



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

October 15, 2015
Graduate Education Building
Auditorium
6:00 pm

- I. Call to Order at 6:14 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. 32/41 members present; quorum met.
- III. Approve Minutes, September 16 meeting
 - A. Move to approve. Seconded. No opposition.
- IV. Approve Agenda
 - A. Move to approve. Seconded. No opposition.
- V. Special Orders
 - A. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
 1. A reminder that in less than 2 weeks, Tuesday, Oct. 27, is the next ASG All-Call. If you're available, it is 5:45 to 6:15 in the foyer of the Grad Ed. Building.
 2. A sincere thank you to this branch. This is easily the source of most of our organization's volunteers.
 3. Please enjoy your food, but please clean up after yourself.
 - B. Chartwell's Representative, Andrew Lipson
 1. I've been on campus about a year and a half. During my first year, I observed a lot to see how we were doing. Now I'm looking at what we can change. I wanted to give you a few minutes to ask some questions. You know the contract is going out for bids. So you can ask what plans we have for the future. I am also dropping off some cards with social media contact info. This is the best way we keep up with what's going on on campus.
 2. Feraro: Any plans on improving healthy food options.
 3. Lipson: For us, what is the definition of "healthy" for people. For instance, in Brough we have the Zone. In that area we

avoid gluten, allergens, and things are made to order. We do have a full-time on campus dietitian. She also spends time with groups to educate folks about choices. Is there anything in particular you're looking for?

4. Feraro: I'm a big fan of Wake-up Wednesdays. Anything other than donuts?
5. Lipson: That's off campus connections. Often that's dictated by funds available. But leave me some suggestions, and I'll pass them along.
6. Spencer: Healthier catering options would be great. But I also wanted to ask about food recovery. You do great work with that. Have you thought about procuring food from local farms? And can you send us the link to the survey?
7. Lipson: We are trying to work with local farms. There has to be a certain amount of traceability in the case of recalls. So that's one of our big concerns, and a lot of time local farmers cannot provide the volume we need. We are hopeful that Whole Foods will help with that. We are looking at bringing something unique. We are working with the ag school to make our own self-contained hypertonic unit. Christy, our chef, and myself have the goal of turning some locations into all local food. So if anyone knows farmers, let us know. We will get the link out to the survey via social media.
8. Kimbrough: I'm a grad assistant. I would be able to purchase grab-and-carries with SNAP benefits. Johnson: With SNAP benefits, you can't purchase non-prepared food, but only prepackaged food.
9. Lipson: I've never heard of that. We will look into it.
10. Gilley: As far as pricing, is that from you?
11. Lipson: All restaurants on campus are ours (e.g. Starbucks, Slims, Einstein, etc.). We submit our pricing to the university and that is approved. We do competitive market basket pricing with branding. I know you can go to Sam's and feed yourself cheaper. That's why we like meal plans. Is there a particular place?
12. Gilley: Einstein's in Bell has some premade sandwiches for \$5 or \$6. That seems overpriced.
13. Lipson: Let me know, and we will competitively price that.
14. Jeter: I know you have some grad student specials in Brough. Would it be possible to look into special meal packages/plans that might bring things closer to budget for grad students? The ABP has wonderful sandwiches, but that can hit our budget.
15. Lipson: We had an event yesterday about a survey about that sort of thing. We are interested in your input about meal

plan options. That should be out there. I'll get that survey to you. We are already starting to see that we need more flexibility.

