



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

September 8, 2015
Arkansas Union, AU 640
11:30 AM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
 - a. Absent: Dean Koski
- III. Approve Minutes, June retreat
- IV. Approve Agenda
- V. Special Orders
 - a. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
 - Picnic on Saturday, 11-1 in Ozark Hall courtyard
 - Dean Koski absent
 - Looking forward to learning.
 - b. Dean Koski (3 minutes)
 - Absent
 - c. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
 - New to the group.
 - We've had a lot of changes in the office, so it's a little hectic. Request patience from you as I get up to speed. It is a sincere goal of mine to give more attention to GSC this year, get you more involved, and make sure we have a successful year.
 - d. Jamie Wangler, GA (3 minutes)
 - 2nd year as a grad assistant in the higher ed. program.
 - Currently one of the main contacts with you is for elections. Text or email me with anything that comes up between now and Thursday. You can also contact Rainer.
 - e. Katherine Selman (3 minutes)
 - 1st year as a GA in the master's program in higher ed.
- VI. Reports
 - a. Speaker (10 minutes)

i. Vacancy Elections Update

- We had the opportunity to double the size of GSC. If you haven't voted, please do so.
- A couple of issues: the mobile site isn't working. I just tried to vote from my office, and I received a message I could only submit once.
- Parliamentarian: I got a notice that I spent too much time.
- Wangler: I'm not sure how to control the time out. I will look into it with Rainer.
- Speaker: Please do. We have 21 different people.
- Rainer: Those concerns have been passed on to IT.
- Speaker: The last piece is the 21 expense forms. Pick people that you know from that list, and make sure the expense report is turned in after 4 on Thursday and before noon on Friday. They have 5 hours to get it into the office. We have one person who will be at a conference; if there is anyone else, let me know because I have to turn it in.
- Wangler: Even if they don't spend any money, the form still needs to be turned in.
- Speaker: We have let everyone know about that.
- Vice Speaker: Should we send an email to everyone in GSC to remind them to vote? Not a bad idea, and send an email through the listserv.
- Vice Speaker: Have we already emailed the candidates about the expense report? Jenna emailed all of them, and included a reminder in that email. But it would not hurt to remind them again.

ii. Inauguration Update, Sept. 16, 6 pm, Grad Ed.

- Food order? Yes.
- Life changing speech will come.
- We will arrive at 6, inaugurate some people, I will speak, eat, and a brief meeting to approve budget, standing rules, and discuss committees and open cabinet positions.
- The retreat is on the 20th. We will break out into committees and elect open cabinet positions.
- Dress code is business for inauguration and business casual for retreat.

iii. Website Search

- We want to make sure we are providing enough info. as we can to constituents. Last year we discussed looking at benchmark institutions. I need a volunteer.
- Newsome: I'll look into it.

iv. Chartwell's

- Last year we discussed legislation to encourage the university for a competitive bid process. We need to look into the process.
- Spencer: I'll look into it. Has anyone done anything to date? No.

v. Legislation

- President Bone came up with a one-pager for people who want to propose legislation. They can fill out this form (**Remind Scout to send out to committee chairs**).

vi. Town Hall Tuesdays

- ASG execs will put a table out once a semester. I discussed a town hall tuesday with them, where one tuesday per month we have a table with reps. from each branch. Any interest?
- Ward: Yes.
- Spencer: Where would the table be? It would rotate throughout campus.
- We are all on board.

vii. Office Hours

- We need to set office hours. Mine are set, but no one else's are. We need to get this situated quickly.
- Send office hours to Mark at asggcsec@uark.edu.
- We need to mix up office hours so we have max. coverage. We cannot have four people at the same time--not enough space.
- Can we have those done by the end of the week? Yes.
- Number of office hours? 2 hours/week. I don't care if they're together or not.
- Send to asgdesk.uark.edu (Cody) to have a sign made.

viii. Event Write-Ups

- There is a form for event write-ups. Most of our events don't need that, but we need a record of all events so we have a history of past events.
- If someone wants to make a simplified version?
- Jade at asggsc3@uark.edu.
- Speaker's time has expired. Motion to extend speaker's time by 2 minutes by Gilley. Seconded by Forrest. No opposition.

ix. Code & Constitution (add GSC)

- This will need to be a joint bill with senate. Where it says senate, we need to include GSC where it makes sense.

