



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

October 6, 2015
AU 640
11:30 AM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Approve Minutes, Sept. 8 Executive Cabinet Meeting
- IV. Approve Agenda
- V. Special Orders
 - A. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
 - No report.
 - B. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
 - Thank you for having legislation this meeting.
- VI. Reports
 - A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)
 - a. College Caucuses. VS Forrest in charge.
 - b. PAB: proposals due by the end of October. Will be submitted to ASG Treasurer Ray Todd. PAB meeting at the beginning of Nov.
 - c. Next all-call in Grad Ed Foyer, Oct. 27 at 5:40 pm. We announce reps. Of month and ASG person of the month. We need to come up with a plan of getting people there. We need to explain what it is and why they should attend.
 - d. Move to attend speaker's time by 3 minutes. No opposition.
 - e. Office hours are officially on. Office hours are mandatory. Free coffee every Tuesday 8-11. The point is to bring people in to the office, let them know we are available, and why we are here.
 - f. Legislative templates: Frankc and Mark, we need to create one for Joint Bills and Joint Resolutions. Our templates

used to have line numbers on them; include those on the templates again for easy editing. Do before next Thursday.

- g. Committee meetings: These are mandatory and must be held once per month. We need to think about how we will track attendance at committee meetings.
- h. Time expired. Moved to extend by 3 minutes. No opposition.
- i. Meetings are mandatory, so think about tracking attendance. Committees are there for you to use; you cannot do everything on your own. Meetings are a time to review legislation, editing, and planning—they are good strategy sessions.
- j. Campus Council: attended the meeting last month. We need to find another member to serve, which will be announced at the general meeting next Thursday.
- k. Chancellor Search: the GSC has been invited to the table. Madeleine will be representing us at the first on-campus interview session this afternoon. Send questions to her ASAP. Today is April Mason from Kansas State. There are 12 student leaders at these meetings.
- l. Lisnic: Do our bills/resolutions have to be approved by the Senate or the Exec? For business only dealing with GSC, they are approved by GSC and go to President Bone for his signature. If it is a joint bill/resolution, they have to be approved by both Senate and GSC, then they go to President Bone. If there are differences, they go to conference committee.
- m. Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
- n. Lisnic: Are resolutions bills supported by research/papers/etc.? Ideally they need to be supported by something—research in the broader community, top 50 goals, etc.

B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)

- Please take attendance at committee meetings, and send attendance to me.
- I was at all-call. It is a new thing, but it doesn't last very long. It is always on Tuesday at 5:45-6:15. If you have already left campus, I can see why this would be an issue. But we need to have a plan to really encourage people to go. It does look bad if there are only 4 GSC members there.
- Scout nominated Jade Newsome at All-Call this month. Congratulations to Jade. We appreciate your PR work.
- I am meeting with the candidate for chancellor, Dr. April Mason from Kansas St. My questions are

gearing toward how she would encourage grad student growth and her plans for accommodating growth—infrastructure issues, money issues, etc. Please send additional questions to me ASAP.

- C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
 - No report.
- D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
 - Internal survey update. 37 responses.
- E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
 - I've researched other grad student governments' websites. So far, I have seen that their websites are easier to navigate than ours, e.g. an activities tab with upcoming events. They also have a committees tab with contact information and meeting schedules.
 - Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
 - This would allow constituents to know when meetings are and how to contact reps. They also compiled links to resources at the university.
 - Speaker: Rainer, how plausible are these changes on our current platform? As far as GSC's page, you can add features. Coordinate with Tyler, the webmaster.
 - VS: Would it be possible to have an all ASG calendar that is easily found on the website? Rainer: Yes, it is possible. The calendar is on the website, but there have been coordination difficulties. Ideally every branch would submit events to the Webmaster, but that isn't happening smoothly. You might want to coordinate with the graduate school.
- F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
 - I have been reaching out to different cultural organizations.
- G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
 - How do you feel about "Coffee with Congress"? That started again today. We will have coffee other places on campus on the last Tuesday of the month. We've been discussing a veterans event for Veterans' Day.
 - VS: What day is the lunch? The 29th.
 - Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
 - Location for grad lunch yet? Should have that by tomorrow. Jade will help advertise that.
- H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
 - Our student debt event with Rep. Ledding will be moved to Nov. 11 in order not to conflict with Sexual Assault Awareness Day. There is also a Grads Have

Debt Too day on Oct. 14. I will be communicating with NAGPS about that.