16. Marino: With off campus connections, it was created not to serve graduate students out of budgetary concerns. In trying to reach out to grad student input, this is probably the best body. We can send out info. to grad students quickly.
17. Lipson: Great. I know a lot of you are working, have families, and going to school. So getting info. to you is a challenge.
18. Kimbrough: I heard Styrofoam is going out some years ago?
19. Lipson: Styrofoam gets a bad rap because of CFC's, but not Styrofoam is made with CFC's anymore. We are looking at compostable products, but that just goes in the trash. So how do we manage the complete 360 to keep products out of the landfill. We are trying to get to zero-waste. But unfortunately, there is a cost involved. So how do we deal with that at the end?
20. Spencer: I do think the office of sustainability recently hired a zero-waste coordinator, and they are hiring a new director. It would be cool to see some collaboration on some things.
21. Lipson: We are also looking on bringing on a full-time sustainability manager. We are looking for that starting in January. I want to hire someone from the university because the connection is there already, and they will know the community already.
22. Lipson: We are also looking at some future renovations, particularly around the Quiznos. I hope students will help us determine what that area will look like.
23. Johnson: Thank you very much.

C. Chancellor Search--Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest and Speaker Scout Johnson

1. We have had all three finalists over the past two weeks. We were invited to participate in student leader meetings with each of the chancellor candidates. President Bone was also in those meetings. There were about 12-15 different student leaders in the meeting.
2. Dr. April Mason: Madeleine went to this meeting. Mason is currently the provost at Kansas St. She was a fantastic interviewee. From a grad student point of view, she has 20 years of faculty experience. She talked some about faculty needs, so she hasn't forgotten her roots. I was impressed with that. Kansas St. is also working toward being a top 50 university. I believe Tanner asked what she would change. She said we have grown so quickly that we need to catch up on infrastructure and other components. She wants to offer

- assistance to faculty to become better mentors to graduate students. She wants to encourage that mentor relationship.
3. Wesolowski: What didn't you like?
 4. Forrest: To be honest, there was no glaring thing that put me off. There were no red flags to me. But I couldn't go to her campus talk.
 5. Treat: What did she say about her advancement experience?
 6. Forrest: I don't think she addressed that, but I don't think we asked her about it.
 7. Burbridge: when do they expect to make a decision? Possibly by end of business tomorrow.
 8. Dr. John Steinmetz: Speaker Johnson attended. We can say the same thing about all candidates--all very well spoken, very professional, very polished, etc. I would encourage you all to watch the videos of their town halls at chancellor.uark.edu. You can also leave feedback on that site. I like Steinmetz okay, but he felt a little cold and corporate.
 9. Dr. Vitter: In contrast to Steinmetz, Dr. Vitter did not slip into the business jargon, but he has the expertise. I think he can speak to different audiences and get the same message across.
 10. Wesolowski: What was their background?
 11. Johnson: all are at the provost level. Mason studies plant pathology. Steinmetz is neuroscience. Vitter is computer science.
 12. Howard: Are any of them at institutions that are rising in standings? Yes, all of them are. Kansas St. is a little behind us. So all of them have experience with this. But we know all of this is a team effort.
 13. Johnson: Again, go to chancellor.uark.edu and give some feedback.

VI. Reports

A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)

a. PAB

- i. First week of November meeting. We have just under \$60,000 left. If there is something we would like to do as a body, we need to decide that and give a proposal to Ray or Tanner within the next 10 days. One proposal will be submitted on behalf of the entire organization. This is for the remainder of the year. See Arley with questions.

- b. GSC email: We now have a generic GSC email address: gsc@uark.edu. This is the best way to reach us as an org.

B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)

