



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

March 16, 2016
AU 506
2:00 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Approve Minutes, Jan. 20 Executive Cabinet Meeting
- IV. Approve Agenda
 - a. Amendments made. No objection.
 - b. Agenda approved.
- V. Special Orders
 - A. Representative Michael Powers (5 minutes)
 - a. Met with Gahagans concerning a 60-minute presentation about threat assessment and other resources. We would also cover Avoid-Deny-Defend for active shooters, and demonstrations for case studies that would involve audience participation. There is a wide spectrum of possible activities. We need to decide how real or simulated we want to get (e.g., fake weapons). Whatever we decide, I would think we want to be clear in the emails for graphic content.
 - b. Timeframe: They need 2 weeks or a little less to avoid scheduling conflicts. They are open to doing one before the semester ends. They are also open to a 5-15 minute presentation at the graduate student orientation in August about threat assessment. I think this would be good to do every semester or so--possibly April.
 - c. I was thinking 5pm-6pm. Food would help turnout. And UAPD would be willing to partner with funding for food, assuming university bureaucracy can be worked out.
 - d. Speaker: Would that also include other types of classroom emergencies (medical, weather, etc.)?

- i. We did not discuss any of that. I would think that would be very easy to include as part of the presentation.
 - ii. Speaker: I do think that's an important addition.
 - e. Speaker: As far as how real we want to make it, I'm kind of torn. This could be upsetting, but having seen it in a demonstration you are more prepared. That could be the difference between someone surviving or not. My thought was to do the bulk of the presentation, save that portion for last, and give attendees the opportunity to leave.
 - i. VS: Does someone play an active shooter?
 - ii. Powers: Yes. He is very transparent. UAPD just had that interactive video thing. He said in the meeting, you can feel what its like in the real situation. He is physical in demonstrations.
 - f. Rainer: I like Scout's route that we give folks a head's up and warning. Last year, UAPD put together an active shooter video. They closed down a building, with guns with blank rounds. That's scary, but it may be necessary to prepare.
 - g. Powers: I really like the Speaker's title of classroom safety.
 - h. Speaker: Are we all in favor of doing this event?
 - i. Wangler: The Sterling District has offered to provide food with promos. Contact Meera Patel at asgsec@uark.edu.
 - ii. VS: We can get the food order in within the 10-day period.
 - iii. Speaker: We need to worry about advertising. We can ask people to RSVP? Yes. And for space, the Grad Ed Auditorium would be ideal.
 - i. Rainer: We will need to tell grad ed that we are doing a demonstration.
 - j. Powers: I will clarify what he means by "fake weapons."
 - k. Speaker: We need to contact Jade Newsome for advertising. We can use funding from the social budget line.
 - l. Powers: Can I have a few minutes at the next meeting? Yes. Can we get this at the grad student orientation?
 - i. Cantu: Yes, we can work that in. They can have a table at the resource fair and/or a presentation.
- B. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
 - a. No report.
- C. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
 - a. Elections are going on this week. Please vote if you haven't. Expenditure reports must still be submitted, which can be submitted online. That goes live at 4 PM today, and will close at noon tomorrow.

VI. Reports

A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)

- a. Elections: has everyone voted?
 - i. I did send an email yesterday to all GSC candidates concerning expenditure forms. They should all know that.
- b. The week after Spring Break will be very busy:
 - i. Health Week, 3/28-:
 1. Food on Monday
 2. Yoga on Tuesday morning and evening
 3. All-Call on Tuesday at 5:45 in Grad Ed
 4. Wed is Mental Health Awareness
 5. Thursday is physical fitness fair with inflatables.
 6. Healthy Body at Reynolds Center; blood drive.
- c. March 31: A TED Talk on Research. We have some presentations from graduate students.
- d. Sustainability Week, 4/18-
- e. March Member of the Month
 - i. Trea.: Stacy Kimbrough. She was at the Red Talk, which was amazing, and she has a resolution.
 - ii. Kimbrough selected.
- f. Outstanding Representative of the Year:
 - i. Chosen from members of the month: Garrett, Rachel, Josh, Rachel, Jade. Also nominate Jesse Sims. Nominations closed. Voting by secret ballot.
 - ii. Discussion (6 minutes)
 1. Jade Newsome: A lot of work, and very professional. Our communication with the campus community is just better and more consistent, even with short notice. Also graduating.
 2. Rachel Spencer: She's gone above and beyond for her position. A lot of irons in the fire-- sustainability, lobbying, RAG. She has been creating the position as she goes along. She's also graduating.
 3. Garrett Jeter: He is an extraordinary person, and has been working on a host of issues from graduate student incentives to veterans affairs to meal plan. He is also currently working on international student incentive program.
 4. Joshua Burbridge: He entered as a first year from another school with vital experience. He

just went to the LAD day in Washington. I think he will add much to our organization. He is always one of the most engaged and prepared.

