

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING – OCTOBER 19, 2011



GRADUATE
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COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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ladesta.mccann@smail.astate.edu
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thomas.henry@smail.astate.edu
VICE PRESIDENT

Audrey Wood
audrey.wood@mathstat.astate.edu
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jacob.sherry@smail.astate.edu
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amanda.morales@smail.astate.edu
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Venkatesh Patil
venkatesh.patil@smail.astate.edu
TRAVEL FUND ADMINISTRATOR

I. CALL TO ORDER

☞ *Meeting is called to order at 11:05am on Oct. 19, 2011.*

II. REPORTS

☞ *DiDi - President*

- Thanks to everyone for attending. It is a busy day today.

☞ *Tom – Vice President*

- No report.

☞ *Jacob – Secretary*

- Roll is called and 13 members and 2 guests are present.

☞ *Audrey – Treasurer*

- No report.

☞ *Cade – SGA/GSC Liaison*

- Not present.

III. MINUTES

☞ *Jacob - Fix Treasurer's Report & needs to be approved to be amended.*

☞ *Oct. 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes- Motion to accept by Richard Hartness and seconded by Audrey Wood with the correction from Audrey Wood on the Treasurer's Report. Vote - Approved.*

IV. SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT & ASSIGNMENTS

☞ *GSC Proposal <[See Appendix A.](#)>*

- Tom - Presented to SGOC Committee. The proposal to clarify graduate student representation is meant to break past the issues the GSC has had in defining themselves as the proper representation of the Graduate Student Body. The proposal has been accepted by the SGOC committee to review. It has to be approved by the committees voting on the SGOC before it is given to the Chancellor. The proposal will be added online on the website as well as a link will be added within the minutes.

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- Dr. Sustich – “ Three years ago a proposal was presented to the SGOC but it was much broader, asking for funds, and it was passed to the Chancellor but was denied due to a set list of items the Chancellor stated. If we keep trying, maybe we can push for GSC to be recognized by the Faculty, Staff, and Administration.”

☞ *Travel Fund Committee*

- The GSC has a budget of \$3250 per semester dedicated towards the Travel Fund. GSC reimburses up to \$300 to any graduate student who needs to travel for giving a presentation or collecting research data or any other academic endeavor. The starting balance for the fall 2011 semester was \$3250. During the month of October, we had received two (2) applications and we have already reimbursed \$274.37. The current Travel Fund Balance for fall 2011 is \$2975.63.
- For the month of November, we have received six (6) applications. The hearing for all these six applications will be carried out on the 1st of November.
- Oct. 19 Travel Fund Report – Motion to accept by Tom Henry and seconded by Audrey Wood. Vote – Approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION TO THE GSC

☞ *Dr. Andrew Sustich, Dean of the Graduate School*

- Dr. Sustich spoke to the GSC regarding Tuition Waivers for GA’s – “It has been a long standing goal to establish tuition waivers for GAs working towards their Master’s or Specialist’s. To do this we would first start offering a waiver for three (3) credit hours to be waived. The next two years, we would push to then offer another three (3) hours waived. When we started, we did not get it passed, but due to the financial standing of the state, this was not taken on by the

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university. Our hope is that, early as next fall, we can setup this three (3) credit hour waiver for those taking nine (9) credit hours”

- There are many questions directed to Dr. Sustich regarding how the GSC could better support this proposal. A full disclosure of the Q & A is available in the GSC office.

B. STATUS OF THE GSC

- ☞ *The GSC has business cards for representatives to hand out to other graduates, deans, and chairs of departments. Helps let campus know who we are and who they can contact.*
- ☞ *Contact your Chairs of your Departments at least monthly to keep updated as well as contacting your Deans at least once a semester.*
- ☞ *Didi had a meeting with the SGA president Hunter Petrus to discuss issues with the SGA President and she did not get anything from the SGA President that showed he would give support to GSC for our proposal to be recognized as the representation for the SGA. He could also not give information on many of the issues addressing with Graduate Students.*
- ☞ *We also need more individuals who are willing to represent the arguments and push forth on the fights we have. If we do not have enough people willing to share the work load, we won't be able to fight to represent ourselves. People are waiting to take away the resources we have fought for if there are not enough individuals willing to take up the fight.*
- ☞ *Send out reminders and list of Deans and Chairs and ask for updates of what is happening in the areas we represent. Advertise the issues of Graduate Students all over campus. The Voice of Graduate Students by Graduate Students.*
- ☞ *GSC needs a definitive advertising campaign. Sending out e-mails is not enough.*

C. ALL OTHER BUSINESS PUSHED TO NEXT MEETING

- ☞ *Guidelines for nominations and awarding awards*

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☞ *Recommendation for New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO) {Coordinator Tom Henry}:*

** Dates/Number of Days:*

** Need a NGSO Team:*

☞ *Ideas for Graduate - Professional Student Appreciation Week (April 2 - April 6) {Coordinator DiDi McCann}*

VII. OPEN FLOOR

- ☞ *Daniel Johnson from the floor spoke that in the past Grad Students rallied to strike years ago to make a change for our students – “Unless we do something, the university won't do anything. Unless we react, they will not act. And we hold up the university. Mississippi State gets 3 times what we get as grads. We need to fight”*
- ☞ *Tom Henry suggested that the GSC need to sincerely thank Dr. Sustich for all the work he has done for us as Grads. He is one of the few people who fight to represent us.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (10-19-11 @ 1:00PM)

- ☞ *Motioned by Brittany Reese.*
- ☞ *Seconded by Ngozi Agwaziam.*

APPENDIX A – GSC PROPOSAL

Title:

Proposal to Clarify Graduate Student Representation

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Brief Description:

The change would be a clarification to make the handbook reflect the changed needs of graduate students due to explosive growth in graduate student enrollment at Arkansas State University since this section was originally written, and to reflect the effective role currently being manifested by the Graduate Student Council. The proposed change is: alter “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the student body” to “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the undergraduate student body and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the collective voice of the graduate student body, while together they represent the collective voice of the entire student body.”

Sponsoring Committee:
Graduate Student Council

Contact:
LaDesta McCann, GSC President
Tom Henry, GSC Vice-President

Statement of Proposed Action:
Proposed change in the Faculty Handbook, Section I, Part b.6, Students: p. 7.

Rationale:
After review of the current University Faculty Handbook, Section I, Part b regarding *Goals, Rights and Responsibilities at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro*, with regards to I.b.6, *Students*, this committee proposes to clarify the Handbook’s wording from “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the student body” to “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the undergraduate student body and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the collective voice of the graduate student body, while together they represent the collective voice of the entire student body.”

This clarification is needed due to the rapid and explosive growth of graduate student enrollment since this Faculty Handbook section was previously written. Since that time graduate student enrollment has nearly doubled from approximately 13% to over 25% of the overall university enrollment as listed in the official University Fact Book as distributed by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment. Also, this change will reflect how the Graduate Student Council is currently representing the needs of ASU graduate students despite being hampered by outdated and somewhat ineffective structural limitations. As a result of this change, the GSC will also be allowed to name committee members to the last three SGOC committees that they are currently excluded from as well as to all ad hoc committees formed for purposes such as search committees for positions such as Chancellor and System President.

Additionally this change would allow the Faculty Handbook to more accurately reflect current manifestations of student representation as well as allow the GSC and the SGA to “play to their strengths” while better helping the University accomplish its goal of becoming a quality research oriented school of choice.

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