December 10, 2015
Graduate Education Building
Auditorium
6:00 PM

I. Call to Order at 6:00 pm.

II. Attendance
   A. 30/41 present; quorum met.

III. Approve Minutes, Nov. 18 General Meeting
   A. No objection.

IV. Approve Agenda
   A. Add Newsome under Special Orders to discuss meeting with Dean of Bumpers.
   B. No objection; agenda approved.

V. Special Orders
   A. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
      1. No report.
   B. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
      1. A couple of things: Thank you for being here. I’m sure you all are dealing with finals. The Arkansas Union will be closed between Dec. 18 to January 11. They will shut the Union down for a major repair. The ASG/GSC offices will be closed.
      2. We have an event on MLK Day. There will be a vigil beginning at noon in the Union Ball Room. There is a march beforehand. Look for details from VP Morgan Farmer.
      3. Keep up the good work for next semester. You’ve done a great job this semester, so I would love to see you keep up the pace for the spring.
   C. Legislative Affairs Director Rachel Spencer, and ASG Director of External Relations Thomas Selig: RAG (5 minutes)
      1. My co-chair Selig could not be here. RAG went to Little Rock earlier this semester to meet with state agencies and legislators, including leadership in the legislature. We spoke
with them about general student concerns, trying to get students more involved with advocacy, about student debt. We met with the AR student loan authority to discuss student debt. We are trying to connect some of the Student Loan Authority's resources to University Perspectives. We are hoping to keep working on that issue. We also meet with the Arkansas Dept of Higher Edu, which is the state agency that most concerns us. They champion initiatives, approve the budget, etc. For those who are not aware, there is a Closing the Gap 2020 report, which is the Governor’s plan for higher ed in AR. Generally it was a great networking time. I am happy to answer any questions. GSC will be taking a group of graduate students in the Spring. RAG will take another group down again thanks to PAB funding. We will be doing a higher education honor roll to track votes that concern higher education. I yield the rest of the time to questions or comments.

2. Burbridge: How are initiatives with GSC different than those with RAG.
   a. Spencer: Good question. We will be talking about that. With student debt, we are trying to raise awareness that graduate have student debt, too. In that case, we will dive more into graduate student debt and the state’s role. We also referred back to Leding’s study on student debt. I would like to do a little bit of stakeholder engagement to determine what other issues we should deal with.

3. No other questions.

D. External Affairs Director Jade Newsome: Meeting with Dean of Bumpers (5 minutes)
   1. I met with Dr. Veda, the Dean of the Bumpers college. I asked him if he had anything he would like us work on, or would like to see us doing. He said they are focusing on how to reach top 50 public research university status. One of his suggestions was to write legislation encouraging the new chancellor to sign some form of tuition waiver. Of course, we are already discussing that legislation. He was specifically talking about the colleges themselves being able to find funding lines. He wanted us to show our commitment and calling for the new chancellor to sign something like that. Additionally, he discussed trying to retain undergraduates for graduate school. He liked the idea of having more departments within the college cross-reference courses with biology in the Fulbright college, which would give us access to more students.
2. No questions.

VI. Reports
   A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)
      1. Blackboard
         a. We discussed blackboard last month as a way to foster better and more open communication. Rainer, Jaime and Katherine have been working on that, as have I. We are trying to work out some technical things. Our goal is to have this functioning by the first of Feb, though we are aiming for the first week we get back.
      2. New Graduate Orientation
         a. 14 January, 8-4, the Thursday before classes start. This will be much smaller than the one in August.
         b. Need volunteers for panel alternates.
         c. Need people for table at resource fair
      3. Vacancies
         a. The applications for the vacancy election will be available Tuesday, the 19th. We have vacancies for the fall election. Unfortunately we will have additional vacancies that will be vacated due to absences.
         b. Is there anyone graduating in December? No.
         c. Vacancies will happen as soon as we get back. Encourage peers to run in this election. We would love to have a full boat going forward. WE will be sending out the election timeline as soon as it is finalized.
   B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)
      1. Grad Student Survey
         a. Thank you to those who have filled out the survey. As of yesterday, 191 had taken it. We have got a lot of good feedback about that. If you have not sent it through your department and your department allows it, please do that.
         b. Open through Wednesday.
         c. If you have ideas about how we can change it next time, please give us your feedback.
      2. Meetings
         a. I have everyone’s committee attendance I think.
         b. Lastly, we are setting our dates for the spring meetings. Wednesday and Thursdays were the winners. I am in the process of working with the grad ed people to schedule it in here.
         c. Here are the tentative dates: 1/27, 2/25, 3/30, 4/21
         d. We are sticking with the 6 pm time slot.
C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
   1. No report.