5. Stacy Kimbrough: She has a lot of passion for family and childcare issues. She comes with her kid, which shows her dedication. Her RedTalk was the most powerful thing because of how well she connected.
 6. Jesse Sims: As far as facilities has gone, he is the only one who has done his work. He has done some with RAG. He also just went to DC. He is very engaged, even outside his area.
- B. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
- a. Absent.
- C. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)
- a. Grad Student Survey
 - i. On the website, and results sent to Koski's listserv. At the very least, people know more about us.
 - b. An Etiquette event: Are we interested in this again?
 - i. Burbridge: I had an interview over lunch. So a full meal, which ups the cost?
 - ii. Trea: The person I'm recommending is at University of Tulsa. It was primarily a networking event. She can do that. We can have her speak, and then suggest everyone go somewhere together? No idea on price.
- D. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
- a. Having trouble with committee attendance. Kimbrough is putting together basic requirements for all graduate students in terms of office space, technology, etc. I am contacting parking to discuss a parking permit for evenings.
 - b. Speaker: Please work with Cabinet director of Parking and Transit.
- E. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
- a. I've worked with Rainer and Jaime on awards. Jade will send out the forms. Hope for a long-term solution next year.
 - b. Wangler: PDF available on website? Yes, that's fine.
 - c. Trea: Form will be sent after elections.
 - d. VS: How is it going on the committee? Just a couple of names.
- F. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
- a. No report.
- G. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
- a. Absent.
- H. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)

- a. No report.
- I. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
 - a. Meeting with Vice Chancellors after spring break to discuss proposed budget. Looking to see how budget outlook will impact graduate students. Contact me ASAP if you want to come. She will prepare a report to circulate.
 - b. Providing testimony to general assembly committee meeting. She will send a draft of comments. Thank Ledding for helping us move that meeting.
- J. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga-Medina (1 minute)
 - a. Absent. No report.
- K. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
 - a. Chartwells is reluctant to provide subsidized meal plans for graduate students because it is unfair. We are thinking about looking at it from the perspective of grad students who are employees. This would be included as a benefit, then.
 - b. Speaker: Were they more receptive to that?
 - i. Yes. They are looking into it. I sent them details from university website.
 - c. They did say they have a mealplan, but that's not fitting graduate student needs.
 - d. VS: Is there international students who aren't employed who would be negatively impacted by this policy?
 - i. The latest proposition would only help employees.
 - ii. Would that also then apply to undergrads? No. But we will bring that up.

VII. Old Business

- A. GSC Bill 5: A Bill to Establish a System of Accountability through Censures: Representative Joshua Burbridge (15 minutes)
 - a. Burbridge: This has been changed. Absences for general meetings and committee meetings count. The committee felt it was necessary to make office hours optional. I cannot comment on that; was not my original intention. In place of any censure system, section 6 specifies how we remove someone from the body. Section 8 says the appropriate chair has the discretion to grant excused absences.
 - b. Newsome: Two or three absences? Three.
 - c. Trea: Considering we need quorum to remove members or conduct business, this bill might mean that we cannot even function as a body if we have problems with absences. So should this be the body's decision?
 - i. Burbridge: I think the absence policy should be automatic. The $\frac{2}{3}$ vote would be to actually remove someone. But that wasn't discussed in committee.

- d. VS: Is there a reason for moving from 2 to 3?
 - i. Burbridge: The committee wants to move toward fewer requirements. Another thing that was removed was committee meeting.
 - ii. Speaker: Yes, they're trying to be more flexible with fewer demands.
- e. Lisnic: In lines 58-59, does that mean that the committee chair takes recommendations from the chair?
 - i. Burbridge: Not the most updated bill, I don't think? It appears the final version did not make its way to cabinet.
- f. Trea: Lines 37-38 seem unclear: If it's a maximum, shouldn't it be automatic? So what did the committee want?
 - i. Burbridge: At this point, it's hard to say.
- g. Speaker: We will now move into a period of debate:
 - i. Line 63: I move to strike line 63 and keep our current requirement. No objections.
 - ii. Line 32: Amend to require one hour of service per week.
 - 1. VS: How do we track that? Tracked by event from reports. That's cumbersome.
 - 2. Sec: They could track this on Give Pulse (see Bill 10).
 - 3. Burbridge: If someone does not hold that service hour? Do we want to count them as a separate absence?
 - 4. Speaker: I want to make it clear that this is to enforce service to constituents, the reason we are all here.
 - 5. Thote: Instead of focusing on absences, why don't we say if you don't meet all of your service hours, you're disqualified from awards?
 - 6. Speaker: The reason this is coming about is people are using GSC as a line-item on CV, so they don't care about awards.
 - 7. Lisnic: But if we offer an incentive to do this, we might be more successful.
 - 8. Thote: And they will be weeded out when they don't come to committee meetings.
 - 9. Amendments made.
 - iii. Any opposition to subsection 1? None.
 - iv. Any opposition to amendment? None.
- h. VS: I would like to debate the three vs. two absences per semester. That could mean you miss Sept., Oct., and Dec., if

