



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

September 16, 2015
Graduate Education Building
Auditorium
6:00 pm

I. Call to Order at 6:00 PM

II. Welcome, Speaker Scout Johnson

- A. Recognizing those who act in support roles, from student affairs and student activities (applause); Those who support us academically and institutionally, provosts, deans, and faculty (applause); Our partners from other ASG branches (applause); Our current representatives (applause); Our newly elected representatives (applause).
- B. I have been looking forward to this night for some time. As you know there is also an inauguration in the Spring. But the fall graduate student congress inauguration holds a special place in my heart. We are welcoming newly elected representatives, but many of them are new razorgrads. That means one of their first decisions as a graduate student was to serve others.
- C. We have been able to double the size of the GSC this.
- D. Please join me in welcoming our Assoc Dean of Students, Lori Lander, and our Interim ASG Adviser, Rainer Gall, to administer the Oath of Office.

III. Swearing-In of Newly Elected GSC Representatives, ASG Adviser Rainer Gall and Associate Dean of Student Lori Lander

- A. Oath administered by Associate Dean Lander.
- B. Pinning by GSC Executive Cabinet.

IV. Inaugural Address, Speaker Scout Johnson

- A. Congratulations to our new representatives.
- B. One last piece of old business. Each spring, SOOIE, host a student involvement banquet, in which awards are given each year. The student who was awarded was not able to attend. I will now award

that now. Our Representative of the Year is Treasurer Arley Ward. (applause) Like many of you here, Arley joined us during the fall vacancy election last year, and was elected treasurer. He also took on the role of Social Chair. Please join me in honoring and thanking Arley Ward as the GSC Rep. of Year for 2013-14 (applause).

- C. One year ago, Speaker Marino promised we would build a new community. We have done just that. The GSC has almost doubled in size. Early on, we were told there was no point: grad students didn't care about shared governance and didn't have time for service. We were told even if we found people to serve the grad student body wouldn't be interested enough to vote them in. But a pattern is beginning to emerge. Graduate students do care enough about shared governance, care enough to serve, and to vote.
- D. So we've built that new community. Now what? Part of that mission is to realize where we fit within other communities, within ASG, in the campus community, within the university. I am happy to stand here and tell you that that work is largely done. WE are recognized as a coequal branch in the ASG. Graduate students know we are here. And the Administration certainly knows we are here. The work remaining is to continue to show how we serve graduate students.
- E. Alex set forward many goals. We did not make as much progress, but we made quite a bit. We improved graduate student healthcare, increasing the university subsidy from 60 to 67%. We set the goal of hosting a regional conference of graduate student governments. We hosted a conference, and four of our members were elected.
- F. Despite those accomplishments there is more work to be done this year. There is much we can improve. I don't mean to say that things are bad; things here are good. We only need to look a few miles up the road to Columbia, MO to see how things could be when administration loses connection to graduate students. We have faced none of the things they have faced. But that does not mean we do not have legitimate concerns. After all, we do not want to be only good. Good is the enemy of great, and we strive to be the enemy of great. It is still our goal to be a top 50 research university, to increase the number of classes with less than 20 students, to increase the number of top 20 graduate programs. Graduate students are important for these goals. If last year was a year of organization, this will be a year of research and dissemination.
- G. Financial issues: the single biggest determinant is the stipend. The university recently raised the bottom stipend. We know that being a graduate assistant is a full time job. My assistantship should not be one of three jobs I need. This is also true for international students, who may not work another job due to visa requirements. We have

committed this body to gather research and produce a white paper to administrative partners and constituents. We also realize that a majority of graduate students are not funded. We must increase the number of funding lines. We also must conduct research and present at conferences. We feel we need additional, alternate sources of funding for conferences. We in the GSC believe that we can be that additional source of funding. We will need to identify additional sources of funding for travel grants. By the end of the year we will have identified those sources and laid the infrastructure to distribute funding.

