Graduate Student Congress  
Associated Student Government  
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

December 1, 2015  
AU 640  
11:30 AM

I. Call to Order at 11:30 AM

II. Attendance  
A. Thote, International Relations Chair, absent.

III. Approve Minutes, Nov. 10 Executive Cabinet Meeting  
A. No objection.

IV. Approve Agenda  
A. No objection.

V. Special Orders  
A. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)  
1. No report.  
B. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)  
1. No report.

VI. Reports  
A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)  
   a. Blackboard  
      - In progress  
      - Update Gizmo Roster  
   b. New Graduate Orientation  
      i. 14 January, 8-4  
      ii. Need four panelists and a moderator, 12:15-1  
         - Frankc, Arley, Jessica interested.  
         - Arley and Frankc prefer panel.  
      iii. Need people for table at resource fair, 1-1:30  
        - Mark  
   c. Vacancies  
      - All of Cabinet will be here next semester.
- We have 3 new vacancies for members who have been removed for non-attendance. They have three unexcused absences.
d. Mizzou Letter: Thoughts?
   - Anything specific you would like me to say or not say?
   - VS: Put it in a google doc so we can add comments?
   - Speaker: I will do that.
B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)
a. Grad Student Survey
   - Finally ready. We have been testing it. Jade made a fantastic flyer with the link. I would love it if you would send this to your department and send it to your department via a departmental listserv. Being able to click to link via email is our best bet.
   - Should run for about 2 weeks.
   - Spencer: We can bring this up to our college caucus? Yes.
   - VS: We have a question about whether folks are interested in a graduate student meal plan. We have no details. I am thinking of adding a question about how much they would be willing to pay?
   - Spencer: We can ask Andrew, perhaps?
   - Trea.: Can we look at meal plans online?
   - Berlanga: Look at the commuter plans?
b. Committee meetings
   - Please send me your attendance. Do not forget about your Dec. meeting.
C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
a. Still looking about financial documents to award awards to students. Legislation coming in January.
D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
a. Doodle poll for cabinet meetings: W, 2 pm
b. Doodle poll for general meetings: WTh, 6 pm
c. VS: Should we make the room reservations? Yes.
E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
a. No report.
F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
a. Coffee in Holcomb next Tuesday. Lunch on the 10th from Penguin Eds, also in Holcomb.
b. VS: Are we continuing to rotate between Gearhart and Holcomb? Yes.
c. Speaker: We can do coffee without donuts in Mullins.
H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
a. Selig and I are presenting on RAG’s trip to LR at Senate tonight and GSC next week.
b. Hoping for press on the student debt event.
c. I was in DC last week for an unrelated trip; looking forward to our trip in the spring.

I. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga-Medina (1 minute)
a. Next Monday P&P is meeting. If anyone needs help with legislation, we are open. Not a lot of projects going on, other than streamlining standing rules.

J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
a. No report.

K. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
a. No report.

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. Speaker: Questions?
2. VS: I will wait for the rewrite. I know Koski knows about this, and you talked to the provost?
3. Speaker: We talked to the Provost and a Vice Provost with Admissions.
4. VS: Is there any funding for this?
5. Speaker: the overwhelming message from both meetings is the tiered discount mechanism is a non-starter. That will be removed, and we will focus on in-state tuition. Additionally, we will further differentiate our legislation from undergraduate legislation.
6. VS: So this would allow grad students from neighboring states to get in-state.
7. Speaker: Yes.
8. Gall: Has he thought about funding?
9. Speaker: I was unable to attend the meeting with the treasurer, but we are talking to administration.
10. Cantu: Item f on page 3 says that the award will be given if someone has declared to pursue an interdisciplinary program, but could take all coursework in a different program and switch at the last minute. We are worried this could be taken care of.
11. Speaker: We will fix it. In addition, Koski told me that individual departments give in-state tuition waivers.
12. VS: But this would still only focus on nearby states, not all graduate students? Yes.
13. Gilley: If you’re seeking a degree not in your state, you get in-state?
15. Spencer: From a policy perspective, this is a hard budget sale for this year.

VIII. New Business
A. GSC Resolution 7: A Resolution to Commend Interim Chancellor Daniel E. Ferritior for his Service as Interim Chancellor and Thank him for his Support of Graduate and Professional Students: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. No questions or concerns.
   2. Gall: Any interest in sending this to Senate? Tonight is their last meeting of the semester.
   3. Trea: Move to send to second reading with the recommendation of pass. seconded. No objection.
B. GSC Resolution 8: A Resolution to Welcome Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. Gall: Will these be sent to both of them? Yes.
C. ASG Joint Bill 3: The Adoption of the Old Main Oath Act of 2015: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
   1. Speaker: WE have two changes pending. Line 35, change to “seeking participation in this community.” Line 37, “to seek knowledge.”
   2. VS: What is happening with this?
   3. Speaker: This will be the official university creed, because we are one of the only SEC schools that does not have one.
   4. VS: But what do we do with it?
   5. Gall: So this will be ASG formally adopting the oath. It will be presented as a referendum in the spring.
   6. Speaker: And once that happens, we are looking at a plaque at Old Main. At the end of a freshman event, they will recite the Old Main Oath (then call the hogs). The point of this, and any campus creed, is to spell out what it means to be a member of this community.
   7. Newsome: On lines 35-36, should there be an article before each adjective? We need to get rid of “a” and “an” in lines 35 and 36.
8. Spencer: I appreciate that diversity is included. So did Dr. Hodges.
9. Speaker: Other questions or comments?