1. We have special permission to eat in here. Please throw your trash out.
 2. Mark sent an email with a google doc signup sheet. We would like GSC representation at cabinet and senate meetings, as well as at the All-Call. None of these meetings take too long. I asked for two volunteers for each event. Try to sign up once, but we understand you may have class. But it is helpful to see what everyone else is working on. Particularly helpful to sit in on cabinet.
 3. We also have college caucuses. This is in our standing rules. Once per semester, you meet with your college dean. This encourages interaction with the faculty to see if we can help them or they can help us. They are great resources. Each college caucus needs a chair, who sets a meeting time with the dean and brings other members along. So far I've only heard from 2 colleges.
 4. Move to extend speaker's time. Seconded. No opposition.
 5. Lastly, I appreciate the committee chairs letting me know what is going on during meetings. Please keep me in the loop and send me attendance.
- C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
1. No report.
- D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
1. Thank you for taking the survey. I'll resend the link.
- E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
- F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
1. If anyone has anything to say, please reach out to me.
- G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
1. Coffee with Congress is at Holcombe on Oct. 27, 8-11. Oct. 29 we will be in Holcombe again for grad student lunch. Look for an email about that. GSC will also have 2 little libraries with VAC. That's this Wednesday on the Union Mall. Come ready to build little libraries.
- H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
1. Please mark Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6 pm on your calendars. That's our first big policy-related event. It will be a panel on the impact of student debt in Arkansas.
 2. I've also been working with RAG and our advocacy trip down to Little Rock.
- I. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga Medina (1 minute)
1. Some members of our committee have identified some issues. They are contacting people in corresponding committees. If anyone has any issues, let us know.
- J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)

1. We met on Sept. 29. We discussed our goals. We have created an action plan for our family leave project. Our committee will meet after this meeting.

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

1. My committee hasn't met yet, due to my fault. But we have a facilities google group to communicate. We have also divided into subcommittees.

VII. Old Business

A. College Caucuses: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)

1. Johnson: Any questions about college caucuses? At the end of the meeting, get into college groups and choose a chair.
2. Howard: Were these caucuses formed last year? No.

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

1. Executive Cabinet Recommendation: Refer back to committee to coordinate with Mullins Library.
2. Johnson: Gilley will have 5 minutes to discuss the piece of legislation. We will then move to a period of questions for 5 minutes. After questions, there are 5 minutes to debate. We want to make sure everyone has the chance to ask questions. Please save debate for the debate time.
3. Gilley: I have an amendment to make in a second. The Right to Research is a national organization. Their goal is to make research free and open to the public. Journals charge universities, usually to cover printing costs. But with digital media, there is no need for these charges. The authors do not receive compensation for their work, so all fees go to the journals. The resolution is to sign the student statement, which states that we support the efforts of right to research and open access, and that we want to encourage our university and government to provide open access.
4. Gilley: Move to amend. This amendment shows the university libraries support this. The faculty passed legislation that says all research conducted at the university is open access. The library is pushing this.
5. Powers: How many other universities? For the student statement, around nine or ten. Once you sign, your name is added.
6. Burbridge: Journal rights are in conflict with open access. Gilley: Any time faculty write a paper they have to submit it to the library.
7. Bohlen: Does this prohibit certain journals? No.

8. Wesolowski: How does this work? Does the library do it? Or the publishing company? Are you saying we should try to get academic journal publishers to adopt this? And what about journals charging authors to publish open access? Gilley: each journal has different copyright standards. The goal is to encourage universities to add to the open access databases.
 9. Ward: One of the other concerns is federal money is paid twice: tax money is paid for research, and then universities are paying again for the research? Yes. And most of the time, authors don't make money. So the gov't pays for the research, the university publishes, and then the university pays for the journal.
 10. Bohlen: We are discussing this issue on the Research Council. What is archived in the library is the final manuscript, not the final product itself.
 11. Treat: to clarify, post-embargo means post-peer review? Yes.
 12. Time for questions has expired. We now move to debate. Authorship is debate in favor. Any debate opposed?
 13. We have an amendment. Amendment seconded. No opposition.
 14. Move to previous question. Seconded. No opposition.
 15. **Joint Resolution passes.**
- C. 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)
1. Executive Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
 2. Spencer: This resolution is in regard to the student debt issue I mentioned earlier. One of our local representatives, Rep. Greg Leding, has proposed an interim study to study the impact of student debt in AR. What that means is that he is taking the charge on creating a report that will provide information to legislators about the issue of student debt in Arkansas. Right now, our numbers are only slightly better than national numbers. In terms of finding info. for graduate student debt, that's not easy to do. I have been in conversation with Leding, and by being in conversation with him, I was able to bring up the issue of graduate student debt. We are working in concert with RAG. This resolutions says we support Leding, and that we encourage the inclusion of conversations about graduate student debt. It also says that we will have an event on Nov. 11, 6 pm, in this room.
 3. Jeter: When does Rep. Leding project this proposal will be published? That's a good question. I am unsure of the exact timeline, because he was not sure when I spoke with him. The AR Legislative Council will do research in order to