- I am also interested in doing research on what other grad schools have done with policy. It's time for me to reach out to other leaders.
- Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
- I wanted to ask if anyone has been in conversation with other schools across the state? I would like to use social media to communicate about grad student issues soon.
- Speaker: This is an item on the Grad Student Life committee agenda.
- I need to talk with Philip about sustainability things. We may be involved in vetting a new sustainability director.
- Speaker: I am reaching out to get a Chartwells Rep at our meeting next week.

I. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga-Medina (1 minute)

- Our meetings are every Monday before general meetings at 6pm. The location will be rotating. Open invitation for anyone who would like to attend.
- Next meeting, Monday at 6 pm, Arsaga's.

J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)

- We had a meeting last week. I took the goals the Speaker sent out, selected the ones specific to our committee, and we chose the goals we wanted to work on. We divided up into smaller groups to work on individual goals. Most of the goals have been distributed.
- Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
- We will be meeting at the Food Court.

K. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)

- Have not yet met with my committee. We will meeting Wednesdays 6-7. I will try to have it normally before exec meetings so we can finalize legislation. I will do a meeting tomorrow to get everyone kicked off, but the main meeting will be Oct. 28.
- We will divide into subcommittees: Housing, office space, and smaller projects.
- We need to begin putting together a proposal for the graduate Speaker's wall.
- Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
- We might need to reach out for help with Speakers Wall.

- VS: What is the Grad Speakers Wall. In the graduate lounge, we will put up a picture of each speaker. We are trying to mimic the Presidents Wall in the Union.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. ASG Joint Resolution 1: A Resolution in Support of the Student Statement on the Right to Research: Facilities Chair Philip Gilley (15 minutes)

- We want to tell Administrators that we support the right to research and open access movement. We pay a good amount of money to journals, originally meant to cover distribution costs. With digital distribution, those costs no longer exist. Other NAGPS schools have supported this (e.g. Mizzou).
- This could be added to the Senate's agenda this week since we can pass at the same time.
- Rainer: I'll remind Jace, but reach out to co-authors in Senate.
- Gilley: I encourage you all to sponsor it if you'd like.
- Speaker: Has everyone read this? Are there any questions?
- VS: The last line is confusing. Is Open Access the website?
- Speaker: Open Access is a movement. A tremendous amount of research is federally funded, so we are paying for the research, then paying to read the research. So it might be good to add language that we are forcing people to pay twice.
- VS: I still feel the last line is confusing.
- VS: move to amend the last line from "Open Access" to "access." Seconded. No opposition.
- Cantu: Meet with Dean Allen at the library. Library is pursuing this.
- Speaker: How many decades have we been discussing this. Move to amend "over the last decades" to "in the recent past." Seconded.
- Gilley: Let's take out "in the recent past." Seconded. No opposition.
- Rainer: Let's send the edited version to Senate today.
- Gilley: Move to amend student interests to "students' interest." Seconded. No opposition.
- Speaker: Do we vote to Pass, Not Pass, Table, No Recommendation.

- VS: I say pass, but I think we should reach out to the library. Cantu: My understanding is the library has acquired access to open access. I do not know when that will launch.
- Trea.: I think it would be good to send back to committee to have the endorsement of the library. I move to do that. Seconded. No opposition.
- **The resolution will be sent back to committee to allow the committee to meet with the library.**

B. GSC Resolution 4: A Resolution in Support of Arkansas Interim Study Proposal 2015-139: On the Impact of Student Debt in Arkansas: Legislative Affairs Director Rachel Spencer (15 minutes)

- We will be having an event with Rep. Leding in November over student debt. This came about because of this interim study, which is a study between legislative sessions, to assess the impact of student debt. Numbers for student debt, especially graduate student debt, can be difficult to find for numerous reasons. Rep. Leding has agreed to look into grad student debt, as well. We also support him in his quest to come up with state-specific solutions to student debt. The Razorback Action Group has also taken up this issue.
- This resolution also says that we will provide on-going support, and it mentions the Nov. 11 panel event. I yield to questions.
- Spencer: I will also mention that we have set this pattern to write resolutions to support things that are going on in the legislature. I think that is a good thing to do. This furthers that, as well, and shows we are paying attention and do officially support them. This is a very nonpartisan thing.
- Speaker: Typos do not require postings. Several typos corrected.
- Speaker: Recommendation.
- Trea: Move to recommend passage. Seconded. No opposition.
- **This resolution is recommended for passage.**

C. GSC Bill 2: A Bill to Support a Campus Event to Raise Awareness of: Arkansas Interim Study Proposal 2015-139: On the Impact of Student Debt in Arkansas: Legislative Affairs Director Rachel Spencer (15 minutes)

- This has to do with the same issue, and supports the event mentioned in resolution 4. It will take place on

Nov. 11, at 6 pm. This money will be used to provide food.