D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
   1. Send me your preferred office hours for next semester. All members are required to have one office hour/week. Those on Cabinet need two hours/week. Send by Dec. 14.

E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
   1. Like the Facebook page if you haven’t.

F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
   1. Absent.

G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
   1. Absent.

H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
   1. Reference previous report.

I. Parliamentarian, Frank Berlanga-Medina (1 minute)
   1. No report.

J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
   1. One announcement: We have been talking to Chartwells about meal plans for graduate students. We asked Dr. Koski to forward survey info. Please respond.

K. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
   1. servcent@uark.edu. Send general maintenance requests here.
   2. Forrest: have you tested it?
   3. Gilley: The facilities folks showed Jesse where this was.

VII. Old Business

A. GSC Resolution 5: A Resolution to Request University Support for And Establishment of the Graduate Enrollment Incentive Program: Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)
   1. Cabinet Recommendation: None
   2. Jeter: To boil this bill down to the intents. The first intent is to keep down costs of tuition and fees as much as possible. discussing growing an economy. most graduate students dont have financial assistantship, by 2021 we should have 28,000 students. If you look at the very back, we benchmarked SEC and Ohio State. Ohio State has a graduate school fellowship that is quite generous. So this is not completely new. We are asking for a structured remission, whose model is copied from the undergraduate out-of-state tuition. Questions?
   3. Treat: Estimated cost?
      a. Jeter: Not yet. We have had some meetings with the provost, Dean Needy, but that didn’t come up yet.
b. Speaker: We have been trying to get that information from the Treasurer.

c. Treat: I am happy to help with that as well.

4. Sturdivant: This is 90% of out-of-state tuition?
   a. Speaker: If you meet the tuition, you will have a 90% discount.
   b. Jeter: You will notice it is not just GPA. There are several ways you can get this award.

5. Burbridge: For Speaker, is there a reason there is no Cabinet recommendation?
   a. Speaker: This is technically first reading; it had to be rewritten.

6. Kimbrough: Doesn’t this undermine in-state students? Why couldn’t this be opened up to all students?
   a. Speaker: The focus is to attract out-of-state students, but out-of-state students pay nearly 3X the cost. In our meetings with the provost and vice provost, they strongly suggested we stick with out-of-state students at this point. There may be a point at which we can move to in-state students.
   b. Kimbrough: Are there comparable options for in-state students? I don’t know of any?
   c. Speaker: I don’t know.

7. Sec: Is this a 90% reduction of the difference? or all tuition?
   a. Jeter: It reads as if it is all tuition?
   b. Speaker: It shouldn’t be.
   c. Gilley: Move to amend the resolution to specify a discount on the difference between out-of-state and in-state costs. Seconded.
   d. Speaker: It has been properly moved and seconded. All in favor. Amendment passes with no opposition.


9. Speaker: this is now moved to second reading.

10. Jeter: Nothing more.

11. Ward: Wouldn’t this put us more closer to parity?
    a. Speaker: Yes. Currently there are some departments that have similar systems, but this would make this campus wide.

12. Burbridge: Section 3(c) says the student can get the award under certain conditions. The student would still have to demonstrate this?
    a. Jeter: I can’t speak for other departments, but my department gives you one semester. It says “may still be awarded.”
b. Speaker: And that is discussing while they are here. We would accept an amendment to clarify that if needed.

