

ASG House of Graduate Representatives

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2011

1. Call to Order – ASG Vice President Tiffany Roemer (1:10pm)
2. Roll Call (1:10pm)

Present: Kelly Gondek, Justin Williams, Benjamin Chasin, Christian Cabazos, Elizabeth Wellings, Mary Harris, Gail Nelson, Ricardo Videtta, Kevin Burke, Joni Schneider, Christian McArthur

Absent: Liz Hjort, Linda Wiatrek, Riley Inks

Others: Tiffany Roemer, A.J. DeGarmo, Dr. Paula Williamson, Dr. J. Michael Willoughby

1. Approval of Minutes (1:11pm)

Motion to approve by Representative Wellings, seconded by Representative Williams and unanimously approved.

1. Advisor’s Report (1:12pm)

Dr. Willoughby welcomed the Graduate House and its new members.

Dr. Williamson welcomed the Graduate House and its new members.

1. New Business
   1. Induction of New Representatives & Officers – ASG President A.J. DeGarmo (1:14pm)
      1. Confirmation

Motion made by Secretary McArthur, seconded by House Leader Videtta and unanimously approved.

* + 1. Swearing in

Representatives Gondek, Williams, Chasin, Cabazos, Wellings, harris, and Nelson were sworn in.

* 1. ASG Vice-President Roemer yields the chair to House Leader Videtta.
  2. Introductions (1:16pm)
  3. ASG 2011-2012 Initiatives – A.J. DeGarmo (1:26pm)
* Discussed Senator-Elect Eirin Hicks’ death, legislation in Senate to reserve a seat for her this year, and requests thoughts for her family.
* ASG Retreat: Second retreat held by ASG, first to invite Graduate House members several of whom attended. If Representatives want any of the printed information made available during the retreat they can contact President DeGarmo for them.
* Tailgating is receiving a restructuring. First game will be on Sept 17.
* Strategic Planning Process: Each college will be revisiting their 5 year plans. Students will be involved in this planning process and graduate students are invited to participate as well. More details will be coming in the future. Dr. Willoughby also mentioned that the Graduate College can also help with planning and approval of graduate programs. Part of the Graduate College’s initiatives in this planning process is to create tuition fellowships for GAs and to offer more scholarships for graduate students.
* Bobcat Bricks: Current ASG administration is continuing this program from last year. Will be working with the Alumni Association so ASG is not bearing the brunt of the costs. Also working with a marketing class for marketing the program. 120 bricks have been sold so far with little advertising in place. Texas State students, alumni, and others can purchase a brick for $100 with their names, graduation date, and a short sentence to be placed around the Bobcat statue in the Quad. Profits from the bricks will go towards a fund for a new Alumni House.
* Governing Documents Review Committee: Is forming a group to examine all ASG governing documents to ensure cohesion throughout individual documents and between documents. Secretary McArthur and Representative Wellings volunteered to be part of this committee.
* PR Committee: Is creating committee headed by the ASG Director of Communication to perform more marketing and student outreach. Representatives Cabazos and Wellings volunteered to be part of this committee pending time commitments.
* Legislative Affairs Committee: This committee in the fall will be performing a get out the vote campaign to ensure students are correctly registered to vote in the county they reside in (and not from where their parents live). In the spring, the committee will be performing research into issues that may come before the next state legislature. Representative Williams said he may be interested in participating in this committee.
* Chartwells: The ASG administration has already been working with Chartwells on different issues. During the summer the space formally used for Stubbs BBQ has been replaced with a milkshake bar. Meal swipes have already seen a dramatic increase with this space.
* ASG Scholarship: Wants to improve the marketing of the scholarship program, when the award is given out and award options.
* Joint Legislative Finance Committee: Is forming this year’s committee to go over the ASG budget and send it to the Senate for approval. Three Grad House members are needed on this committee; Representatives Burck, Nelson and McArthur have volunteered to serve on this committee.
  1. Fall 2011 Graduate House Meeting Schedule – Dr. Williamson (1:49pm)

The Graduate House notebooks provided by Dr. Williamson include the fall meeting schedule. If a Representative cannot attend a meeting, they need to contact Dr. Williamson explaining why they cannot attend. This information will be passed to House Leader Videtta and Secretary McArthur to keep track of attendance. Dr. Williamson also wanted to point out that the notebooks contain the governing documents and information about parliamentary procedure.

* 1. Swearing in #2 (1:51pm)

Representatives Burck and Schneider, who were late to the start of the meeting, were sworn in.