- H. Infrastructure: We have GAs holding office hours in coffee shops. Coffee shops are too public for those students who need us most. By the end of the year we will have compiled the research necessary to compare our office spaces with our peer institutions. We also know that parking is an issue. We will continue to advocate for graduate student parking solutions. Another issue is student housing. We need graduate student housing. Our aim this year is to prepare and present research this year.
- I. The chancellor has stated a goal this year of adding 2000 more graduate students over the next 4 years. What will that look like? Where will they live, work, park? How prepared are we to add 500 additional graduate students every year. Those new students will also require more faculty and staff positions. As our student body grows, our infrastructure must grow as well.
- J. Graduate student well-being: Advocate for leave, childcare, and mental health services. We cannot ask graduate students to choose between graduate school and their families. We stand for equality for all. We conducted the first e-meeting in order to pass resolutions in support of Ordinance 5781 and to encourage students to vote. We felt this was necessary so we could advocate for students to have the same protections off campus. We have added a new position: the Director of Legislative Affairs. We plan to hold a legislative advocacy day in Little Rock to discuss the importance of graduate education to the university and state. We will be reaching out to peers in the state with the goal of hosting a state summit. We will also be reaching across campus. Part of our mission is to be a resource for other graduate student organizations, and we hope to co-host and co-sponsor graduate student events.
- K. We will also be partnering with ASG for organizational goals. We stand ready to help with those goals. One goal is to have a campus closet. They are also seeking to create the UA Cares Fund. They seek to create a campus creed.
- L. Those are our major goals this year. We will also have representatives working on other ventures: hunger, veteran affairs, transit issues, sustainability, the list goes on and on. It will be a lot

of work, we will have fun, and we will build an even stronger community. This year will be a lot of leg work, research and writing. There are no magic wands. We will have to be diligent and creative to find workable solutions. We also realize that many of our projects are long-term goals. We may never sit in the shade of a living wage, travel funding, affordable graduate housing, or on campus childcare, but we will plant those trees, tend the orchards, and pass them on to others after us.

M. I thank each and every one of you for signing up for this adventure. I cannot wait to see what we build together. Thank you all (applause).

N. Recess for the reception.

V. Recess/Reception (30 minutes)

VI. Call to Order at 7:03 pm

VII. Attendance

VIII. Approve Agenda

- A. A couple of changes. Shorter reports. Added Judicial nominee Aldridge. The Cabinet has looked over nominees and given the recommendation of pass. Other nominees will be considered Sunday at the retreat.
- B. Motion to approve; second; no opposition.

IX. Special Orders

A. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)

1. Let's congratulate our new representatives. We are very glad to have you. We have now doubled the size of GSC, which is a fantastic thing.
2. It is a primary point of mine to include GSC more, both in the organization and on campus. You have my full support.
3. Scout addressed the important role you play on campus. Utilize the organization. You are not the only branch of this organization, but just a reminder that other branches are there to help. I encourage you to reach out to other branches and cooperate with them.
4. Please come and see me. My office is in the main office of student activities. I have an open door policy. Yield my time to the speaker.
5. No questions.

X. Reports

A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)

1. I hope everyone has a clear picture of where we are headed this year. We will be sending out more info on each specific goal. Not only have we set goals, but we have set the standard by which we will judge success. Preparing white papers and sending them out is success.