prepare the legislature. I do know that Leding is on the education sub-committee, and that he is talking with them about this. I can find out the answer, though.

4. Jeter: I was asking because we may be able to move forward with initiatives once we have some quantitative measures.
5. Treat: Any thought of if student debt average will be weighed against projected future income, cost of living, etc.? Spencer: Are you suggesting if we include it? Treat: I think we should because it makes your case better. Spencer: A lot of that info. doesn't exist yet, or it only exists in national reports. These are very good suggestions.
6. Kimbrough: How are numbers collected? They are from the Institute from College Access and Success, which have data listed by state.
7. McMillian: The numbers are including all colleges and universities in Arkansas, not just the U of A? These numbers are for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, specifically. The report I reference does break it up by college.
8. Howard: Who is performing the study? Johnson: No, but the purpose of this bill is to say we support him. Spencer: this is in process right now. I know he is probably looking for some interns and help. I think it's just him.
9. Johnson: No further questions. We now move to a period of debate. Any debate in opposition? In favor?
10. We will now move to a vote.

11. Resolution passes.

D. 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)

1. Executive Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
2. Spencer: This bill is in regard to the specific event that will take place on Nov. 11, 6 pm, in this room. Funding will be used to cater a little food to the event, since we have guests coming and the event will be at the time of dinner. If we cannot get the foyer reserved, we may not spend this money.
3. Nabors: The \$220.00 includes taxes, which is not included in the above table? Yes.
4. Johnson: Any debate?
5. We will now move to a period of voting.

6. Bill passes.

E. ASG Joint Resolution 2: A Resolution to Recognize Student Veterans and Raise Awareness for their Concerns: Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)

1. Executive Cabinet Recommendation: Pass

2. Jeter: I am one of the volunteer people for Veterans Awareness. I've been in contact with the Veterans Resource Information Center. I would like to move to modify some language in the first paragraph. I am concerned with how we offer welcome to veterans, especially those returning to undergrad and grad education. Many of these individuals have been away from education, and some are coming back from active duty. I would like to point out that Veterans are considered an underrepresented group at the university. I am hoping that we can raise some awareness on Veterans Day. The U of A is considered a friendly university for veterans.
3. Ward: Move to amend. Seconded. Jeter: These numbers come from the Veterans Resource Center.
4. Johnson: It has been moved and properly seconded. Any opposition. None.
5. Nimmo: I am curious if know if the reason for the decrease is graduation or withdraw? Jeter: These numbers are just more accurate. The problem with the estimation is some veterans are not aware of resources, and some who don't feel they deserve benefits/resources.
6. Johnson: Do all veterans have to self-report? Jeter: My understanding is that they do not have to report their veteran status.
7. Wesolowski: I move to amend, the 3% needs to be corrected. Seconded. No opposition.
8. We now move to a period of debate. Any debate in opposition or in favor?
9. We now move to a period of voting.
- 10. Joint Resolution passes.**

VIII. New Business

A. GSC Bill 3: A Bill to Amend GSC Standing Rules: Parliamentarian Franke Berlanga Medina (15 minutes)

1. The parliamentarian is the author. Will the Vice Speaker keep the time?
2. Berlanga: This is easy. This will amend the standing rules to include formatting guidelines for joint pieces of legislation, because there has been some inconsistency. This includes the template.
3. Burbridge: With the format of the resolution, is there a reason for the difference? Yes. The Senate likes the language more formal. It is just easier, translatable. Burbridge: How would you feel about rewriting our format? As

parliamentarian, I'm okay with that, but that has to come from the body.