13. Treat: If someone establishes residency, does this have any effect on the scholarship?
   a. Speaker: They would no longer be eligible.
   b. Treat: So if you establish a residency, you would no longer be eligible?
   c. Speaker: the scholarship is specifically for out of state students.

14. Wesolowski: Is it the intention of Section 3—in successive years do you still have to progress satisfactorily?
   a. Speaker: No. If you are not progressing satisfactorily, you will not be eligible.

15. Ardeneaux: It says you may apply for, so this is not an automatic process?
   a. Speaker: Yes, you have to apply.

16. Forrest: This is a lot of helpful information (in the appendix chart). How are you using this to support the resolution?
   a. Jeter: It is trying to show here the graduate tuition fellowships at other institutions.

17. Move to extend time for questions by 2 minutes. No opposition.

18. Speaker: I think Forrest’s question is how do these other schools’ assistantships support what we are trying to do?
   a. Jeter: I’m not sure I understand the question.
   b. Speaker: The bill is specifically for students not on assistantships, but this information is describing all other schools’ assistantship policies.
   c. Jeter: In many cases, these schools did not speak to what would happen if you didn’t have an assistantship.

19. Vallowe: I think the question is whether this table should be on the resolution, or should we keep it for other purposes?
   a. Jeter: This is an opportunity to do benchmarking so we can compare ourselves to other schools.

20. Move to extend questions by 3 minutes. No opposition.

21. Spencer: Section 3(a) says “MA,” but we probably need to include MS, MPA, etc. Move to amend MA to Master’s.
    Seconded. No opposition.


23. Wesolowski: What about professional programs? Is that a PhD or a Masters?

24. Jeter: a JD?
25. Wesolowski: a JD is considered a professional degree.
26. Treat: Move to amend to say masters and professional degree programs of study, and doctoral and terminal degree programs of study. Seconded. No opposition.
27. We now move to a period of debate. Seeing no debate, we now move to a period of voting.

B. GSC Resolution 7: A Resolution to Commend Interim Chancellor Daniel E. Ferritor for his Service as Interim Chancellor and Thank him for his Support of Graduate and Professional Students: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
   2. Speaker: As you know, Dr. Ferritor has served as the interim chancellor since July 1. He has been a great part of this university for some 40 years. We could not have had anyone better in this role over the last 7 months.
   3. Move to suspend the rules and move directly to voting. Seconded. No opposition.
   4. The resolution passes, 29-0-1.

C. GSC Resolution 8: A Resolution to Welcome Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
   2. Speaker: Similarly, we are welcoming Chancellor Steinmetz to the university of Arkansas. He has indicated he is very committed to graduate education. His experience at Ohio State has prepared him for this. We are welcoming.
   3. Move to suspend the rules and move directly to voting. Seconded. No opposition.
   4. The resolution passes, 28-0-2.

D. ASG Joint Bill 3: The Adoption of the Old Main Oath Act of 2015: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
   2. Speaker: The UofA is one of the few institutions that does not have an official university creed. The purpose of this is to define what it means to be a razorback. New freshmen will recite the creed in Old Main.
   3. Wesolowski: What is unique to the University of Arkansas and different from other universities?
      a. Speaker: We all sat down and did this over a process of weeks to decide what we accept and embrace here. There are some things that are consistent across
universities. The rankings might be different here. We ranked academics, integrity, and diversity as our top 3.

4. Wesolowski: I would have to say that statements like this are instruments of creating uniformity rather than diversity. How can a statement like this support diversity when in fact it is attempting to make everyone think/act the same way?
   a. Speaker: I don’t know there is ever an attempt to make people think/act a certain way. It is to say these are the values we hold. If you disagree with those values, I get that. But there is nothing here to me that says we are trying to create that.