you're randomly attending committee meetings. I feel like two is more fair.

- i. Burbridge: I voiced this to the committee. I think two is plenty reasonable, considering you can get a proxy. The committee felt otherwise.
 - ii. VS: Move to change to two unexcused absences throughout the bill. Seconded. No opposition.
 - i. Speaker: I move to strike language moving this to a vote of the body. Once absences are reached, they should be gone. I am open to letting them appeal.
 - i. Trea: The whole purpose is to be a professional organization, so we should expect them to communicate future absences and get them excused.
 - ii. Speaker: Opposition to Amendment? None.
 - j. Lisnic: Move to amend Line 66. Amended.
 - k. Burbridge: Move to amend the Bill Title. Amended.
- B. GSC Bill 6: A Bill to Stop the GSC's Standing Rules from Expiring Each Year: Representative Joshua Burbridge (15 minutes)
- a. Burbridge: Adopt the Standing Rules as a living document that apply year around. We should not be able to just repropose those. I changed that standing rules are not required to expire.
 - b. Speaker: Standing Rules do not mention anything about expiration. They do say we have to approve any changes. To my mind, that makes this not necessary.
 - i. Burbridge: Does it actually show what is stricken and added for context?
 - ii. Speaker: Yes. We present the blacklined and final version.
 - iii. Burbridge: I was under the impression that the new speaker could just remove whatever.
 - c. Burbridge: Bill withdrawn.

VIII. New Business

- A. GSC Bill 9: A Bill to Establish the Graduate Student Congress Conference Registration Awards: Treasurer Arley Ward (15 minutes)
 - a. Treasurer: At the summer retreat, the Finance Committee was tasked with creating the framework for financial awards for research/travel purposes. This is our first step toward becoming more like other graduate student organizations across the country where we can be an additional source of funding for students. We understand there are things to be worked out later. But this is to place a system of accountability.

- b. Speaker: For clarity's sake, this does not give us the ability to give out these awards, but only puts a framework in place once we have the right and funds to do so?
 - i. Trea: Yes.
 - c. Trea: Up to \$200 for a conference registration fee. There are two application periods. This is to let students apply at the beginning. That allows us to process who gets what and to make sure we are within the time frame.
 - i. Speaker: Any thought to having the first session open from May 1-Sept. 5? And the second open from Oct. 1-Jan. 15? We know ahead of time that we are going to the conference.
 - ii. Trea: The dates were heavily considered and debated the longest. I don't have a problem to amend, but that is generally not standard based on what we looked at.
 - d. VS: Can you apply after the fact?
 - i. Trea: No.
 - e. Trea: There are also verification requirements. Incomplete applications are not considered. To do this, we are tiering candidates. The Finance Committee will not make any decisions on this. When the full body meets, we will present the candidates in Tier 1, and then move down. Tiers based on several criteria. For the awards process, the Finance Committee receives applications, tiers them, and the body votes. We will notify recipients.
 - f. Burbridge: When applicants are presented, are they required to give a report. Or will the treasurer just present?
 - i. Trea: We are not in the business of judging the merits of the research. You have just been accepted.
 - g. Lisnic: Why the CV?
 - i. Trea: You should have one if you're presenting.
 - ii. Speaker: That must be a criterion if you're prejudicing previous research that is identical.
 - h. Thote: Does the application already cover most of the stuff we need from the CV? Strike the CV requirement?
 - i. Wangler: I would say online instead of asg website. So it could be on asgforms in the future.
 - j. Move to amend. No objection.
 - k. Move to recommend pass as amended.
- B. GSC Bill 10: A Bill to Amend the GSC Standing Rules to Encourage Volunteerism: Secretary Mark Nabors (15 minutes)
- a. Nabors: VAC has a tool called GivePulse - it allows members to track their service hours. Rodica and Jessica have been tracking their volunteer hours for GSC but they need them to be approved by a student officer. This bill allows for the GSC

