

**Graduate Student Congress**

Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

**MINUTES**

**April 13, 2016**

**AU 604**

**2:00 PM**

1. Call to Order at 2:00 PM.
2. Attendance
   1. Quorum met.
3. Approve Minutes, Mar. 16 Executive Cabinet Meeting
   1. No objections.
4. Approve Agenda
   1. No objections.
5. Special Orders
6. Adviser Amanda Cantu (3 minutes)
   1. Let Amanda know of any events we want advertised in the hallway monitor.
7. ASG Adviser Rainer Gall (3 minutes)
   1. As Scout and others know, we are interviewing candidates for my permanent replacement. Inauguration is Dead Day for new elected administration, including new GSC reps.
8. Reports
9. Speaker Scout Johnson (5 minutes)
   1. End of Year Reports
      1. I will get those to you soon. The object is to delineate what you have done this year for the person who will follow you.
   2. Dead Day
      1. Inauguration for all newly elected, as well as graduating, members. It will be at 11 am in the Union Theatre. Dress is business. Food will be provided.
   3. I met with Dean Koski, Amanda, and Rainer yesterday. There are some changes the graduate school is making to better serve graduate students. Example: If there are 2 qualified candidates for an assistantship, they will offer to both, and the provost will pick up the cost for the first year. They are also going to roll out summer stipends for PhD students only for research. I asked what the process would be to get one, and they haven’t worked that out yet. There will also be a one year stipend to finish dissertations, in the event a student loses an assistantship.
      1. VS: Do we know how many they will offer? No, it’s all new. The only one that is final is the 2 candidates per one assistantship.
      2. Sec: Rumors about preventing master’s students from teaching. Haven’t heard about that. Amanda will check in about that.
10. Social Chair, Jessica Guinn (1 minute)
    1. Coffee and Donuts is Tuesday, Apr. 19 from 8:30-10. On Apr. 20, we will have lunch from 11:30 to 1; we will have Flying Burrito. Both events are in Ozark. Also working on the End of the Year Cookout on the day after Dead Day. Still working out details concerning venue.
11. Vice Speaker Madeleine Forrest (3 minutes)
    1. If you’re interested in attending these presentations, there are two more: one tomorrow and one Friday. We would love to have more people--they don’t take more than an hour.
    2. Networking Etiquette event: We have finalized everything. It will be Tuesday, Apr 26 from 5-6:30 in Ozark Hall. All the information will be sent to Jade to send out.
       1. The first part will be in Ozark 102--a general presentation.
       2. The last 30 minutes is interactive to practice; that part will be in the Lounge with appetizers.
       3. Ward suggested business attire? Thoughts? Networking and Interview etiquette.
          1. Newsome: I would say business attire suggested. So they can still come even if they don’t have time.
       4. VS: And what is the policy for putting flyers on campus?
          1. Rainer: Managed by building--so it differs. Once we approve copies, we can deliver them all over campus.
          2. Speaker: And send a copy to Amanda to put on the screen.
       5. Spread the word: Room for 50-60 people. Share it on Facebook.
12. Treasurer Arley Ward (1 minute)
    1. We have completed the first process for graduate student congress awards.
       1. Marino Award: Joseph Daniels, president of BGSA and an engineering student.
       2. Faculty: Dr. Lisa Corrigan
       3. Administrative: Dr. Koski
       4. Staff: Amanda Cantu
       5. Research: Chang Yang Lai from Computer Engineering.
       6. Public Official: Mayor Jordan
       7. Legislative: Rep. Greg Ledding
       8. Outreach: Treasurer Ward
          1. I did not nominate myself. One of the committee members asked if I should have removed myself from the running or committee; I did not because the legislation says you only have to recuse if you nominate. Moreover, that was the only nomination. I consulted with Scout and we left that as it was.
    2. These will be presented Thursday.
    3. Cantu: A Newswire article might be good publicity.
    4. Spencer: Make a Twitter announcement about it.
13. Secretary Mark Nabors (1 minute)
    1. Putting things on Gizmo (I promise).
14. External Relations and Marketing Chair, Jade Newsome (1 minute)
    1. No report.
15. International Concerns Chair, Supriya Thote (1 minute)
    1. Absent.
16. Legislative Affairs Director, Rachel Spencer (1 minute)
    1. Our Higher Education Honor Roll is about to come out. It will look really good. Rep. Ledding is on it. That has been the big wrap-up project for the year. The legislature is convening now for the budget session. I will send this out to you all once it is finalized.
17. Parliamentarian, Frankc Berlanga-Medina (1 minute)
    1. We had our final meeting on Thursday. I was made aware that we missed some things, but if anyone has any legislation or they think it should be included in our report, please send those my way electronically.
18. Graduate Student Life Committee Chair, Rodica Lisnic (1 minute)
    1. No report.
19. Facilities Committee Chair, Philip Gilley (1 minute)
    1. Our committee did meet. Earlier today, I met with Dead Lander to discuss graduate student housing. I have a contact in Off Campus Connections to find some partners. I also got a good direction for a project next semester concerning office space. We are going to try to create a meeting space for TAs that can be subdivided into smaller units. This space would be shared among graduate students--that was the suggestion.
       1. VS: Why does office space sound bad?
       2. Speaker: Do we know what our needs are? I.e., how many GAs/TAs reasonably need an office vs. those who actually have an office. Gilley: I don’t know that we have all that information--and different departments will have different needs. This is something the Facilities Committee will have to focus on next year.
       3. Speaker: Is it your intention to be involved in that process? Gilley: I will not hold the chair, but am willing to stay on the committee. I am graduating in Dec.
          1. Speaker: I would suggest adding that to your end of the Year report.
       4. Trea: This is a great way to make those awards work for us--i.e., a civic ally of the year award.
    2. Gilley: In addition, I have contacted the liaison to parking, and he will be bringing the idea for an evening parking pass up to the director of parking.
