



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

January 27, 2016
Graduate Education Building
Auditorium
6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order at 6:17 pm
- II. Attendance
 - A. 27/35 in attendance; quorum met.
- III. Approve Minutes, Dec. 10 General Meeting
 - A. No objections.
- IV. Approve Agenda
 - A. No objections.
- V. Special Orders
 - A. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
 1. No report.
 - B. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
 1. Welcome back.
 - C. COEHP caucus report: Feraro and Kimbrough (3 minutes)
 1. We met with Dean Tom Smith on Jan. 25. He had heard of the GSC, but he did not know exactly what we did, so we informed him. We also told him that the college has a caucus, which he was not aware of. We brought bike lanes, travel funding childcare scholarships, child-friendly space, graduate student housing concerns, and more scholarship awards and assistantships, and open up UREC access for partners and family members. We also discussed the availability of courses on blackboard as we go through our courses of study (instead of disappearing at semester). We discussed travel funds for COEHP students and UREC memberships. We are looking to potentially collaborate with Bumpers for a child-friendly study space at the Jean Tyson center.

2. Next steps: We will look into a possible collaboration with Bumpers. The Deans of the colleges will be in touch. We will also be in touch with the head of UREC.
 3. Move to extend by 2 minutes. No objections.
 4. We will also contact the Tyson center about possible scholarships. We will also be conducting a peer analysis for student parents.
 5. We will have an interim Dean, which will be announced this spring. Stacy and I will be getting together with Smith and the interim to continue communication.
- D. ASG Chief of Staff Elizabeth Pittman (1 minute)
1. I wanted to let you know that we have 2 open positions: the director of academic affairs and the director of parking and transit. I want to extend the invitation to application to graduate students. Please help me get the word out. Applications are on asgforms.uark.edu.

VI. Reports

A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)

1. Blackboard
 - a. The blackboard site is up and populated with our representatives. If there is content you would like to see, let us know. Lisnic will be organizing some things for her committee.
 - b. One of the things on blackboard is the raw data from the grad student survey. You are welcome to go through that. I would ask everyone not to share that information until we have parsed it.
2. Vacancies
 - a. That application closed today. We had 2 applicants out of 16 vacancies. We need to do a better job at recruiting folks.
 - b. Feraro: Where are they from?
 - i. Speaker: We don't know. Vacancies are always at-large, so regardless of their college they will be considered at-large.
3. Homecoming Committee
 - a. Morgan Farmer, the ASG VP, is trying to put together a committee of folks to look at the process used to select homecoming court. They would like a grad student on that committee so the court can reflect the entirety of the student body. This will be a monthly obligation.
4. NAGPS
 - a. LAD

- i. Mar. 12-15 in Washington, DC. We will fund 2 people to go and meet with our delegation. Neither Rachel nor I can go, so we will need 2 volunteers. We are looking to give preference to those interested in taking over the legislative role, as Rachel is graduating. If you're interested, let me know by the end of the week.
 - b. Regional Meeting
 - i. The last weekend in April at Mizzou. We will take a vanload up there. Let me know if you're interested in going. If you're interested in serving with NAGPS, go to this.
 - c. NAGPS Institute
 - i. This will be on the NAGPS website. This will be a repository of data from different universities. So its data we can use to benchmark. We will also have best practices videos and documents. This will be up by the end of the year.
- 5. Succession Planning/Transition #tothefinish
 - a. This is our first meeting of the semester, but we are $\frac{2}{3}$ through our year.
 - b. Move to extend time by 2 minutes. No objections.
 - c. We need to begin thinking about succession planning-who is interested in stepping into roles, etc. Start thinking about what positions you may like to stand for next year.
- B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (5 minutes)
 - 1. There is a class in here on Wednesdays, so we were a little late. Sorry about that.
 - 2. Grad Student Survey
 - a. These are some highlights from the survey. The results are on blackboard. Please use this when writing legislation. If you would like more detail, ask Mark to get those numbers for you.
 - b. Here is our breakdown.
 - c. About half of respondents wanted more campus housing. Most people feel safe on campus. More people think there should be more crosswalks; everyone agrees with Arkansas Ave. crosswalks. We need more affordable parking. Most people recycle. Most people feel they have access to what they need at the library. About 60% do not believe their stipend reflects their workload. As a followup, most people said they actually worked more than 20 hours. Most

people do not have access to affordable healthcare or affordable health insurance.

