



Graduate Student Congress
Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

MINUTES

January 20, 2016
AU 640
2:00 PM

- I. Call to Order at 2:00 PM.
- II. Attendance
 - A. All present.
- III. Approve Minutes, Dec. 1 Executive Cabinet Meeting
 - A. No objection.
- IV. Approve Agenda
 - A. Changes made without objection.
- V. Special Orders
 - A. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
 1. Thank you to all who helped with orientation last week. It went really well.
 2. The Grad school is proposing something to help active grad students who are no longer enrolled in hours, but are still planning to graduate. Email questions to Dr. Koski or Scout.
 3. Scout: the basic purpose is that folks who need to take a lead of absence can enroll in a one-credit hour course that would still give them access to university resources. They anticipate this will be used in a limited way. But if we keep them enrolled in this way, they will be more likely to return and finish their degree.
 4. Guinn: Limited to one semester?
 5. Speaker: They have not set the time limit yet.
 6. Cantu: The intention is a limited number of students for a limited number of semesters.
 7. Speaker: For degree-seeking students only.
 8. Thote: Fees associated that we should mention?
 9. Speaker: That concern has been brought up. We pointed out that tuition is not often the killer, but the fees. They are

trying to make it to where the student only pays \$50. The course is a credit-bearing course (i.e. pass/fail).

10. Gilley: Any coursework?
11. Speaker: No.
12. Berlanga Medina: The point is to keep people attached to the university.
13. Trea.: And to give folks access to materials.
14. Speaker: Designed for folks who need a leave of absence for a family/medical reason. Would not apply to ABD students.
15. Gall: What is need of GSC moving forward?
16. Speaker: Just be aware. They will seek our input.
17. Wangler: How will it be advertised?
18. Cantu: I'll find out the answer.
19. Ward: It might be something departments would know about.
20. CANTU: It would have to be in the catalog.
21. Speaker: Advisers have to request the leave of absence.

B. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)

1. Welcome back.
2. The executive cabinet in ASG has two positions open: the director of academic affairs and of parking and transit. Applications are currently open on asgforms.uark.edu. They can talk to Elizabeth Pittman, the chief of staff.
3. Vacancy applications are open now.
4. Speaker: Is everything okay with the previous academic director?
5. Gall: Yes, they just had other opportunities.

VI. Reports

A. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)

- a. Chancellor Steinmetz
 - i. Sent a nice note to use regarding the resolution of welcome.
- b. The associate dean of students Lander is doing a listening tour. She has been invited to our meetings in February.
- c. Blackboard
 - i. You are all in there. A couple of people have accessed it. Double check that. We need to start adding discussion forums, etc.
- d. Vacancies
 - i. The application is live now, and must be turned in Jan. 27 at noon, the day of our meeting.
 - ii. One student reached out to me, and sent him to Philip.
 - iii. Gilley: He is added to our email list.

- iv. Speaker: Make sure he gets an application.
- v. We currently have 16 vacancies. We dropped 5 reps for non-attendance after last semester. Rep. Howard resigned because he is moving to a PhD program.
- vi. Wangler: Don't forget that potential candidates have to do the online quiz or go to the orientation session.
- e. NAGPS
 - i. The in-person board meeting in Dallas was just held. The meeting was productive. We will be putting in a bid for the leadership summit, a national meeting over the summer focused on student leadership.
 - ii. The regional conference will be hosted by Missouri, the last weekend in April. We need to look at allocating funds for that.
 - iii. We have been working on the NAGPS Institute. This will be (1) a repository of data for data-driven advocacy and (2) a best practices repository.
 - iv. Move to extend the speaker's time by 2 minutes. No opposition.
 - v. That will be up this year. The survey we did will be added to that repository.
- f. Academic Integrity Board
 - i. Dr. Hodges forwarded a vacancy to the board. She has a nominee, and I see no reason why we shouldn't approve her.
- g. Link of grad school/activities
 - i. On the grad school website, there is a link to GSC, but it goes to a dead page.
- h. Forrest: Did they put anything on the homepage for Koski's listserve?
 - i. Cantu: I'll check.
- B. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)
 - a. Grad Student Survey
 - i. 337 responses. Only 283 actually completed the entire survey. Mark has helped me compile the preliminary results. What I post to blackboard will be simple responses to questions. You'll also be able to read responses.
 - ii. If you are working on a particular issue (e.g. office space), Mark can run the data for you. If you're working on legislation for specific numbers, let us know.
 - iii. Are there specific questions you want me to cover in the meeting?