4. Feraro: I suggest that we have at least a choice of two days for meetings. Johnson: That's different than this. This only adds a template for a joint resolution.
5. Nabors: Move to suspend rules and move to second reading. Seconded. No opposition.
6. Berlanga: We did not have this in time for Cabinet.
7. Gilley: Move to previous question. Seconded. No opposition.
8. Burbridge: Vote on first reading? No. We do not approve on first reading.
9. We will now move to a period of voting.

10. Bill passes.

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- A. Atwood, Bayrak, and Hall (graduate students): My name is Morgan Atwood, I'm a JD-MPA student. I'm graduating in May. Whitley Hall, I'm a JD-MPA. I'm Bayrak, I'm a JD-MA.
- B. Atwood: I've talked with Nabors and Spencer. Over a year ago, we noticed our GAships were not covering all of tuition. We went to the Treasurer's Office. A year later, we come back to this issue. There is a difference of around \$1500. As dual-degree students, we are charged the higher tuition rate. We are getting two separate degrees, we applied and were accepted separately. For dual-degree students, the policy is to charge at a higher rate. There is no policy for this. The Treasurer has chosen to charge us at a higher rate. JD-MBA students are also charged at the higher rate.
- C. Bayrak: Terry Martin told us we were charged at a higher rate because we came in as law students. The MBA students, however, are being charged the higher rate. Basically, it is whatever costs more.
- D. Spencer: Your MPA hours are being billed as law school hours? Yes.
- E. Honey: Is there a loophole out? If you start the MPA first, are you charged graduate rate? Johnson: I contacted Koski. I'm waiting to hear back. There is a hierarchy. If you are dual-enrolled, you are charged the higher rate.
- F. Jeter: how do they justify higher charges? Are there student fee differences? They just charge higher tuition.
- G. Nabors: What do other institutions do? Atwood: UALR's policy is to charge law school tuition for law hours and graduate tuition for grad hours. They have 30 dual-degree students. We have 9.
- H. Bayrak: The Vice Provost of Academic Affairs told us this was just the policy. But we were never notified, and there is no written policy.

- I. Atwood: If we were in the law school and wanted to take out of career classes, you are charged law school rate. The difference is we are in dual-degree programs.
- J. Sims: The U of A system does not have a consistent policy? Not that we can find.
- K. Ward: You have screen shots and documentation? Yes.
- L. Move to extend time by 4 minutes. Seconded. No opposition.
- M. Forrest: What would you like us to do to help? We would like them to acknowledge the lack of policy and change it. We would like to be reimbursed \$1500. We want to draw attention and change something. Our graduate adviser has no idea this is going on. There is no reason we cannot have a system like UALR's.
- N. Wesolowski: So your GAship covers your tuition? Yes, at the lower rate.
- O. Spencer: This may be a point of order. What's the process to draft legislation with Morgan? In terms of authoring people who are not representatives? Non-GSC members can be authors, but they cannot be sponsors.
- P. Nabors: Are you opposed to letting us use your letter as public doc? No.
- Q. Spencer, Honey, and Nabors will look into legislation.

X. Announcements

- A. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 6 pm.
 - 1. To answer your question Feraro, we alternate days so those who have night classes can alternate and can make 2 of the semester's meeting.
- B. October lunch for graduate students 29 October.
- C. Sexual Assault Awareness Day, Nov. 4.
 - 1. There will be a RedTalk at Hillside, at 6.
- D. Veteran's Day event, Nov. 11.
- E. Student Debt panel, Nov. 11, 6 pm, Grad Ed Auditorium.
- F. Next ASG All Call 27 October
 - a. Pizza
 - b. Nominations for member of the month
 - c. Wear ASG t-shirts.

XI. Adjourn at 8:02 pm, meeting run time: 1:49:47