- Secretary to approve those hours. This also gives the GSC a way to track service hours.
- b. Amendment to lines 21 and 30 to change “volunteer” to “service.” No opposition.
 - c. Question - Johnson: How much workload will this add to the Secretary? Or should it fall under the Vice Speaker?
 - d. Nabors: Hard to tell as we currently only have two representatives using this tool. Based on this year, and the number of reps using it, it’s quite easy. If all 50 reps were doing this, it might be difficult.
 - e. Rodica: Since committee chairs know what everyone is doing in their committees, it might be best to keep it within committee chairs.
 - f. Ward: Judging on our attendance problems, it shouldn’t be too much of an issue.
 - g. Gall: When we refer to service hours, is that referencing the earlier bill? Yes. Is CCE okay with their tool being used to log something that they may not consider service?
 - h. Nabors: Constituent hours count as service. As long as you aren’t getting paid.
 - i. Rodica: As long as you aren’t getting paid or compelled to complete them.
 - j. Ward: Recommend pass as amended.
 - i. No opposition
- C. ARBITRATION: ASG Senate Resolution 3: the Grade Forgiveness Policy Act of 2015: Speaker Scout Johnson (10 minutes)
- a. The resolution states “students” throughout. We filed an arbitration, and Judicial found in our favor. We can approve or nullify so they change the wording.
 - b. Sec: Move to nullify. No opposition.
- D. ASG Joint Bill 6: The Legislative Diversity Act of 2016: Senators Mitchell Edwards and Cole Anthony (15 minutes)
- a. Speaker: This changes the way senators run in elections. They cannot run on tickets, but have to run individually. This does have Greek support. Currently the Senate is 100% white and 96% Greek, and they are not happy about that. This is the first step.
 - b. Trea: Explain the ticket system?
 - i. Speaker: They make fliers and ask people to vote for everyone on the flier.
 - ii. Trea: So that makes that illegal?
 - iii. Speaker: They have to run individually.
 - c. VS: There’s nothing in the Constitution that does not allow for this or prohibit this?

- i. Speaker: Correct. This changes the Code, so we have to approve.
 - d. Burbridge: At a previous school, I learned that the current system heavily favors incumbents. I think this is a good idea.
 - i. Trea: You were in the system we now have? Yes.
 - e. Lisnic: Some language said they are not representative of undergraduate student body. So how many Greeks are there? Approximately 25%.
 - f. Trea: How would this be regulated?
 - i. Speaker: Through the same mechanism it is now.
 - g. Burbridge: What if a particular frat or sorority decides to support a slate of candidates?
 - i. Speaker: Still a campaign violation. You are responsible.
 - h. Sec: How does this impact GSC?
 - i. Speaker: It does not directly. As it is a change to code, we must approve it. If we have a more diverse Senate, we could have a more diverse GSC.
 - ii. Sec: If Judicial votes to make all Senate language apply to GSC, this would impact us directly. Yes.
 - iii. VS: Can we wait to recommend? We can recommend to table pending interpretation request?
 - iv. Sec: We could make no recommendation and discuss this concern at the general meeting.
 - v. Trea: I would think it is awful if GSC is a stumbling block for Senate trying to diversify itself.
 - vi. Speaker: We need to be more representative of all programs. So if this rule were applied, it might help.

i. Move to recommend pass. No opposition.

- E. ASG Joint Resolution 3: A Resolution to Recognize Student Parents and Raise Awareness for Their Concerns: Representatives Stacy Kimbrough and Kara Kaiser (15 minutes)
 - a. This is a joint resolution. We have not heard back from anyone in Senate, including the Chair of Senate. So we are still looking for a coauthor.
 - i. This is an inter-chamber issue: They have no trouble reaching out to me, and I'll respond. They need to give me a prompt response, too.
 - b. We recognize that grad students are not the only people on this campus who are parents.
 - c. Lisnic: Shouldn't they be citing research?
 - i. Yes. That should be included.
 - ii. Lisnic: Move to amend to add footnotes with sources.
 - d. Move to pass as amended and pending Senate co-sponsorship.**

F. GSC Bill 11:

- a. Setting aside \$1000 to fund the conference if we win the bid. Any unused money returns to us.
- b. Speaker: This is next fiscal year, so we are setting aside this money for next year (as with SEC Exchange).
- c. Move to pass.**

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

X. Announcements

- A. March Member of the Month
- B. GSC Meeting: Thursday, March 30, 6:00 PM, Grad Ed Auditorium
- C. All-Call on 3/29 at 5:30 PM. About mental health. We will forward that email.
- D. Day of Service in April. Go to the botanical gardens.

XI. Adjourn at 4:28 PM.