- We project this will be well attended because we have support from RAG. To provide a good tone for the event, I think the catering will help, especially since the event is at dinner time. I yield to questions.
- Speaker: Is the room booked? Yes. You said RAG is on board? Are they contributing funding? They do not have funding, per se. Their funding focuses on the Little Rock trip, and Thomas has been in conversations with Tanner about more money. But they cannot allocate from a pot of money. I could ask if they could, but we had also taken ownership of this event. Speaker: Well that makes sense, I just didn't know if they would be cosponsoring.
- Trea.: When will the food happen? We can't have food in the Grad Ed Auditorium. I was thinking the food would happen on both ends, say at 5:45-6:15/6:30, and then afterward. The event will probably be 45 minutes to an hour. Trea: I think that's fine, but could you encourage the speakers to purposefully mingle after the event in that area.
- Speaker: Where is the food coming from? Chartwells.
- Trea.: Will you add me as a sponsor? Yes.
- Guinn: What budget line? Trea.: This is coming from unallocated. Guinn: Could we apply for special events money from PAB? Speaker: I don't think we would get it in time for this semester, but perhaps for the spring.
- Wangler: I would just recommend being as detailed as possible. The more information the better.
- Rainer: for info. On PAB, it would be submitted via Ray Todd.
- Speaker: We will now enter a period of debate.
- Edits.
- Speaker: move to amend 200.00 to 220.00.
Seconded. No opposition.
- VS: Recommend to pass. Seconded. No opposition.
- **This bill will be recommended for passage.**

D. ASG Joint Resolution 2: Veteran's Day: Parliamentarian Frankc Berlanga-Medina (15 minutes)

- Speaker: The purpose of the resolution is to encourage the administration to recognize veterans and expand resources for veterans.

- We will have follow-up events. We are looking at a Veterans' Day event. Jessica and Alex will be focusing on that.
- Lisnic: Where does this resolution go? It is a joint resolution so it must be passed by both GSC and Senate. It will then go to President Bone, and then publicized and promoted.
- Lisnic: So does the university have to take action? The administration will be made aware, but does not require any action. And really there isn't a whole lot we can do to require any sort of action.
- Lisnic: It would be nice to have a more specific action plan. I think the legislation after this will be more specific. We are moving quickly on this since we do not have another meeting before Veterans' Day.
- Newsome: Are we doing something on Veterans' Day specifically? Yes. It will be during the day. We want to recognize these folks publicly for their service.
- Lisnic: How is the administration informed about this? As I understand it, all of our legislation once signed is sent to the chancellor.
- VS: The other part of a resolution is to show that you have support from the GSC. And the great thing about joint resolutions is that all 27,000 students support this, and not only grad students.
- Rainer: Any business that comes up is shared with the Dean of Students office, so they are aware of what is being debated.
- Speaker: edits.
- Move to extend speaker's time. Seconded. No opposition.
- Spencer: Where do these numbers come from? Talk with Garrett or Tristin.
- Speaker: Recommendation. Gilley: Move to recommend passage. Seconded. No opposition.
- **This resolution is recommended for passage.**

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- A. Speaker: Create a joint resolution template. If we are using joint resolutions, we will use this more formal format. The format of ASG Joint Resolution 1 will be worked out by committee.
- B. Guinn: The VAC is hosting Razorback Read Week, Oct. 21-24. On the 21, they are hosting a little library build on Union lawn from 11-2. These will be taken to neighborhoods without access to books or libraries. The GSC is sponsoring one of those

libraries. So we need people to build them. That will be the GSC's volunteer event for the semester. We will do a Google signup sheet. Register with Guinn. We can make more than one. The book houses each. They are \$100/each, and the VAC is sponsoring these.

C. VS: Don't forget your t-shirt. We still need sizes.

D. Cantu: Three minute thesis competition in the spring. Email me for more info. Registration deadline is Nov. 15.

X. Announcements

A. GSC Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:00 pm, Grad Ed Auditorium. This is a regular meeting.

B. Welcome to newly elected Cabinet members: International Concerns Chair Supriya Thote, Social Chair Jessica Guinn, and Grad Student Life Committee Chair Rodica Lisnic.

C. Chancellor's Ball is Friday. Sign up to volunteer.

D. Rainer: I have 7 backpacks, so they are still yours to have.

E. Spencer: RAG is taking a trip to LR at the beginning of November. We will make you aware of talking points for legislators. We will have a resolution.

F. Lisnic: Do committee chairs have to report? Yes.

XI. Adjourn at 12:51 PM, meeting run time: 1:20:39