XI. Old Business

A. Judicial Nominee Morgan Aldridge: introduced by Chief Justice Jenna Poe

1. I have been on this branch for four years. Morgan is a great candidate because she has previous experience in ASG. She is a senior, is open minded, is a vocal performance and political science major.
2. Speaker: 3 mins for Ms. Aldridge and 3 mins for questions.
3. Aldridge: I served as the faculty and staff liaison last year. I hope to serve on Judicial this year. I will yield to any questions.
4. Speaker: Why do you want to serve?
5. Aldridge: I wanted to try out a different branch. After my senior year, I hope to go to law school. My main goal is to remain fair and unbiased in every situation, and to strengthen ASG as a whole.
6. VS: I know our constitution and code is convoluted. Do you feel you have a grasp on it?
7. Aldridge: I do. I am new of course. But once I am in the position I will go through training. Last year I was able to learn about constitution and code, but I have a lot to learn.
8. Jeter: If the judicial branch has to deal with issues concerning graduate students, how well prepared are you to be able to understand or be educated on any issues that may impact graduate students?
9. Aldridge: As a senior, I will probably be a grad student soon. I have friends who are graduate students. Any situation that deals with graduate students--I will be very cognizant of because I know I could be affected by it soon.
10. No other questions. We will vote on Aldridge's nomination, as well as other judicial nominations, on Sunday at the All-ASG retreat.

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

1. Each year we are required to update standing rules. That document was sent out to you, including any edits. Most of the changes we made were procedural. We added language about quorum. The one thing we did add was 1 office hour/week. Last year it was encouraged; this year it is a

responsibility. We changed college caucuses, which were not held last year. It is now once / semester instead of twice. We have updated the duties of the VS.

2. Motion to correct; seconded; no objection.
3. Gilley: I think there is a section M with nothing in it. Motion to amend; seconded; no objection.
4. Treat: I didn't see where we specified in addition to Robert's Rules. Berlanga: Do you feel that's necessary? In the ASG constitution that says we do follow Robert's Rules. Treat: Yes, if there was something contentious. In the 11th edition, there are a lot of changes, particularly with new media. Berlanga: That's what we consulted.
5. Speaker: Does anyone wish to speak in favor? None. Is anyone opposed?
6. Ferraro: I agree with what Madeleine said last year. We are called to serve. Not everyone has a grad assistantship, some have jobs. As much as we would like to make the mandatory monthly meetings, some cannot because we have other obligations. I want to find a way that we will not be penalized and voted out of our seat because we cannot make it.
7. Speaker: I believe our standing rules that say you are covered with a proxy. We have a list of proxies you can contact.
8. Ferraro: Is there a protocol for how we go about that?
9. Speaker: First, you would try to locate a proxy--any grad student with one hour. Second, if you can't, contact us and we will reach out to folks who might be interested. If both of those fail, that will be an excused absence.
10. Speaker: Any debate in favor or opposed?
11. Forrest: Move to previous question; second; no opposition.
12. We will now vote. All in favor say Aye. All opposed Nay.

13. Passes unanimously.

C. GSC Resolution 3: GSC Budget, 2015-2016: Treasurer Arley Ward (15 minutes)

1. Trea.: The first is just a resolution to support the GSC budget. We believe the budget reflects what we are here to do, to provide networking and communication with graduate students on campus. We need to remember that this resolution is only talking about our portion for a transparency major. The formal budget is next. There are a few things that look odd: \$400 for social committee will be moved to unallocated. There is also a line 95 for miscellaneous from unallocated. There is also the RSO allocations budget for additional legislation and programming. I yield to questions.
2. Speaker: Any questions.

3. Ferraro: We have a whole week of providing food for grad students. But we couldn't feed the masses. If we do something like that, do we have enough money in the budget?
4. Treas.: It was a great event. We were short of food was to base our order on our average attendance at GSC functions, about 35-40. So we got food for 40-45, and it greatly out sold. Last year that was around \$330 per event, and that is now \$500 per event. It will now be once a month. This month there will be food for 120.
5. Speaker: We now move into a period of debate. Any debate in favor? Opposed? We will now move to voting.

