

Graduate & Professional Student Council

General Assembly Agenda

September 19th, 2017 5:30

Koldus, Room 144

I. Call to Order

Quote of the meeting:

‘To succeed in life, you need three things:
a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.’
-Reba McEntire

II. Procedure and Governance

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved (voice vote)

IV. Speaker’s Podium

Quality of Life Survey Results – Susan Forrester

Susan Forrester visited the GA to talk about the Quality of Life survey results:

Summary:

- 39 Question Survey
- Random sample of 3548 Graduate and Professional Students, 132 delegates who attended September and October 2016 meetings
- 532 students responded, 14 % response rate

Topics of survey:

- ELPE (international students only)
- Vending machine options on campus
- Funding/General issues

Highlights of survey:

- ELPE
 - 3 arranged transport, 13 rode a bike, 18 paid for transit, 21 got a ride, 44 walked, 46 drove my/others car
- Vending machine/food options on campus
 - Ate for lunch (first option, in order): from home, go home, on campus, don’t eat lunch, off campus lunch, vending machines
 - Vending machine use: 38 % sometimes, 33 % no, 29 % no (n=474)
 - 79 % would use more if there were healthier options
- Funding and general issues:
 - funding for research
 - funding for program

- loans per semester (n=121)
- Students would like more career services, (2) networking opportunities, (3) more advising, (4) career fairs and recruitment for graduate students
- Concerns for GPSC:
 - (1) NA/I don't know
 - (2) Financial concerns (funding, scholarships, fees)
 - (3) Concerns regarding food and dining options
 - (4) Advisor interactions, mentoring, professional development concerns
 - (5) Quality of study areas, computers, spaces for graduate students

Questions/Comments:

- Brenna (External Legislative Affairs Committee Chair) commented on things we've worked on since last year

Summary:

- Advertise the results of the survey to graduate students!
- Better response in fall than in spring

V. Pending Business

VI. New Business

Delegates, A How-to Guide– Chris Nygren

Presented by Chris Nygren(Executive Vice President) presented about Robert's rules and a how to guide for delegates

Summary:

- Introduced our modified Robert's Rules
- Kinds of votes: voice, tally vote (raising or standing), tally vote, roll call vote – calling each department's vote individually
- Introduced motions: steps and types
- The Job:
 - add to meeting agenda: executivevp@gpsc.tamu.edu
 - take notes

- disseminate information
- collect opinions, suggestions, problems etc. from your department
- participate in internal (required) and external assigned committees
- Resolutions:
 - Can be written by anyone
 - Internal Legislative Affairs Chair can assist
 - Know your facts: Citations
 - Good to have a presentation to accompany resolution (especially if background information is needed)
 - There is a template (talk to Amit Ghoshal – Internal Legislative Affairs Committee Chair)

Questions:

- Q: Will GPSC send out template?
 - A: Yes, let us know
- Q: How many sponsors are needed to bring to the floor?
 - A: Only 1, needs to be reasonable, high quality, presentation before hand is recommended
- Q: Are all discussions timed?
 - A: Generally, yes – depends on what is on the agenda. Can also make a motion to extend discussion time
- Q: What is scope?
 - A: University wide or larger (generally don't get involved on college level)
 - A: Brenna – can also write resolution to change structure (bylaws, constitution)
- Comment: If concerned with getting by-in from individuals you represent: make a motion to table if you feel this way (to gather information to constituents)
- Q: Any timeline required? State law?
 - A: We are not tied to state law, we set our own timelines. (Thursday noon – any presentations, final resolution form emailed). Plenty of time.
- More questions, talk to Chris afterwards

Amit Ghoshal presented Resolution to Approve Vice President Appointments for Courtney Dickie (Vice President of Information) and Ananya Dasgupta (Vice President of Finance) (Resolution: GPSC.R.2017-2018.01)

- Discussions
- Voice vote
 - Resolution passed unanimously

Matthew Etchells (President) responded to comments

- Post-it notes for suggestions
- Let us know suggestions! We want to be accessible to you.
- Highlights from post it notes:
 - More money for awards: awards haven't increased the past few years – our funding has not increased
 - Research: IRB – complicated to fill out. IRB changed the process multiple times in a year
 - Programming and service – workshops and collaborations
 - Marketing and Communications: leveraging social media (38 % increase on FB likes): goal 4000-5000 likes by the end of the year
 - External Legislative Affairs – climate change, DACA, Brenna goes to DC
 - Quality of Life – Meeting with ISS
 - Diversity and Inclusion – DACA, more information on getting involved, more communities into this space
 - Tuition and fees
 - Add more information: post it notes tonight, email Matthew

