



## **Graduate Student Council Meeting 2017**

Date: September 14, 2017

Time: 12:30pm to 01:30pm

Location: 8<sup>th</sup> floor Board room - Dean B. Ellis Library  
Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR 72401

Secretary: Sumon Roy

### **Minutes:**

**I. Call to Order:** President called the meeting at to order at 12:35PM CST.

### **II. Introductions**

- a. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked the officers and other attendees to briefly introduce themselves.

### **III. Welcome, Chancellor Damphousse!**

- a. Chancellor Damphousse introduced himself to the GSC meeting attendees. He briefly talked about his past education and professional life.
- b. Introduction to GSC – what we do as an organization:
  - i. We are the main support organization for graduate students at A-State, and advocate for the rights of all graduate students at A-State.
  - ii. We actively participate in Shared Governance Committees and other activities as representatives for the graduate student body.
  - iii. We promote outstanding leadership, academic achievement, and professional development among graduate students.
  - iv. We actively promote research at A-State by supporting students to present at national and international conferences through our travel fund.
  - v. We host an annual awards banquet in the spring where we provide awards for students and faculty mentors.
- c. Chancellor's ideas about the future of research and graduate studies at A-State
  - i. The Chancellor explained the current situation in terms of graduate student recruitment and retention. He informed us that he is currently working toward modifying policies regarding in-state and out-of-state tuition for graduate students, as well as trying to achieve tuition waivers for more graduate students.
  - ii. He aims to address the issues of low pay and inconsistency with work load among graduate students (i.e., some students TA more classes than others, yet make the same pay).
  - iii. He has plans to reestablish the Graduate School with a Dean to oversee graduate programs and graduate student affairs.
  - iv. He explained that hiring more faculty members will help us become a stronger research university, since faculty members are currently overwhelmed by their teaching responsibilities. Adding more faculty will bring in more graduate students to help even out the TA responsibilities, and will benefit graduate students in other ways concerning funding and support.
  - v. The Chancellor encourages graduate students to respectfully voice their opinions

- to administrators in our own departments and colleges.
- vi. The Chancellor plans on trying to get money from other sources, including private industry, to help support research and graduate student pursuits at A-State.
  - vii. The GSC officers showed the Chancellor the existing budget and funding sources for GSC. He expressed interest in having a meeting with the GSC officers once a month to get connected with new ideas and possible solutions for issues regarding graduate students and research at A-State.

#### **IV. Reports**

- a. President's Report
  - i. Shared Governance Committee Representatives – appointment letter emails should be coming. Let us know if you do not get an email.
  - ii. GA Handbook
    - Hunter Sadler established the GA Handbook, and sent it for approval with the SGOC. SGOC did not approve it due to some of the language. Edits will be made to the document before it is resubmitted to the SGOC.
  - iii. College representatives still needed for Business, Education and Behavioral Science, and Nursing and Health Professions.
- b. Vice President's Report
  - i. The website has been updated to include the new officers' contact information, office hours, updated travel documents, and a list of representatives for the Shared Governance Committees.
  - ii. Request for photographs to add to the website.
  - iii. Any other website suggestions, contact Rokib.
- c. Treasurer's Report
  - i. The new travel fund applications have been posted on the website.
  - ii. We have seven applications that have been approved since July 1st.
- d. Committee Reports
  - i. None at this time.

#### **V. Open Floor – Any thoughts?**

- a. Khairul Islam (ex-Secretary of GSC) provided some suggestions for the Travel Award Application, including submission procedures aimed at making the application process easier so most of the students can get help from GSC.
- b. Robert talked about establishing a buddy system. In the event that an emergency happens to an international graduate student and they end up in the hospital, the GSC and/or international student associations can have a person go sit with the student and help them through the hospitalization process. There may be some HIPPA issues with this, since the student visitor will likely not be kin. Perhaps something to discuss with the international student organization(s)?
- c. Dr. Fowler added that we could include information on emergency services in some sort of handbook for international graduate students, so they know how to get help and who to go to when they need help.

#### **VI. End**

- Next meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Ellis Library.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM CST.