSINESS SESSION**

ATTENDING: Baker, Blanchard, Burbridge, Callahan, Gerner, Gilley, Hawkins, Jeter, Johnson, Kimbrough, Marino, Medina, Morse, Nguyen, Ordorica, Park, Shahria, Sims, Vranovci, Ward, Whiting, Wilkinson, McAllister, Cantu, Joseph Daniels, III.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:49 pm (JOHNSON)

II. ATTENDANCE: 22. Quorum met.

III. APPROVE MINUTES: n/a (at next meeting)

IV. MOTION: add GSC Resolution 1 to New Business. Agenda amended.

V. APPROVE AGENDA. 2nd. Approved.

VI. SPECIAL ORDERS:

1. CO-ADVISOR CANTU: no report
2. CO-ADVISOR McALLISTER:
3. Asked for a moment of silence for recently deceased student body member Ashley Marrs
4. Announced that there is a mental health crisis hotline number for students with such issues. We want to make things safe and supportive for students.
5. ASG PRESIDENT FLOCKS: no report (absent due to required event)

VII. REPORTS:

1. SPEAKER JOHNSON: no report
2. V.-SPEAKER WARD:
3. Asked for representatives to attend the Sept. 22 Professional Development activity
4. Office hours/service hours: 1 service hour a week, which will be cumulative.
5. Email re: campus-wide committee appointments
6. TREASURER VRANOVCI: no report
7. SECRETARY JETER:
8. Encouraged use of GivePulse
9. Announced that Chartwell’s offered to conduct a dinner in November that would showcase campus food resources
10. GSC can have a Full Circle Pantry tour Mondays after 3 pm
11. INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS CHAIR PARK: no report
12. SOCIAL CHAIR HAWKINS:
13. Donuts and coffee on September 22 at the GSIE student lounge
14. Homecoming week: graduate student appreciation lunch
15. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/MARKETING CO-DIRECTORS GERNER AND WILKINSON: no report
16. PARLIAMENTARIAN BURBRIDGE: Introduced himself and outlined his duties—Policies and Procedures, Standing Rules, etc.
17. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS/ADVOCACY DIRECTOR SIMS:
18. Reported on September 2016 Legislative Action Days in Washington, DC (National Association of Graduate and Professional Students): met with Congressional representatives re: reapplication for visas, access to publicly-funded research, fairer interest rates on student loans, health insurance policies.
19. Arkansas Rep. Greg Leding will be at Arsaga’s at the Law School 11 am
20. Sept. 28: Giffels, RED Talks, Politics: voting issues.
21. GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE CHAIR BLANCHARD:
22. Announced upcoming focus groups: Sept. 27 (Fulbright), Sept. 29 (Walton), and Oct. 5 (COEHP). Dean Koski making the requests for names puts her weight behind the requests for names. We wanted to keep it small for opportunities to hear everyone.
23. FACILITIES CHAIR NGUYEN: no report

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ASG JOINT RESOLUTION 1: A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST UNIVERSITY OF

ARKANSAS SUPPORT IN CONDEMNING SYMBOLS OF DIVISIVENESS AT THE BIKES, BLUES, AND BBQ RALLY. This resolution has been amended.

1. JOSEPH DANIELS: We had a meeting with the ASG Senate. The University of Arkansas appreciates African-Americans in athletics, but in any other context not. 5% of the University seems not worthy to speak up for as a marginalized group. There is division and hatred across the country. We are speaking for our colleagues. Bikes, Blues, and BBQ will be going on from Wednesday to Sunday in Fayetteville. We have a petition to boycott and call for the University to support. The flag is laced with division and hatred, although it might be heritage. Asked for the GSC to take a stand.
2. MARINO: Motion to amend to what you see before you. Second. ASG Senator Gairhan talked with colleagues. People in the Senate voiced concerns. Gairhan removed parts and the Senate approved. Senators then moved to table the JR. The language addressed every concern they had. There was voting by us to give it to them. The GSC is 17% of the vote. Approve amendments to put it back to the Senate—uncomfortable to vote on it. We’re not telling BBB to do anything, but just voicing our voice. We need to voice that our community is safe. We must be a louder voice against hate. We must speak as students.

Question: what were the Senate’s concerns/sticking-points?

Answer from MARINO: They did not like the petition. Were concerned about the negative effect on the rally—less money to the charities involved. There was a belief that the student majority wouldn’t support it. Concerns that alumni might not support—they didn’t feel that the majority of alumni would support. The slippery slope argument argument—that this resolution would block other activities. Our borders don’t end at the campus limits. Greek houses receive money for parking. The bikers come on campus. Many students live off campus.

MOTION to extend by 3 minutes. Second.