20. Old Business
21. New Business
    1. ASG Joint Bill 7: The Election Reform Act of 2016: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
       1. Send to Committee at the end of the last meeting because there wasn’t enough time last meeting.
       2. Parliamentary question: Since this wasn’t taken up by the committee, what is our parliamentary responsibility?
          1. Parliamentarian: Since the committee never received it, it is Cabinet’s.
       3. Speaker: We know that some of the election rules, though they make sense, have turned into more of a gatekeeper than actually fulfilling their intended promise. The purpose of the quiz is to make candidates aware of rules; however, we know that violations still occur, and that all the answers are A. It is not serving its intended purpose. The other piece that has become a roadblock is the expense report. While we recognize that financial accountability is important, from our standpoint, in GSC elections not a single penny has been spent. So it has become a roadblock instead of an accountability mechanism. And these rules affect new people more--which hurts our diversity. So this is going to change those rules.
       4. The Candidate Orientation and Quiz is optional. The deadline for expense reports is extended (they can turn it in earlier or later).
       5. Trea: This is with the understanding that if you break it you’re disqualified.
          1. Speaker: You’re not automatically disqualified, but if you make an ethical violation, you will be disqualified. So we are going to stop disqualifying otherwise disqualified candidates over paperwork.
       6. Gilley: How possible or likely could we make it to where you don’t have to submit a form if you don’t spend money?
          1. VS: Because they don’t know you didn’t spend anything?
          2. Speaker: If you wanted to suggest that as an amendment, you can. I think we need that small level of accountability. If that is part of the application process itself--as opposed to a separate part. I personally think we need that piece of paper that says no.
       7. Gall: There are a couple of thoughts: Is it your intention to also remove candidate orientation for executive officer elections. I would ask that you review that. If you want to keep it for those elections--be sure to amend that. And secondly, how much consultation was there? Zero. Senate voted on this last night. There was argument both ways? Jace made himself a cosponsor. So consult with Senate.
          1. Speaker: We have had conversations with the Senate.
       8. VS: Section 7 (C) (3): What if it has never been turned in? And if it is never turned in, can they disqualify?
       9. Newsome: How will the 10-day timely affect how we judge how many people are elected?
          1. Speaker: No. They will announce the winner as always. They go away after 10 days. So that won’t impact inauguration.
       10. Gilley: So what’s the point of that line--Section 7(C)(2)?
           1. That happens during fall and spring vacancy?
       11. Trea: To me, it seems like it might be easier to modify the application.
           1. Speaker: So you’re moving to amend the bill in what section?
           2. Section 5(C)(b): Moved and seconded.
           3. Gilley: I don’t understand making them decline taking the quiz. Trea: This is to get it through Senate.
           4. No opposition to approving the amendment.
       12. Gilley: Move to amend section 7 to clarify that they will not have to fill out the expenditure form if they opted out.
           1. VS: the problem the way it is worded on the application, which we don’t have control over.
           2. Speaker: We can work with J on that.
           3. Parliamentarian: Point of Information: The formatting is inconsistent.
       13. Trea: Move to amend. Sec: Move to amend the amendment. Seconded. No objection.
       14. Sec: It’s not a perfect, but maybe it will help.
       15. No opposition to passing the bill. Recommend passage.
    2. OFA Standing Rules: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
       1. Sec: Lines 65-69 are problematic for graduate student events. Any event with spouses or children would be ticketed--and thus Grad Student RSOs would have to charge money for entry
          1. Sec: If we vote this down, but it was passed by Senate, it would be enacted because of proportional voting. But if we table the bill, it is dead.
       2. Trea: Motion to table. Seconded. No objection.
       3. Bill is tabled.
    3. GSC Resolution 10: A Resolution to Request the University of Arkansas’ Support in Establishing a Life Event and Medical Leave for Graduate Assistants: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
       1. Speaker: Most graduate students with fellowships do indeed have to work. Fellowships can only be given to graduate assistants.
       2. Lisnic: Basically, the issue is that there is no policy for graduate students who need a leave for family reasons/family care/etc. Staff and faculty have various policies, including FMLA, vacation and sick leave, but not for graduate assistants. This policy would only be for graduate assistants since they are employed by the institution. We didn’t want to leave it to the discretion to departments, because it could be implemented irregularly across the university.
       3. Speaker: move to amend. Seconded. No objections
       4. No further debate. Move to recommend passage. Seconded. No objections.
       5. Bill is recommended.
    4. ASG Joint Resolution 4: A Joint Resolution to Give Student Parents Priority Registration: Speaker Scout Johnson (15 minutes)
       1. Speaker: A resolution to allow student parents priority registration so they can better manage their time.
       2. Move to recommend passage. Seconded. No objection.
22. Public Comment (10 minutes)
23. Announcements
24. Final GSC Meeting: Thursday, April 21, 6:00 PM, Grad Ed Auditorium
    1. Inauguration of new members and election of officers. After we conclude the business portion, we will have food.
25. Spencer: Alonzo is leading efforts to create a campus polling place. She has met with the election commission--and I think it’s much more feasible since we have vote centers. That could be something to work on next year.
26. Lisnic: Garrett, Stacy, and I are meeting with Harwood-Rom to discuss graduate student food insecurity.
27. Adjourn at 3:14 PM. 1:12:43 run time.