b. Vice Speaker (3 minutes)

i. The Grad Student Survey

- I have Deans Koski's and Needy's comments. We also added a section on demographic info.
- Does anyone have anything to add?
- Would you like to proofread?
- Trea: Send it.
- VS: Mark is working on just a GSC survey. The gender question. I'm afraid no one will know what cis is. The HRC has an alternative question.
- Wangler: I'm sure people do not know what cis is, people who are concerned with this will know what it is. But the website seems like a more simplified way of presenting options.
- Spencer: I like gender identity.
- VS: I'll put that in a note on Mark's survey.
- Finally, I went to the cabinet meeting; it was a wealth of info.
- Time expired. Extend my 2 minutes; seconded; no opposition.
- Rachel and Jade put together some information with our concerns on sustainability; we were not invited to the meeting.
- Rolling with the Razorbacks is going to the TN game; applications are open this week. Cost: \$30 (exact change or money order). We have filled 70 or so spots.
- Director of transit. 13,000 parking spaces with 26k permits, and they will be expanding Maple to 4 lanes.
- They are starting Red Talks, Sept. 24th at 6 pm on diversity. Location TBD.

c. Treasurer (3 minutes)

i. Budget

- In the interest of transparency, we will let everyone see our budget just as a resolution to approve. If anyone would like break downs, I have it; it is what we talked about at the retreat.
- We wanted to create a budget line 95 for meeting food.
- Speaker: You need to move to create that line.
- Trea: I move to create budget line 95 for meeting expenses.
- VS: I second.
- No opposition.
- Speaker: Since we are presenting the GSC portion of the budget, we have to have first reading. We need to

answer any questions now to see if we want to pass/do not pass/nothing.

- Newsome: How much did we have unallocated?
613.23.
- **Resolution 3: A Resolution to approve the GSC Budget: Recommendation: Pass (unanimous)**
- Finally, I'm meeting with Ruby and the Finance Committee to look at travel funding process.

d. Secretary (3 minutes)

i. Representativeness Survey

- Develop an outreach strategy to reach out to underrepresented constituents.
- Demographic data.
- Please encourage all GSC members to reply.

e. Social Chair (3 minutes)

- New social chair by the 20th. Eric is overextended and submitted his resignation.

f. External Relations and Marketing Chair (3 minutes)

i. Overview of current marketing efforts, and ways to improve visibility

- We have used social media so far. We have had a couple of articles in the Traveler.
- I'm interested in any idea to improve visibility. For grad lunches, for instance, it would be nice to have a promo for upcoming events/meetings.
- I was also considering how to find local and corporate partners. Trea: You can help.
- Suggestions for sponsors in the community?
- Wangler: Contact Meera to see if she has contacts for sponsorship ideas. I don't know what her efforts have been so far or what we have lined up.
- Speaker: ASG calendar says we will have a grad lunch tomorrow that is not going to happen. We need to remove that. See Ms. Rosa or Alex.
- Speaker: Additionally, did anyone hang these signs?
- Time expired; move to extend by 3 mins; seconded; no opposition.
- Trea: The event info is correct.
- Wangler: Bring it to leadership.
- Gall: In the graduate school? Cantu: If it is in our building, it may have. Speaker: Dean Koski did not know where they came from, and had pulled some down.
- Cantu: I would guess that our office manager did it. I don't know, but I'll ask.

- Trea: We can provide that sign.
- g. Legislative Affairs Director (5 minutes)
 - i. Student Debt Town Hall/Panel
 - I'm meeting with Razorback Action Group, ASG's overall advocacy group for the UofA. I'm meeting with him tomorrow. I'm excited to see if any grads applied.
 - I've been doing research about policy initiatives for the year. This upcoming spring is the fiscal session for the budget. We are working on that angle and building a narrative around grad education for the state. Currently grad students are not in the conversation. I am also connecting with people doing general higher ed. funding.
 - I've also been working with Rep. Greg Leding on a study of student debt in AR. There is currently not a lot of info. Grad student debt is also unknown. He is conducting a study to find out that info.
 - To that end, and to have more dialogues on campus, we will have a town hall/panel around debt on campus. We are looking at Nov. 4 in the evening. We don't have much on our calendar in Nov. We are considering Grad Ed auditorium. We are still considering formatting of the event; I'm interested if you have ideas. We want to make it productive. We are also considering inviting other elected officials-- a Fayetteville delegation. So this may be an opportunity to do outreach with them.
 - Speaker: Clarification: Rachel is not just meeting with RAG, but the legislative affairs director is a permanent position on RAG. The head of the committee is a cabinet appointee.
 - I think RAG is planning on a fall trip. We have talked about a leg. edu. visit in the Spring. I'm still thinking through that. This will be a building year.
- h. Parliamentarian (3 minutes)
 - No report.
- i. Facilities Committee Chair (3 minutes)
 - I need to get together with the Grad School to talk about the Speaker Wall.
 - Housing is waiting on the survey.
 - I know some of our new reps are passionate about office space. Otherwise, I'll wait for my committee to be filled before the first meeting.
 - Newsome: Did we ever give them a plaque for digital signage? Yes. They are waiting to install.

