



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

September 20, 2015
Reynolds Center
12:00 PM

- I. Call to Order, 12:09 pm
- II. Attendance
 - A. Quorum met, 33/41 members present.
- III. Approve Agenda
 - A. Amend agenda to include judicial nominees. No objections.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Judicial Nominees
 1. Justice: Epharemidze
 - a. From Georgia, public relations major. Previously involved with RAG, and with student governments with Russia and Georgia.
 - b. Jeter: From time to time, you may be called to adjudicate on issues that may be of concern to graduate students. How willing are you to have people educate you more about issues about which you may not be aware?
 - c. I promise to voice my opinion in an unbiased manner. I'm willing to learn more. And I'm planning to go to graduate school next year.
 - d. No other questions.
 2. Proxy: Cook
 - a. I'm from the area, and am a transfer from Mizzou. I came back for professional contacts. At Mizzou, I was VP of my hall, and was part of many mentor organizations. At Springdale High, I was captain of the Basketball team, student body president.
 - b. For grad student concerns, I am very new to ASG and the campus. For the GSC, I am thinking we are all a team. Whatever concerns you may have--I would be

unbiased--but I would do anything I can do to help you and myself out (I'm going to grad school).

- c. No questions.
 - d. As a proxy, they will be nonvoting members in case no quorum is met.
3. Proxy: Hanson
- a. From Jeff City, MO, a freshman political science major. I am also in the marching band. I don't have much previous experience, but I am very excited and honored to be here. I was involved in leadership in high school.
 - b. For the grad student concerns questions, your opinions do weigh as much as anyone else's. I would certainly be happy to hear any information you all have. As a proxy, I'm just here to learn. I'm very honored and excited to learn more.
 - c. No questions.
4. Aldridge (Justice nominee) considered at the September 16 meeting.
5. Speaker: We have to consider 2 associate justices and 2 proxies. We need to determine if we will accept nominations. We can vote person by person, paper ballot, acclamation, etc.
- a. Wesolowski: Let's try unanimous by acclamation.
 - b. Speaker: Any opposition? None. All in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. All nominees confirmed unanimously. Congratulations to the new justices and proxies.

V. New Business

A. Committee Chair Elections

1. VS Forrest: As a committee chair, you are required to organize your committee meetings once per month. You chair the committee, and you work with me (Vice Speaker). Please don't let being new hinder you. Additionally, follow through on great ideas. I will be working with you on that. With social chair, you don't have your own committee. But you work with people to get events planned. You will have plenty of help.
2. Speaker: International Community Concerns is also not a committee chair. You are a liaison between the international student body and the GSC.
3. Treasurer: The social chair will also work with me.
4. Ferraro: I should have read the standing rules... For the chairs, do you hold the office in the fall only? Or is the whole

year? Forrest: You hold it until April. Committee Chairs also attend cabinet meetings.

5. Committees open only to GSC members? Or can other grad students attend the meeting? VS: grad students may attend the meetings. Speaker: Unelected folks (associate members) can come to meetings, but may not vote.

6. Gilley: Chairs also have to serve an extra office hour? Yes.

7. Grad Student Life

a. Speaker: Open up the floor for nominations.

b. Lisnic nominated by Guinn. Nominations closed.

c. Lisnic: I am new to GSC. My name is Rodica Lisnic, a PhD candidate in public policy in family specialization. Family friendly policies for graduate students are dear to my heart, because there was a family situation with my fiance. He was in a situation where he had to choose between his career at the UofA or return to India to take care of his parents. He had to give up his assistantship and his career. As graduate assistants, we should have family friendly policies. We do not live in a vacuum. We are also here because we want to grow as individuals, as members of families, and support our families.

d. Questions? None. Nominee sequestered.

e. Powers: Motion to vote by acclamation. Seconded. No opposition. Lisnic elected by unanimous consent.

8. Social Chair

a. Are there nominees for social chair?

b. Lisnic: I nominate Jessica Guinn. Do you accept? Yes.

c. Speaker: Other nominations? Move to close nominations. Seconded. No opposition.

d. Guinn: I'm Jessica Guinn. This is my first semester. I am in an agricultural education master's, and work in the volunteer action center. I love event planning; I know the logistics around that; I familiar with the budgeting processes. I think this is the best way for me to serve the GSC.

e. Questions? Thote: What's a social event you have always wanted to plan?

f. Guinn: I know you have a social etiquette mixer. I haven't attended that, but I think that would be cool. I think we need some sort of mixer to get grad students from different colleges together. Any event that will bring together other colleges.

g. Treat: Any possibility of a conflict because of your position with VAC?