5. Treat: If this doesn’t ask anyone to believe in anything, doesn’t that defeat the purpose?
   a. Speaker: We are not asking anyone to act a certain way, we are saying these are the values of this university. We are not pushing conformity.

6. Newsome: A small point, on line 22 there is a typo.
   a. Speaker: Since that is a typo, we can fix that later.

7. Wesolowski: Why is this called an oath? Why is it not using a more generic term, again from a diversity perspective?
   a. Spencer: Oath is not deity specific.
   b. Wesolowski: That is a legal definition of oath.
   c. Berlanga: Point of order we are in a period of questions.
   d. Treat: My understanding of oath is you can swear or affirm.
   e. Speaker: I can tell you there is no intent behind the name.
   f. Ward: Will freshmen be required to swear on anything?
   g. Speaker: Not that I’m aware of.
   h. Ward: So it’s not an oath in the same sense?

8. Spencer: Will participation be voluntary?
   a. Speaker: Yes.

9. Phillips: Is the voluntary aspect spelled out in the bill?
   a. Speaker: How the oath is used is not spelled out, it only creates the oath. This will go to the entire student body.

10. Howard: How might this differ with the university’s mission statement?
    a. Speaker: the university has a vision--and I want to say a mission statement. We looked at those documents, but this is unique from those.
11. Speaker: We will now move into a period of debate. Debate against?
12. Treat: Against: I think this is something that clearly needs a good bit more thought, given the reservations here about questions about what an oath/creed is, and why we need this now? This reminds me a good deal about things that were written in the 1950s. I think thinking the language through is in order and would be preferable.
13. Ward: In favor: For me personally, I think a document asking you to commit to diversity is not anti-diversity. I also like that the language is “I” and not “we.”
14. Wesolowski: Against: The first section is kind of saying that by becoming a member of this community, you are adopting all of these positions, which in my opinion is ridiculous.
15. Spencer: In favor: I don’t necessarily disagree. But I think we have so few touchpoints here where we can connect with all students. I think this a way to inspire people to think on pillars that are important to the university.
17. Totten: In favor: much of this language is in student code and conduct, and students here are already held accountable to this. We’ve already signed on.
18. Treat: Against: This campus is full of LGBT and undocumented folks that are held accountable to these policies, and yet that is not unjust.
19. Burbridge: In favor: I’m surprised this is the most controversial. This is promoting uniformity over conformity.
20. Speaker: We now move into a period of voting:

21. The Joint Bill passes, 23-4-3

E. ASG Joint Bill 4: The ASG Presidential Empowerment Act of 2015:
Secretary Mark Nabors (15 minutes)
1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
2. Sec: Provides more flexibility, modeled after state and national governments; ASG president would have option not to sign legislation the legislation would become law without signature.
3. Burbridge: How often is the right actually exercised in the real world?
   a. Sec: state level: used several times (helped the gov walk the middle line), national level: not very often.
4. Burbridge: Is this legislation in response to any specific ASG legislation?
a. Sec: Yes, last year with civil rights legislation at a local level.
5. Totten: Don’t want to dredge this up, but last year we were talking about how much authority the ASG Pres has over the GSC Pres (think Speaker was meant)
a. Sec: currently the constitution allows for the override with 2/3rds majority. This legislation does not change that.
6. Clarification from Totten: does this have the chance to reduce future conflict between GSC/ASG leadership?
a. Sec: hopefully!
7. We will now proceed to a vote.
8. **The Joint Bill passes, 27-1-2**

