

Graduate & Professional Student Council

General Assembly Agenda

December 5th, 2017 5:30

Koldus, Rm 144

I. Call to Order

Quote of the meeting:

‘Leadership is a choice, not a rank’
-Simon Sinek

II. Procedure and Governance

III. Approval of Minutes

Date change from Nov. 11 to Nov. 21

Minutes were approved with changes

IV. Speaker’s Podium

Sustainability Plan – Kelly Wellman

Kelly handed out a Campus Master Plan survey for the GA to fill out to provide feedback

Presentation about sustainability on campus

Presented the 2017 Campus Master Plan themes.

Presented about campus mobility. How to minimize the number of total vehicle traffic on campus.

- Pushing parking to perimeter
- Cutting down on traffic on campus
 - Business permits: decrease the number of business permits made available to departments (currently unlimited to departments, allow access behind gates, parking)
 - Increase the number of faculty/staff focused transportation mechanisms
 - Questions on survey about business permits

Zero waste to landfill

Social sustainability

- Voice and Influence
- External Engagement
- Health and Wellness
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Questions about social sustainability on the survey

Q(Jesse): How long was spent on the analysis?

A: Four workshops, started in April 2017

Q: Is there a commitment from administration to implement recommendations?

A: Yes there is commitment, the details need working out (not everything is under the sustainability purview)

Q: Could you partner with departments and organizations with similar goals?

A: Yes, we work together on committees with different groups in the university.

Q: What about academic departments?

A: Faculty were invited to contribute but this has been limited (but we do attend the faculty senate)

Q: What are things the University will prioritize?

A: Low effort/high impact first.

A: Some targets are already in motion. Others will take longer. Some have an economic impact.

Q: What is recreational space defined as? Space everyone can use?

A: Recreational spaces are defined as spaces that everyone can access (ie. not Kyle Field)

Question about survey question. Clarifying.

V. Pending Business

VI. New Business

Winter Travel Awards – Pritishma Lakhe

-The winners of the Winter Travel Awards were announced and awards were handed out

Cornyn Thank You Resolution – Brenna Lin

-Brenna Lin presented resolution thanking Senator Cornyn for Supporting Graduate Students (keeping graduate student provisions in the senate version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act)

Discussion period:

Q: Concern that accepting this bill will look as support for the Senate Version of the bill (consenting to the bill)

A: Language has been crafted to refer specifically to the provisions that affect graduate students. The bill is only going to be sent to Senator Cornyn.

Amendment to add Bobby Brooks (SPB) and Jasmine Wang (Speaker of the Senate) to the recipients.

Motion to move to previous question

Second

No discussion

Discussion closed (voice vote)

Voting on resolution.

Resolution passed on a voice vote

Logo Resolution – Francisco Birk

Motion to table

Second

Discussion: Still waiting for final edits from the artist

Motion to add item to the agenda.

The GA was shown the current progress on the logo and what will be changed for the final version

Resolution was tabled (voice vote)

VII. Voice Reports

a. Committees

b. Department, Program, or Organization Announcements

Aggie Muster Committee

Aggie Muster Committee – Aggie Muster 2019

-April 21, 2019 falls on Easter Sunday: has only happened twice in the history of Muster

What has been done in the past?

-Not held at all

-Held on Easter Sunday

Want the GPSC GA voice: representation of the student body, want to take into account student body's voice before a decision and make an informed decision.

Presented the Pros and Cons of each decision.

Pros: Tradition, internal timeline, weekend day rather than week day, encourages family and alumni involvement

Cons: marketing aspect, student absence, asking Campus Services to work on Easter Sunday,

There is a Google form on the meeting minutes to vote.

Q: What is the significance of April 21st

A: Historical day for TAMU Corps of Cadets (was a field day for the Corps then turned into Muster)

Q: What is needed for timeline

A: Ordering things for the families, preparing for event,

Q: What is the reunion weekend?

A: Class of 1968 is being celebrated this year (50 year reunion)

Q: How is Silver Taps different than Muster?

A: Silver Taps is for current students

Q: How much is the associated cost with printing merchandise with different dates?

A: Not clear how much will be saved (a few hundred dollars?)

Q: Where does the money come from?

A: Comes from SGA organizations.

Fill out the survey (by the end of the semester):

Ian Smith (Neuroscience): Society for neuroscience symposium: tomorrow at ILSB

Brenna: GOC Deans looking at ethics and how it is trained across all of the Colleges

Brenna: Parental Leave was presented to the Deans. Getting feedback about the language. (if you have friends that have had a child, adoption etc. provide Brenna with feedback). Potentially starting program next fall.

Kevin Cox: Plant pathology department profit share: Schlotzky's Friday 4pm – 9pm.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

a. Awards

b. External Legislative Affairs

i. **SAGE call for working group members**

If interested let Brenna know! Groups will be keeping up with legislation in each area.

Groups available to join:

Immigration

Finance

Campus Climate

Campus Wellness

Research Funding

ii. 12/6 TAMU Day of Action – Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

Flyers were handed out regarding the Day of Action

GPSC is having a Day of Action tomorrow (Dec. 6th)

-Call your Senators

-We are looking for volunteers tomorrow: Evans, MSC, Medical Science Library. To hand out flyers.

-Luke from the Battalion is following up in the morning with an article (see link on FB page:

calculate what you would pay in tax with bill, take photo with the \$\$ amount, picture will go in the Battalion).

Volunteers sign up to call reps and tell them how you would be affected

- c. Internal Legislative Affairs
- d. Marketing and Communications
- e. Recruitment
- f. Diversity and Inclusion
- g. Programming
- h. Quality of Life
- i. **Research**

IRB Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/wnQAJdqeGZUaVXFq1> - Sarah Hartman

Sarah is absent

Presented by committee member

- j. International Student Affairs

X. Special Committee Reports

- a. Student Research Week

SRW Registration update – Taylor Scimeca

Presented by Matthew

-Registration will be opened over the winter break

-Registration will close Feb. 11th.

- b. Grad Camp

3XI. Officer Reports

- a. Vice President of University Affairs
- b. Vice President of Information

Attendance Recognition

-Attendance recognition for Delegates with perfect attendance at General Assembly Meetings during the semester (presented by Courtney and Matthew)

- c. Vice President of Finance
- d. Executive Vice President
- e. President

i. DMD site visit

Sarah and Matthew visited the Duchene Muscular Dystrophy dogs. Matthew reported on the visit. Working on an undergraduate course where students would socialize with dogs (for credit).

Q: Do you know the course number?

A: It is in the planning stage, but it will be in College of Vet Med

Comment from Ian Smith (Neuroscience): Works in lab next door to the lab with the dogs.

-Provided insight on the lab and the research involved

Discussion in the GA amongst the topic

ii. 50th Year Celebrations

-Had a cover article in the Batt

-Looking for ways in which we can celebrate our 50th year

-Thanking Colleges that have full representation

-Send ideas to Matthew for 50th year celebrations

Q: How much many is in the budget for 50th year celebrations?

A: High impact, low cost

iii. Fully Recognized Departments

-Courtney and Matthew looking at ways to recognize Colleges with all departments fully represented amongst the general assembly.

iv. Mid-Year Review

v. Programming and Service Chair Update

Waiting to hear back from candidates

If you are interested in serving as Programming and Service Chair – Let Matthew know ASAP.

XII. Advisor Comments

Jamie thanked everyone for a great semester

XIII. Administrative Comments

XIV. Announcements

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned

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Advocacy | Community Building | Research