VII. Voice Reports

a. University Committees (18:32)

Chris Nygren (EVP) presented updates regarding Transportation:

- \$5 higher fines, Not Idaho -\$250 failure to stop, bus use drops (as semester goes on)
- Bicycles are going to be required to be registered to be on campus. Registration free until October 31st.
- After Oct. 31 – one time \$10 fee per bicycle (everyone should've received an email)
- Will bicycle use be restricted in certain areas? Eventually
- Bluetooth – new security problem allows total device control, turn off when not in use

Student Body President Bobby Brooks visited the GA:

- Reaffirmed commitment from SGA, Student Senate
- Updates:
 - Harvey relief benefit
 - Student services vice president: new bus routes, surveys, motorcycle parking
 - Commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Questions:
 - Q: bus routes – how far will they go from campus, Bryan? South College Station.
 - A: Will be sending a survey
 -
 - Concern: Buses don't show up on google maps (only in app)
 - Working on more holistic app for students
 - Concern: College of Medicine: grad students cannot get parking permit close to department

- Q: Anything else relative to graduate students?
 - A: EVP developing campaign for mental health
- Comment: Matthew: More counsellors over the summer (5 new employees)
- Comment: Transportation services opinion on transportation not to campus? Ie Walmart route for shopping. – other SEC schools have buses to shops. LSU bus students from campus to “northgate”. Precedent for that.

Blood drive summary (info graphic)

Upcoming event: Brew night October 4th, 7-11 pm, NRB: Food truck and band

- b. Department, Program, or Organization Announcements
 - Constitution passed 321 for, 21 against

Constitution is officially updated

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a) Awards
- b) External Legislative Affairs - Brenna

DACA Call to Congress

- you can still call congress people
- adding a resolution?
- Held a voice vote for interest in resolution to support DACA (voice vote – passed unanimously)
- Motion to discuss DACA – seconded
- 3-minute discussion on DACA (passed unanimously – voice vote)

Discussion

- Emily (English): HLGSA – posted statement online regarding DACA
- Q: How many DACA graduate students?
- Tracy: GPSC here to protect grad students while in school

Moved to informal (voice) vote on formation of a resolution to support DACA program (informal vote,

everyone in room could vote)

- Passed unanimously (anonymous voice vote)

i. Sexual Assault Processes

-National level – Betsy Davos – Title 9 procedures

-Rate of incidence, how it is dealt with

ii. Legislature of the Year: Nominations through SAGE

- If anyone is interested; join Brenna's committee

c. Internal Legislative Affairs

d. Marketing and Communications

- New Logo, Designs due Oct 6th
- Submit a design for new GSPC logo
- Marketing@gpsc.tamu.edu

e. Recruitment

f. Diversity and Inclusion

g. Programming

- Blood Drive Outcomes

h. Quality of Life

i. Research

j. International Student Affairs

IX. Special Committee Reports

a. Student Research Week

Taylor (SRW director), introduction and presented regarding Student Research Week Goals

- better conference experience
 - abstracts online
- minimizing operating costs – reallocating to awards
- marking to underrepresented colleges, more money
- including branch campuses (ie. Galveston)
- setting up budget
- committee applications
- 8-person committee: application is live as of today
 - closes Wednesday October 4th
 - See email
 - Interviews the week after the 4th
- Next month: funding requests

b. Grad Camp

X. Officer Reports

a. Vice President of University Affairs

- i. Survey for Committee Preferences- Deadline Tue 19th: TODAY
<http://gpsc.tamu.edu/gpsc-committee-ranking-form/>
- ii. Students needed for University Disciplinary Appeals Panel

b. Vice President of Information

c. Vice President of Finance

d. Executive Vice President

Send me questions to prepare for the Presidential Town Hall

If you are not receiving agenda emails, send a message to

executivevp@gpsc.tamu.edu

Nov 14th Town Hall – special meeting for GA, card swipe, eligibility

Open to entire student body

Currently looking at venues

e. President

XI. Advisor Comments

XII. Administrative Comments

XIII. Announcements

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned

Graduate and Professional Student Council
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Advocacy | Community Building | Research