1. Speaker: I might see how well our goals for this year line up with the concerns of grad students. How do students rank the concerns versus our goals.
 2. Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
 3. VS: parking was a big issue, as well.
 4. Newsome: Are we wanting to share this with anyone?
 5. VS: We can do that, yes. I can't do that myself.
 6. Speaker: Yes, share with constituents and admin.
 7. Wangler: If you post responses, tie in legislation.
 8. Trea: And add the rest of the meetings.
 9. VS: and read the comment. Someone suggested for example, having a card reader at the mullins study space.
 10. Move to extend the speaker's time. No opposition.
 11. VS: We also got several good law student comments.
 12. Send excel sheet to everyone as a pdf.
- b. Committee meetings
- i. Time to meet soon to address these survey ideas. Please meet next week or the following week. Or at least 2 meetings in Feb.
- C. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
- a. The finance committee is on pace for travel grant. Ruby put together a great awards application document. They should be done in February.
- D. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
- a. Membership update
 - b. Office hours
 - c. Update on tuition for dual-degree seeking students
- E. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
- a. If you want something posted to social media let me know.
 - b. VS: Post info about vacancies.
- F. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
- a. Not much. But I'm excited about the survey results.
 - b. Trea: Can you get an email through ISS about vacancies?
Yes.
- G. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
- a. No January event.
 - b. February events are being finished.
 - c. Feb. 15 for lunch, Feb. 16 for breakfast (tentative)

- H. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
 - a. I am graduating this semester, so I am in legacy mode. I am also trying to complete this year's policy goals. We are taking a grad student trip to Little Rock, and creating a legislative honor roll through RAG.
 - b. Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
 - c. NAGPS legislative action day. Neither Scout nor I can go to that, so we will try to recruit some reps who have been active in these roles so far. March 12-15.
- I. Parliamentarian, Frank Berlanga Medina (1 minute)
 - a. We are having meeting conflicts, but we are working that out.
- J. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
 - a. I am also having trouble with meeting times. We probably won't have a meeting in January.
 - b. We have been working on a family leave proposal. We have narrowed down that proposal to unpaid leave for 6 weeks, with the option to extend for 12 weeks.
 - c. Move to extend speaker's time. No opposition.
 - d. No readmission would be needed and the assistantship would still be there. We have contacted an HR expert for staff and faculty, but have not got a response yet. Who should I contact?
 - e. Cantu: Email Dr. Koski and ask.
 - f. Lisnic: We were also thinking it should be a comprehensive policy. We wanted a policy for everything, e.g. a sick parent, parental leave, etc. Non gender specific.
- K. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
 - a. Trying to do a meeting next week, but we will see from there. We have talked about office space. Hopefully there are some more ideas in the survey. But office space is a hard issue because it is run by department.
 - b. On housing, we have been working with small independent renters for discounts for grad students.
 - c. VS: If you need someone to go off on your committee for not responding, let me know.

VII. Old Business

- A. GSC Bill 4: A Bill to Establish the Razorgrad Representative Recruitment (R3) Program: Representative Garrett Jeter (15 minutes)
 - a. Speaker: I apologize this got to you late. I believe this is a much stronger and cleaner version of what he sent last time that actually does what we want it to do.

- b. Speaker: Seeing no further comment, do we have an approval.
- c. Trea: Move to recommend passage. Opposition.
- d. Nabors: The runaround elections is troubling, particularly since there are so many..
- e. Amendment: Move to strike Section II, III, b. No opposition.
- f. Speaker: I will now entertain a recommendation.
- g. VS: I recommend pass. Seconded. No opposition.
- h. The Bill will be sent to the Body with a recommendation of pass as amended.**

VIII. New Business

A. Michele King: Dr. Hodge's candidate for the Academic Integrity Board.

- a. I am a grad assistant and an intern in the office of academic integrity. Pursuing a master's in higher ed and student affairs, I am trying to get a feel of different areas of campus. Dr. Hodges felt that this would be a good way to get acquainted with sanctions.
- b. In terms of qualifications, I do not have too much experience. But I think this will be good exposure.
- c. Speaker: As I understand it, there's an opening because of a class conflict. But you can make all the meetings? Yes.
- d. Speaker: We will give a report on your behalf at our meeting next Wednesday.
- e. Before returning to reports, I will entertain a motion for a recommendation.
- f. Move to recommend approval. Seconded. No opposition.
- g. The candidate will be recommended for approval before the body.**

B. Succession Planning

- a. We need to start thinking about who will be filling your roles next year. Start identifying people, talking to people about next year.
- b. You also need to start thinking about transition. Mark will post transition documents to blackboard. Include what you did, challenges you faced, contacts you have, ideas to improve the position, etc.

IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)

X. Announcements

A. GSC Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 6:00 PM Grad Ed Auditorium

- a. We hope to start closer to 6:00. Food there at 5:45 PM.

- B. Paperwork for newswire, there may be some things delayed. Ms. Rosa is out for a couple of weeks.
- C. Vacancy elections: Judicial did pass electronic expenditure reports for those with 5 or fewer receipts.
- D. GPSAW: 4-8 April. Do we have our banner? Gall will look into that.

XI. Adjourn at 3:05 PM.