- h. Guinn: No. I am not planning a lot of events for VAC; only 4 major events.
- i. No other questions.
- j. Powers; Vote by acclamation. Second. Guinn elected by unanimous consent.

9. International Student Concerns

- a. Speaker: A final liaison position. This person works with international student concerns. MJ and Mohamed did this for us last year. Are there any nominations?
- b. Newsome: I nominate Thote. I do accept.
- c. Move to close nominations. Seconded. No opposition.
- d. Thote: I actually did my undergrad here, fresh from India. I am no longer an international student, but I have been out of many international organizations. I am friends with MJ; I know a lot of international students. So I can keep my ears open to international student concerns. I am definitely interested in what they have to say, and to bring it back to GSC.
- e. Speaker: One of the things that stuck with me from Dr. Maxwell is going out to constituents. If we consider legislation, are you willing to take those ideas to international students?
- f. Thote: This is something I've been thinking of for a long time: setting up a blog for international students to help them integrate. I think that would work here. I would definitely be willing to go out to focus groups.
- g. Burbridge: Are there issues facing international grad students that you would want to address.
- h. Thote: Many. They recently changed the law recently. A lot of students have to go back to their countries and file for visas. It is important to spread awareness on these issues. I think as a university we need to figure out better ways to help out, for example, with a leniency period. Or with stipends, we can only work 20 hours and that's it. So we need employment opportunities. Just because I have a green card now doesn't mean I have forgotten all of the struggles I experienced before.
- i. No other questions.
- j. Gilley: Move to vote by acclamation. Seconded. Thote elected by unanimous consent.

B. Recess for 15 minutes for lunch.

C. Committees

- 1. Campus Council

- a. Speaker: Campus Council is all the governing bodies on campus. The idea is they work together to address campus-wide issues. This year is a transition year. We need three members.
 - b. Wesolowski: This is the group that hasn't been very active? But now they are trying to push forward and do something? Yes. And they are trying to determine their purpose.
 - c. Ferraro: The term? 1 year.
 - d. Ardeneaux: How often do they meet? They're setting that up, but they are required to meet once per semester.
 - e. Ward, Powers, Gilley nominated. Nominations accepted. Nominations closed.
 - f. Treat: Move the nominees be elected by acclamation. Seconded. No opposition. Elected by unanimous consent.
2. GSC Committees
- a. Speaker: We now need to determine our committee assignments.
 - b. VS: Read out current members of committees.

VI. Robert's Rules (Parliamentarian Berlanga)

- A. Goal: Get us to function smoothly and effectively. Our Speaker is already effective. But I'm passing out a legislation and voting procedure cheat sheet.
- B. Wesolowski: Will this information also be on the back of our nametags? Yes.
- C. Berlanga: We follow Robert's Rules in the absence of standing rules. We have passed standing rules this year. Per the ASG Code & Constitution, we cannot do anything that supercedes ASG Code, Constitution, Standing Rules, or Robert's Rules. There has been some questions about email stuff. We used the 11th edition, which discusses email meetings.
- D. Please see me if you have any questions. I can help with writing legislation, how to vote, etc. There are also senior members you can ask.
- E. Speaker: Questions?
- F. Ferraro: Can you tell us what a parliamentarian does?
- G. Berlanga: I keep time, make sure the rules are followed, make sure the Speaker is following procedure, and make sure everyone is keeping is sexy and classy.
- H. Sturdivant: So you can help with GSC legislation?

- I. Berlanga: Yes. Speaker: You can also talk to your committee chair. We will also send out a one-page template to help you craft a bill or resolution.
- J. Wesolowski: And legislation templates already went out? Yes. They are included with the standing rules.

VII. Public Comment

- A. VS: We need volunteers for Sexual Assault Awareness Day and an early version of a sustainability committee. SAAD committee meets on Tuesday at 4:30. These are not hour-long commitments.
- B. Wesolowski: The sustainability committee is an ASG body? Yes, this is an ASG committee.
- C. Newsome: Office hours? Mark will send out an office hours call later this week. We are still finalizing cabinet hours.
- D. McMillian: Office hours are mandatory? There is no punishment spelled out, but it is mandatory. 1 hour/week. It is an expectation of all of us, and it was pointed out when we considered standing rules.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Remaining Meetings for Fall (if you have conflicts, start looking for proxies now).
 - i. Thursday, 15 October 6pm Grad Ed Auditorium
 - ii. Wednesday, 18 November 6pm Grad Ed Auditorium
 - iii. Thursday, 10 December 6pm Grad Ed Auditorium

IX. Adjourn at 1:29 PM.