F. ASG Joint Bill 5: Transfer of Law School from Senate to Graduate Student Congress Act of 2015: Senator Christina Cole (15 minutes)
1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
2. Cole: The time commitment required for GSC is better for law students. Your concerns are also more in line with our concerns?
3. Wesolowski: Why now?
a. Cole: I’ve talked with Dean Leeds and Bo Renner. I’ve gathered that the senator was personally opposed, and the dean was concerned about RSO funding. The dean is now on board since RSO funding is completely separate. She feels it would be the best thing.
4. Howard: So your funding would stay the same?
a. Cole: Yes we will still apply for RSO funding.
5. Wesolowski: I don’t know if you have the answer for this. How would this affect the proportional voting?
a. Speaker: It will be recalculated based on the addition of the law school.
b. Cole: We only have 400 students, so you’re not looking at a lot of change.
6. Berlanga: In terms of adding seats to the GSC, do these seats come from vacancy, or what?
a. Speaker: If we pass this it goes to referendum. Law school students cannot apply for GSC seats until fall vacancy. We have not made a determination about how seats will be distributed. We will remain at 50 seats. We could remain at 35 per college and 15 at large. We could reduce the at large. We will start discussing this in the spring.
7. Burbridge: So this goes into effect next fall?
a. Speaker: Yes.
8. Speaker: Seeing no other questions, we move to a period of debate?
9. Powers: In favor: As someone who had the privilege to form the GSC, I want to commend the law students of today to recognize this is a good thing. When we originally formed GSC we assumed law school would be in favor. But a lot of opposition came from the law school and Dean Leeds. I am glad law student leadership today has recognized the mistake it was not to support the GSC from the get-go. I hope Dean Leeds realizes this should have been done immediately. This should have been passed a couple of years ago.
10. Speaker: We will now move to a period of voting.
11. The Joint Bill passes unanimously, 30-0-0. Congratulations to the Law School.

G. GSC Resolution 9: Graduate Veteran’s Tuition Fellowship: Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)
1. Cabinet Recommendation: Pass
2. Jeter: I want to point out in the second page on line 46. As a veterans spokesman, I am concerned about veterans coming here to continue their education. We know many have problems reintegrating into society. Line 46 shows that veterans are considered an underrepresented group. Sometimes veterans face difficulty completing degrees because their is a consistent problem with funding running out before the degree. We are asking to waive the application fee, and for a fellowship if the veteran’s funding runs out before the degree is completed. That is language directly from Dean Koski.
3. Burbridge: Why is this a GSC resolution instead of a joint resolution?
   a. Jeter: I thought it was a joint resolution?
   b. Speaker: One of the things we are doing with these tuition bills is sending these to Dr. Steinmetz when he gets here. We did not approach the Senate in time. We are asking the Senate to copy and paste. We cannot include them in a GSC bill, but we didn’t have time to run it past them if we want to get it to Steinmetz by Jan. 1.
4. Speaker: We will now move to debate. Seeing no debate, we will now move to voting.
5. The resolution passes 29-1-0

VIII. New Business
IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)
   A. Sanket Desai: I’ll keep this quick. For those who don’t know me, my name is Sanket Desai. As the sun begins to set on my career here, I wanted to say a few things and then give a gift. I want to say keep doing all of your hard work. I have been watching from retirement. Think about sustainability--about where this organization is going and how to keep momentum going into the future. Last year, my gift was my notes from the ASG meeting where the Senate tried to remove graduate students. My second gift is the ASG Graduate & Law Congress Strategic Plan--our opening salvo to Administration. I would like to give this to Scout and the GSC as my parting gift.
      1. Thanks to Mr. Desai for his years of service.

X. Announcements
   A. Members of the Month
      1. Our November member of the month is Garrett Jeter, the legislation generator par excellence. Congratulations, Garrett.
      2. Our December member of the month put together the largest event we have ever had, Legislative Affairs Director Rachel Spencer.
   B. Volunteer Opportunity: Cookie and Coffee Event, Dec. 13, 10 pm-12 am, Mullins Library. Don’t forget to sign up.
   C. Thank you to the representatives who attended the State of the Students’ Address and the ASG Holiday Party.
   D. Next semester’s general meetings will alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays.
   E. Thank you for your hard work this semester!
   F. Have a safe winter break! See you back here on Wednesday, January 27.
   G. Please sign the chancellor resolutions before you leave.

XI. Adjourn at 7:29 pm. Run time: 1:27:00