D. ASG Joint Bill 4: The ASG Presidential Empowerment Act of 2015: Secretary Mark Nabors (15 minutes)
1. Sec.: Currently, the Constitution and Code force the ASG President to sign or veto all legislative acts. Sometimes, the President is forced to decide whether to sign or veto something they fundamentally disagree with—perhaps they have a values conflict. If they veto it, they will cause a political conflict, but if they sign it, they are not being true to their values. Both the national and state levels have mechanisms whereby the executive may not sign or veto the legislation, and if they legislature is in session, the legislation becomes law after a certain time without their signature. This bill does that. If after 6 calendar days, the ASG President decides to neither sign nor veto the legislation, it would become law without his signature. If this is passed by GSC and the Senate, it will go to students for a vote in the spring.
2. Questions/comments/concerns/edits?

E. ASG Joint Bill 5: Transfer of Law School from Senate to Graduate Student Congress Act of 2015: Senator Christina Cole (15 minutes)
1. Speaker: Since Christina isn’t here, I will give authorship. When the GSC was being formed, the law school was invited to join GSC. At that time, the law school chose to stay with the senate. After a year of the two branches in action, we were approached at the ASG retreat by Sen. Cole about the possibility of moving to GSC instead. They feel the issues GSC is working on are more closely aligned with their needs. We said yes, but they have done the heavy lifting. The dean and administration at the law school are on board. Both President Bone and the Chair of Senate are on board. This legislation, if approved, will be sent to the students via referendum in the spring.
2. VS: And it will change our proportions? Yes. But those are in our standing rules. Assuming this passes, we can stand that via legislation.
3. Speaker: This does not add seats to GSC. At a later date, we can make decisions about seat allocations. Currently 35/50
are by college enrollment, and 15 are at large. We can change that proportion. Questions?


5. **Recommendation: Pass.**

F. GSC Resolution 9: Graduate Veteran’s Tuition Fellowship:
Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)

1. Speaker: In order to attract more veterans, we are asking two things: (1) to waive the application for graduates and undergraduates.

2. Speaker: Move to amend: “Waive the application fee for all students of veteran status.” No objection.

3. Speaker 2: Issue 2: Veterans come in with the GI bill, but it is only good for a certain period. So a lot of veterans run out of GI money before attaining a degree. This would reduce tuition and give a partial or full fellowship.

4. Gall: Is it specified above that funding refers to GI bill? That should be clarified.

5. VS: Move to include “GI Bill” on line 79 with registered trademark logo. No objection.

6. Trea: Move to change assistance to funding. No objection.

7. Wangler: For item 1, if waiving the application fee is too much money to waive for all of them, we could credit it to the isis account if they are accepted and choose to attend.

8. Gall: Because this refers to undergraduate students, should it be a joint resolution? Yes. It would also need a co-author. The title is also specific to graduates, so we can remove undergraduates?

9. Gall: Is there a reason that this must be passed by Senate tonight? Yes, because we want it on Steinmetz’s desk by January 1.

10. Trea: I don’t think we should send something to Steinmetz that will later cause an internal problem. We could keep this as a graduate resolution, and encourage Senate to follow suit.

11. Speaker: Three options: Pass as is and hope we do not upset the Senate, remove all references to undergraduates, or refer to committee and rewrite is as a joint resolution for January.

12. Newsome: Move to amend to remove references to undergraduates in lines 72 and to specify graduate and professional students in line 74. Seconded. The motion carries 7-2-1.

13. Sec: If a student doesn’t finish the program in time? The departments and administration will place limitations.


15. **Recommendation: Pass.**
IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)
   A. None.

X. Announcements
   A. GSC Meeting: Thursday, 10 December, Grad Ed Auditorium
   B. State of Students’ Address, 1 December, 6-7 pm.
   C. Grad Coffee and Lunch next week.
   D. Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 pm-12 am. All-ASG study break with cookies
      and coffees for students preparing for finals.
   E. Holiday party, Dec. 8, 7 pm at U.S. Pizza. RSVP to Morgan Farmer.
      Theme: Ugly Christmas clothing.
   F. The Union will be closed over break, Dec. 19-Jan. 10. All computers
      will be shut down. They are doing a major electrical upgrade.
   G. Have a safe winter break!

XI. Adjourn at 12:21 PM, 0:51:09 meeting run time.