* 1. ASG 2011-2012 Graduate House Initiatives – House Leader Ricardo Videtta (1:52pm)
* Attendance at Senate Meetings: Secretary McArthur explained that this was an idea posed last year but not followed through on. It is encouraged for each House Representative attends at least one Senate meeting, assuming their schedules allow it. Senate meetings are Monday nights at 7pm. A signup sheet was passed around to allow reps to volunteer for meetings. Reps who attend a meeting can, at the next Grad House meeting, discuss what the Senate is working on. Secretary McArthur then gave a report about the first Senate meeting:
  + Pres. DeGarmo plans to send out monthly e-mails to the student body about ASG activities. Grad House may be able to include their activities as well. Meeting with college deans on the 5 year plan already mentioned as well as the governing documents group.
  + Senator Maxfield Baker is talking with UPD and other departments about ways to increase the number of officers. The number of officers on campus has stayed the same over the last 10-15 years even though the student population has increased. May require an additional student fee. If anyone is interested in working on this issue they should contact Sen Baker.
  + Another Senator is looking into what it would take to have more security cameras placed in the parking garages. If anyone is interested in this issue, let Secretary McArthur know and he’ll try to connect them to the correct Senator.
  + Secretary McArthur emphasized that working with the Senate can be very valuable since both groups will have common issues to work together on.
* TRACS site: Three years ago the Graduate House had a TRACS site with a variety of information and interactive items which all Graduate Students were joined to. While that site has gone away, the House may want to start a new one. Secretary McArthur will start the site and Representative Wellings volunteered to take the lead on developing the site.
* Guest Speakers: Secretary McArthur said that if anyone would like a guest speaker to come to the House meeting to discuss issues let him or House Leader Ricardo know. In the past the VP of the Alkek Library has come to discuss how programs are allocated materials in the library and how students can request additional items.
* Meet and Greets: This was an initiative started late last year. Last year an informal meet and greet was offered within all of ASG sponsored by the Graduate House. In the past a luncheon was organized with the College Deans. Has been proposed to offer a get together for the graduate student body. This is something the House can organize for different times of the school year.
* Lighting along sidewalks from Alkek to Comanche Street bridge: Reprsentatives Gondek and Harris pointed out that lighting along this area at night is very bad. Secretary McArthur pointed out that ASG and facilities had done preliminary work at the end of Spring to determine where lights are needed and that would be worked on, but is not sure of the current status. It was suggested that those concerned can contact Pres DeGarmo to see if there is any information from former ASG Vice-President Colter Ray about the situation or to contact facilities directly.
* Help from the Graduate College: Dr. Willoughby offered his office as a place for assistance with different issues. Safety issues, such as lighting, may be handled quicker with a call from his office. Other issues from communication with the graduate student body, information on the graduate college website, participating in graduate student orientation can be facilitated through his office.
* Letter to graduate students: It was suggested by several representatives for the House to be proactive and quick in getting in contact with the graduate students. House Leader Videtta will draft a letter to graduate students about the Graduate House and send it to the House members soon. Representatives should read over the letter and respond back promptly with any suggested changes so that it can be send to the graduate student body quickly.
  + 1. Representative Wellings made formal motion to appoint Representatives Harris, Burck, and McArthur to the ASG Joint Legislative Finance Committee. Motion seconded by Representative Gondek, passed unanimously.

1. Announcements (2:30pm)
   1. Texas State Graduate College Information Fair (September 14, 11am-2pm)

The Graduate House traditionally has a table at the fair to give out t-shirts and interact with potential graduate students. Anyone who can attend, even if for a short time, is encouraged to do so.

* 1. Third International Research Conference for Graduate Students (November 2-3)
     1. Abstracts due September 30
     2. Register at <http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/rsrch_conf.html>

The research conference is open to all graduate students to submit abstracts for a 15 minute presentation. This conference was started in part by the Graduate House. House members are encouraged to volunteer to serve as moderators for presentation sessions.

* 1. Alpha Chi Honorary Society Induction (October 20)

Graduate students with at least 15 hours completed and with a 4.0 GPA will receive e-mail invitations to join the society.

* 1. Secretary McArthur will likely need to leave early at the next House meeting to take his departmental comprehensive exam. He asked for someone to think about volunteering at the next meeting to take notes when he leaves so there is an accurate recording of the minutes.
  2. Secretary McArthur also pointed out that the deadline for graduation applications are due September 23. Dr. Williamson said the deadline may have been extended. The deadline is October 7.
  3. Secretary McArthur said he had submitted to the ASG Supreme Court a request for interpretation of the governing documents about the length of a House member’s term of office and which House seats should appear on the general election ballot. The Supreme Court never responded and he will be resubmitting that request next week.
  4. Secretary McArthur (again) announced he is looking into solutions to offer students with ridesharing opportunities. This was suggested by a student in his college to allow those without vehicles to have a ride for shopping and traveling and to allow for carpooling for those with transportation. If anyone would like to help research this idea, come up with possible solutions, and work toward implementing them, they can contact him.

1. Adjournment (2:46pm)

Representative Wellings made motion to adjourn, seconded by Representative Schneider, passed unanimously.