1. JOHNSON: Because the Senate tabled, we are taking action. We didn’t have time to do the right thing.
2. MARINO: Senators are trying to rewrite the script and remove all references to the BBB and to the flag on campus. We have to vote now and have it ready. We seek future action and will see if it will change. Unfortunate that the Senate did what they did—gutted the resolution.
3. JETER (WARD recording): asks what is the right thing? Asks what is the right side of history. We cannot debate what “uncomfortable” means. The flag is about many things. Asks to include language that recognizes the meaning of the flag is varied and debatable. MOTION: change language on division of opinion as to perception, interpretation, and symbolism. No second. Motion fails.
4. WARD: pass as is to put it on the Senate. We ran to sit as student government. Vote yes, no, abstain, but put pressure on the Senate.
5. BLANCHARD: questioned language as to what “negative context” is. Asked if we are condemning the use of free speech. Questioned flying flag as “racist”—not all are so. Also opposed to putting pressure on the Senate.
6. MARINO: recounted a “folksy” story that ASG Senator Fairhan told about his grandmother’s reaction to the resolution. She gave a history, then recommended passing a version of it.
7. SIMS: language in 1st paragraph with the word “co-opted” explains the negative context.
8. MARINO: pass and introduce a new resolution
9. JETER (WARD recording): further objects to lines 15 and 16. Requests that the language be amended to reflect that not all who fly the flag have malicious or racist intent.
10. BLANCHARD: MOTION to close debate. Second.
11. Move to vote by acclamation on voting. Amendment passes.
12. MARINO: cede time to Mr. Daniels.
13. DANIELS: flag used as sign of hatred—cited the mistreatment of African-Americans and the flying of the flag during times/incidents of oppression, segregation, and division. Daniels asked the group to put aside privilege. The University must be inclusive and must be diverse. Even Wal-Mart took the flag out of its area. The flag has been used to speak about division. Asked again for the body to think about privilege.
14. JETER (WARD recording): respectfully asks whether there have been reports of violence against people of color, or has anyone actually been hurt by individuals flying the flag at BBB.
15. MOTION to extend by 5 minutes
16. BLANCHARD: MOTION to table. Second. Did not pass.
17. PAPER BALLOT VOTE: 17 Yes, 3 No. Passes.
18. GSC RESOLUTION 1: RESOLUTION AGAINST SYMBOLS OF DIVISIVENESS AT THE BIKES, BLUES, AND BBQ RALLY
19. MARINO: last year there was a white supremacist event at the BBB. All of this can be a talking point in our classes.
20. JOHNSON: heard from a constituent that said, “If I go down Dickson Street, I feel unsafe.”

MOTION to extend by 3 minutes. Second. Passed.

We need to bring comfort and a tenable situation. We shouldn’t wait until violence occurs to make the stand. We want people to feel safe, no fear.

1. WARD: MOTION to suspend rules and proceed to second reading. Second. Passes.
2. BLANCHARD: We can adapt language. There is right to free speech.
3. MARINO: we’re not opposing free speech, not limiting free speech.
4. BLANCHARD: MOVE to amend language about sale and flying of the flag, namely, we respect the right of individuals to do so, but condemn sale and flying. Second.
5. The inclusion of the 1st Amendment muddies the waters.
6. MARINO: the 1st Amendment is implied in the Resolution
7. SIMS: line 56 needs a comma
8. JETER: the 1st Amendment’s intent is to protect free exchange of ideas and intellectual freedom, even when ideas are uncomfortable or controversial
9. MOTION: vote by acclamation. Amendment passes.
10. JETER (WARD recording): respectfully asks how we define the boundaries of “unsafe”. Questioned meaning of “unsafe,” line 51. Notes that on campus he, as white, male, Christian, veteran, Republican, feels uncomfortable and does not want others to feel uncomfortable, but does not think that we can legislate those things away. Further notes that the language of uncomfortable is vague.
11. WARD: Jeter’s argument is disconnected. It refers to intellectual discomfort and intellectual strength.
12. WHITING: questions “unsafe” language, line 51

MOTION: extend debate by 7 minutes. Passed.

 Some feel very unsafe. She has walked her dog during BBB and heard whistling

 and catcalls at her. Use stronger language. “Unsafe” open to interpretation.

1. MARINO: MOTION: remove “unsafe” language. Second. Feeling “terrorized” is the significant language. Referred to the University of Texas shooting during “Beat the N-----s Week.”
2. BLANCHARD: we lose something by removing “unsafe” and leave in “terrorized.” Opposes removing “unsafe.”
3. SIMS: Knows gays terrorized and attacked during BBB last year who went to patronize a bar. It went unreported because it was dark and no one could identify the attackers.
4. BLANCHARD: people might feel terrorized, but do we want to reason within the 1st Amendment? Keep in “unsafe.”
5. KIMBROUGH: feels unsafe. This is racially experienced. All previous arguments connected. Unsure whether to keep “unsafe.” MOTION: suspend debate, remove “unsafe.” Second. Amendment fails.
6. MORSE: is a member of minority groups such as Native American. Majority is responsible to care, responsibility of care to African-Americans. GSC has a responsibility of care to constituents. We’re not all white. Morse pointed out that she is Southern, that she has responsibility of care to others. Vote to protect and help them feel safe—that’s their right. That’s the voice—majority doesn’t make it right.
7. MEDINA: I’m a historian. The Confederate flag was a flag of treason against the American flag that people use as a symbol of the 1st Amendment. Some use the Confederate flag as a right to terrorize. It’s not our worry about legal, 1st Amendment rights. It’s our constituency that came to talk about discomfort. Spoke of 450 years of legacy of people’s rights. Let’s think about other people.
8. VOTE: 19 Yes, Abstain 1. Passes.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MOTION to allow email assignments in the interests of time. Deadline to respond to Ward by Friday at 5 pm.

1. ELECTION OF CAUCUS CHAIRS
2. BURBRIDGE: MOTION to conduct elections by email. This will be by college of enrollment, even if one is at-large/general. Second. WARD wants to make sure that everybody, including the absent representatives, knows. Motion withdrawn.
3. MOTION: remove item from agenda and conduct caucus chair elections after the session. Second. MOTION: Vote by acclamation. Second. Motion passes.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. HAWKINS: Coffee tomorrow on September 22, 8:30 am, GSIE lounge
2. WARD: Professional Development program for students in distress, Sept. 22
3. WARD: Administration will let parents bring children to events on campus
4. MARINO: Traveler ran an article about Marino’s resolution to open up office space with an increase in student enrollment fees in order to fund a new building for more of that space.
5. WARD: emails to come to him re: election of caucus chairs.

X. ADJOURN: 8:45 pm

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW

**Garrett C. Jeter**

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GSC Secretary