6. Passes unanimously.

D. Joint Bill 1: ASG Budget, 2015-2016: Treasurer Arley Ward (15 minutes)

1. Treas: This is to approve the Budget as a whole. This passed senate last night, just an up or down vote. Ray Todd, the ASG Treasurer is here for questions. I yield for questions.
2. Todd: Could I add something? There have been a lot of eyes on this budget. All the line items are historical programming. If there are any changes of more than \$1000, we have to get approval from legislative bodies, with the exception of Exec unallocated.
3. Speaker: Any questions? Any debate?
4. **Passes unanimously.**

XII. New Business

- A. Discussion: Committee Assignments and Vacant Committee Chairs: Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (10 minutes)
 1. We will fill vacant committee chairs and fill committees at the retreat.
 2. We have 4 committees. We want to stress that if you don't end up on the committee you want or have divided interests, you can still work on issues that interest you. We do not want you to be held back by your committee assignment. Please don't feel tied down. Additionally, if you're working on something that impacts undergrads, don't forget about the senate and cabinet.
 3. Policies and Procedures: Responsible for any legislation regarding any official policy we might want to change. If you're good at editing or like the official documents, do this.
 4. Facilities: all legislation regarding grounds, parking, office space, etc. Gilley is the committee chair.

5. Speaker: point of order. The standing rules state that the Parliamentarian is the Chair of Policies and Procedures, Frankc Berlanga-Medina.
6. Grad Student Life: This covers mostly nonacademic aspects of life, including healthcare, childcare, social events, and professional development. Last year we had an etiquette mixer; that falls under this. We need a chair of this committee, as we as a social chair. The social chair this summer did a lot of leg work for events this fall.
7. Finance: Chaired by Treasurer Ward. This will mostly work with travel grants. That will come from this committee. Questions can be direct for Arley.
8. We need a chair for grad student life, international student concerns, and social chair.
9. Come with your pick on Sunday and have a second choice in mind. Only one committee meeting per month. This is where our legislation will come from, so this is very important.
10. Finally, we have a couple of things we need volunteers for outside GSC committees. We need volunteers for a sustainability committee. We also have a Sexual Assault Awareness Day planned for Nov. 4. We are looking for as many interested people as possible; meetings are Tuesdays at 4:30. Please send me an email at asggcvs@uark.edu.
11. We also have positions for Campus Council. Does anyone have any questions about committees. Yield to Philip Gilley for Campus Council.
12. Gilley: We elect 4 people to it. Campus Council is trying to figure out what it does and probably rewriting documents. The idea was to bring together student government, faculty senate, and staff senate, but it hasn't done a lot yet. We need people who are willing to take time and work on that.
13. Speaker: Questions?
14. Ferraro: You said there are 4 spots? Are those shared with undergraduates?
15. Speaker: No, the Senate has 12 because there are 3X more undergrads. The Speaker will take one spot.
16. Spencer: We are also looking for 2 grad students to join Razorback Action Group, which is a nonpartisan advocacy group.
17. Speaker: Rachel is an official member, so our Legislative Affairs Director will be with Razorback Action Group every year.

XIII. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- A. Trea: We will go to Bugsy's after the meeting.

- B. Speaker: Other public comment?
- C. Thote: Campus sustainability mixer in the Connections Lounge at 6 pm tomorrow. Come show your support.
- D. Chair of Senate Motley: We meet Tuesday nights at 6. It's the undergraduate equivalent of you. We look forward to working with you this year. GSC is still new to ASG, but a lot of senators have only been in the organization since you've been a part. I'm looking forward to this weekend at our legislative break-out session.
- E. Treasurer Ray Todd: Encourage RSOs to apply for funding.
- F. Chief Justice Poe: Congrats to new members. It is incredible that you've doubled. Everyone turned in expenditure reports.

XIV. Announcements

- A. All-ASG Retreat, Sept. 20, 9 am-4 pm (attire: business casual).
 - 1. Will be at the Reynolds Center, the building between the Harmon Parking Garage and the Walton College of Business. The Secretary will send out a reminder.
 - 2. Vice Speaker: You do get fed-- breakfast and lunch from Chipotle. Harmon Parking Garage is free on Sundays. We also have a lot of cake, so take a piece when you go.

XV. Adjourn at 7: 48 pm. Meeting length: 44 minutes, 7 seconds.