- d. Move to extend time by 2 minutes. No objections.
 - e. Most people aware of GSC, but most do not want to run for office.
 - f. You can access all of this; read the comments.
3. Committee meetings
- a. Send me your attendance and don't forget to meet.
- C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
- 1. No report.
- D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
- 1. Office hours for the spring semester.
- E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
- a. No report.
- F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
- a. No report.
- G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
- a. 2 February events. Our grad appreciation lunch is Feb. 15 in the grad student lounge in Ozark. Coffee and donuts on Feb. 16.
- H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
- a. Rachel is on her way to KY for a conference. She sent her report.
 - b. Leding was pleased with the student debt event and we are talking about another event with universities in central AR. We are putting together a report card for legislators on student issues with RAG. We will have a grad student advocacy trip to Little Rock. We also need a couple of volunteers for the LAD event in DC. Please reach out to me if you're interested in this position next year.
 - c. We are also looking for a point person for sustainability issues to work with Rachel.
- I. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga Medina (1 minute)
- a. If you need help with legislation, let me or the P&P committee know.
- J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
- a. I scheduled the meetings for this semester. We are excited to work together on projects related to family leave and childcare. We will put together our progress report.
- K. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
- a. No report.

VII. Old Business

- A. Nomination: Michelle King: Academic Integrity Board (15 minutes)
 - a. **Cabinet recommendation: Confirm**

- b. Speaker: This position is a dedicated position from the Office of Academic Integrity. Dr. Karen Hodges has nominated Michelle King. Michelle spoke to the cabinet meeting, and we have given a unanimous vote to confirm her. We will vote as a body today. Unfortunately she could not make the meeting tonight.
 - c. Wesolowski: Why was she unanimously recommended.
 - i. Trea: She is with the academic integrity office now; she was very qualified.
 - d. Speaker: We will now move to a period of voting.
 - e. Final vote: 96%-0%-4%**
 - f. Nominee confirmed.**
- B. GSC Bill 4: A Bill to Establish the Razorgrad Representative Recruitment (R3) Program: Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)
- a. Cabinet recommendation: Pass as amended**
 - b. Jeter: Acculturation. How can we recruit more people to GSC. Who are the undergrads here tonight? These are people who are potentially our future with institutional knowledge and administrative experience. The one advantage of this is to increase the student voice by drawing in those interested in participating in GSC.
 - c. Burbridge: Under the eligibility section, it says you can do this if you have completed one year of student gov't here or another instituion. How do we verify that?
 - d. Jeter: my guess is we would have to go through administrative channels via the OSA.
 - e. Gall: It woud be quite easy to contact the school's adviser.
 - f. Burbridge: Again under eligibility, the GSC will extend an invitation of automatic participation. How are we targeting people for this body?
 - g. Jeter: Yes, we would be marketing--extending that invitation to those who have one year.
 - h. Speaker: This would be discussed on social media and the graduate student orientation. But we are not going to go through the student body and send invitations.
 - i. Jeter: This is somewhat like the associate member program.
 - j. President Bone: That's just a way to get involved without having to be appointed or elected, particularly transfer students.
 - k. Treat: Did we consider counting other types of experience?
 - l. Jeter: We had not considered that, but that seems to be a possibility.
 - m. Speaker: It could be added by amendment. This is one of the bills we set last summer. At that time we only considered

ASG here. We decided it would be wise to expand that to all undergraduate student gov'ts.

- n. McMillian: But first year students can still run?
- o. Speaker: Yes. These would be folks who missed that or weren't real sure they could pull it off.
- p. Move to extend by 2 minutes. No objections.
- q. Speaker: So they may not want to commit to a full voting seat, but they want to see what we are about.
- r. Jeter: Sec 3(A) says that if vacancies do occur, they can run for an elective office--move from affiliate to full.
- s. Wesolowski: In Sec 2(B)(4), can't anyone be an author of a bill or resolution as long as they have a co-sponsor? Anyone can be a sole author with a sponsor?
- t. Move to extend by 2 minutes. No objections.
- u. Wesolowski: Move to amend: strike lines 55-56. Seconded. No objections.
- v. Speaker: We will now move into a period of debate.
- w. We will now move into a period of voting.
- x. **The Bill passes: 81%-4%-15%**