VII. Old Business

a. Updates on Resolution 1 and Resolution 2: Speaker Scout Johnson (10 minutes)

- Both of those passed without any dissent. President Bone did sign them Friday afternoon. Those are in effect.
- What are your thoughts about the process? This is something ASG has never done before?
- Spencer: I liked it. I liked debating via email because it made me narrow my thoughts.
- Newsome: I appreciated that it could be done online, but it was difficult to keep up with the debates. So it would be nice if we did it via a Google Doc.
- Gilley: Google Groups would probably be better; those act like forums. I also do not think that people understood how the process works very well.
- Berlanga: It was the first time, so there were a lot of parliamentary procedure questions. Given that the standing rules were not in effect, we default to Robert's Rules, so we followed those rules.
- Gall: When you use university emails, you are open to FOIA.
- Speaker: A couple of things to make clear: Reply all. And debate via email is the same as debate in person. Voting is also public. All of that is public record, so we will need to make that clear if needed again.
- VS: Some had a real problem with the legislation, but no one made a motion to correct it. I don't know if people don't know how, or if they just don't care enough. To me that is frustrating.
- Newsome: It would be helpful to have a guide. I came into GSC with no understanding of parlia. pro. I know we have the helper things, but a guide would be helpful.
- Speaker: For the retreat, could Frankc have a one-page guide?
- Newsome: I am working on a press release. I will send something out soon.

VIII. New Business

a. GSC Bill 1: Standing Rules, 2015-2016: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)

- Did everyone get a chance to look over that?
- There are not a lot of major changes. We did clarify responsibilities of parliamentarian. We also clarified debate procedures. We put in that all members must serve one

office hour per week. The college caucus thing will happen this year: it is once per semester instead of twice.

- We will have office hours opening ready for the retreat.
- Wangler: Was the one office hour submitted in the packet? No, because it has not passed yet.
- Is there a hope that we can have all the office space?
- Gall: Two things: there is a problem with office space, so having the office to yourself is unlikely.
- VS: Could they hold office hours in AU 640? Yes, that would be possible. But there are tables in the RSO meeting space and outside the VAC. There is also space in the ASG exec. office.
- **Recommendation: Pass**

- b. GSC Bill 2: GSC Budget, 2015-2016: Treasurer Arley Ward (15 minutes)
 - Passed this earlier. We need to change to Resolution 3.
- c. ASG Joint Resolution 1: A Resolution in Support of the Student Statement on the Right to Research: Facilities Chair Philip Gilley (5 minutes)
 - Waiting on a co-author from the Senate.
 - Resolution Tabled.

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- a. Gilley: Do we want to elect Campus Council people at the retreat? Yes. Send to Mark.
- b. Speaker: Several people have sent emails and asked for responses, and received none. This will only work if we work together. Use the ASG email (if you have one). And respond to your peers. Waiting for a non-response is not helpful.

X. Announcements

- a. Cabinet GroupMe
 - Spencer: That's a separate app, yes? Yes.
- b. Inauguration, Sept. 16, 6 pm, Grad Ed Auditorium
 - NewsWire article should be going out.
 - Standard parking. Parallel parking across the street on Arkansas is free.
 - From 5-8, you have to have any permit. You just need some form of parking permit.
 - Dress: Business.
- c. All-ASG Retreat, Sept. 20, 9 am-4 pm.
 - Agenda has not been finalized.
 - Business casual.
 - Let the Speaker know if you cannot make it.

- d. Freshmen Leadership Forum on Sept. 16., 5-6:30 in Foyer of Grad. Ed.
 - Will people have to walk through to get to the auditorium?
Yes. Will coordinate with Blair.
- e. Don't forget to vote!
- f. GSC emails:
 - asggsc1@uark.edu: Rachel Spencer
 - asggsc2@uark.edu: Social Chair
 - asggsc3@uark.edu: Jade Newsome
 - General gsc@uark.edu?
 - We should be sending everything via official GSC emails, if we have them.
 - Can emails be backed up? Yes.

XI. Adjourn