VIII. New Business

- A. Committee Appointments: ASG Vice President Morgan Farmer (15 minutes)
 - a. Vice President Morgan Farmer: Part of my duties as VP is to fill university-wide committees. These people applied and I place them. They are then approved by this body, the Senate, and the Vice Provost. This is the second round. The highlighted ones are the new ones.
 - b. Speaker: Any questions?
- B. Office of Financial Affairs Standing Rules: ASG Treasurer Ray Todd (15 minutes)
 - a. ASG Treasurer Ray Todd: There are a few changes that were made at the end of last semester. Line 42-43 says we will not accept budgets over the summer. We have a lot of problems with deadlines being extended over spring break. Lines 82-83: pre-event consultation meetings must be submitted in email two days before the meeting. We updated the process to reflect current realities. We also added additional guidelines. There are rare occurrences where student groups will request tools for an event. This explains that if you are approved for something, this says that is the property of OSA. All guest speakers without a ssn are subject to a delayed payment and a 30% tax reduction.
 - b. Burbridge: Why can't organizations get funding for a summer event or conference?

- c. Todd: The board doesn't meet over the summer, so we couldn't be here to get those events approved.
 - d. Speaker: Could they apply for summer funding before the last meeting in the spring?
 - e. Gall: An RSO can receive summer funding, but they have to apply in the spring. They just can't submit budgets in the summer.
 - f. Wesolowski: Can you provide us a version of this showing what has been stricken?
 - g. Vallowe: Is there an application process for an RSO to get non-perishable supplies later? Where do those go?
 - h. Todd: That is being discussed at the staff level now. That should be happening, but since we don't get a lot of requests it has been on the back burner.
 - i. Sec: That applies to all international speakers or undocumented speakers?
 - j. Gall: That's basically right. Those speakers without SSN or ITIN, they are subject to that. But without that number, the payment cannot be processed via BASIS.
- C. Nomination: ASGJ Justice Nominee Cory English: ASG President Tanner Bone (15 minutes)
- a. ASG President Tanner Bone: Over break we had an associate justice graduate early. I have nominated Cory English, a sophomore from Little Rock on the pre-med track. He has experience on the traffic appeals committee. He is part of the Pre-Med society here. We are trying to get some younger justices who will be around for a full term.
 - b. English: I'm Cory English, I'm a sophomore from LR. I'm very open minded, and I think my experience make me a good candidate for the job, particularly my experience on the traffic appeals board. I understand the need to be unbiased, impartial, and confidential. I also volunteer for medical associations, and confidentiality is a big deal there. I'll use my critical thinking skills to come to logical, fact-based, and unbiased decisions.
 - c. Jeter: I ask all nominees this. If, for some reason, an issue comes up for you that will impact graduate students and their concerns, and you may not have full information, how willing are you to be educated about these issues?
 - d. English: I would be very willing and openminded to look at other individuals who are more educated, and the C&C.
 - e. Move to suspend the rules and move to second reading. Seconded. No objections.
 - f. Speaker: Any questions?

- g. Lisnic: Can you think of an example of a student issue that doesn't impact undergrads but does affect grad students.
- h. English: Obviously graduate stipends. Office space allocation for graduate students.
- i. Speaker: We will now move into a period of debate.
- j. Sec: I'll debate in favor. I'm very impressed with Mr. English's credentials. I know he will make a good justice.
- k. Justice Confirmed: 92%-0%-8%**

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- A. Is there anyone who wishes to make a public comment?
- B. Vallowe: We are having an interdisciplinary graduate student conference in March. Abstracts are due on Feb. 1. Our theme is borders, but we want to look at that at any way.
- C. Newsome: I have been approached by Rep. Sims to erect a statue of Senator Bumpers. Most college namesakes are honored in some way, but the Bumpers college doesn't have anything. If you are in the Bumpers college and you would like to work on this, let me or Jessie Sims know. We will have another college caucus meeting this semester.
- D. Speaker: Is that something you want to have as joint legislation with senate? Jace, could you send info. about your Bumpers senator?
- E. Jace: We just have one now. I personally love that idea.
- F. Gilley: The engineering caucus is holding a lunch with GSC for all engineering grad students. We would like 2-3 volunteers to help us talk with them, because there aren't enough of us to cover everyone. It will be Feb. 3 from 12-1 on the fourth floor of Bell in the Civil Engineering Lounge. pgilley@uark.edu.

X. Announcements

- A. Next GSC Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 25, 6 PM. There is not a class in the auditorium, so we will get in at our normal time.

XI. Adjourn at 7:25 pm.