Grad House Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order
House Secretary Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes
Representative Didion motioned to approve minutes from the previous meeting; Representative Faggard second that motion. Vote was unanimous; minutes from 3/23/18 meeting approved.

III. Orders of the Day

IV. Roll call
Representatives present: Faggard, Castillo, Davis, Nguyen, Lobo, Gourluck, Didion, Ramos-Karmaker, Idema, and Douthitt

Representatives absent: Gallardo, Igunbor, and Le Noc.

V. Guest Speakers
There were no guest speakers.

VI. Public Forum
There was no public forum

VII. Reports
a. Student Government Vice President’s Report: Jackie Merritt
   Vice President Merritt was not present

b. House Leader’s Report: Maël Le Noc
   House Leader Le Noc was not present

   House Secretary’s Report: Brittany Davis
   -Thanked Representatives for assistance during Graduate Student Appreciation Week
   -Verified availability for joint session for impeachment two possible dates.

c. House Parliamentarian’s Report: Kelly Gourluck
   -Clarified that a join session between the Senate and the House could be called outside of a regularly scheduled meeting.

d. Committees Reports
   i. Diversity Committee: Amanda Faggard and Blair Didion Sr.
      -African American Black Studies will be available as a minor starting in the Fall of 2019
- The Search committee will begin conducting interviews in January. Students will be invited to a Q&A session.
- Representative Faggard and Didion suggest changing the meeting time for the subcommittee starting in the Fall.

ii. Campus Life: Jenn Idema
- Subcommittee to meet on Thursday, April 12th at 3pm in JCK 880 to discuss GSAW and orientation.

iii. Social Media and Technology: Anthony Gallardo
Representative Gallardo was not present

iv. Budget and Finance: Emily Igunbor
Representative Igunbor was not present

e. University Committees
i. Learning Management System: Blair Didion
   1. LMS committee will meet next week
ii. Library Advisory Board: Kelly Gourluck
   1. Final meeting Tuesday April 17th at 12:30
iii. Senate Report: Jenn Idema
   1. Senate passing legislation that names the House but no legislation has been brought to the house; concern that the legislation is not constitutional

f. Advisor’s Report
- Welcome to visitors
- Thanked Representatives for help with Graduate Student Appreciation Week including obtaining donations from local businesses for door prizes.
- Coffee and Coloring was very successful.

VIII. Unfinished Business
a. Campus Life Event: Baseball Night
   - Representative Idema has worked out some new details:
     ▪ Tickets will be free for students and $3 per family member
     ▪ The House will be sponsoring the game and will have a hospitality tent in the stadium with packaged snacks
     ▪ A signup sheet will go out during the next meeting for volunteer duties

b. Custom Regalia Focus Groups
   i. House Secretary Davis read the summary from the custom regalia focus groups (see attached)
   ii. Representative Castillo and Idema will work on a resolution to present to the commencement office on campus.
c. Relation with the Senate and Role of the House within Student Government
   i. Discussion to be tabled until new representatives are inducted. Will revisit in the fall.

   i. House Secretary Davis presented the second reading of the bill.
   ii. Representative Faggard motioned to suspend the rules to discuss edits freely; Representative Didion second the motion.
      1. Representatives discussed concern that most representatives will opt to attend virtually leaving little to no attendance face-to-face.
      2. Discussion about including a line that requires representatives to request permission from the House Leader (if the Representative is not a Round Rock or Online student) to attend virtually.
      3. Representatives then became concerned that too much discretion will be left to the House Leader and decided to leave the bill as is and made amendments if face-to-face attendance decreases in the Fall 2018 semester.
   iii. Minor grammatical/punctuation edits were made.
   iv. The House voted unanimously to pass H.B. 207-2018 01 – A Bill to allow virtual attendance.

e. Parking Issues at JCK
   i. Representative Gourluck requests to table this item until the fall.

f. Graduate House and Graduate Student Orientation: Second Reading of HR. 2017-2018. 01
   i. Representative Didion motioned to move the second reading of HR. 2017-2018. 01 and 02 to the next meeting; Representative Gourluck second that motion.

g. Graduate House Transition Theme: Second Reading of H.R. 2017-2018. 02
   i. Second reading moved to next meeting

IX. New Business
X. Questions
XI. Announcement
XII. Adjournment
Representative Didion motioned to adjourn the meeting; Representative Lobo second that motion. House Secretary Davis Adjourned the meeting at 2:02pm.

Graduate House of Representatives
Custom Regalia Focus Group Executive Summary
The Graduate House of Representatives was approached by a doctoral student who is interested in the university adopting custom graduation regalia for doctoral students. To gauge student interest in custom graduation regalia, the House conducted three focus groups with a total of 14 participants at the graduate level. We found that students are willing to spend up to roughly $1,000 to purchase the custom regalia and around $100 to rent custom regalia. Students expressed interest in the custom graduation regalia because they felt it brings a sense of pride to the graduation ceremony and is worth the increased price. Several students feel that our institution should be on par with other Tier 2 research institutions who have custom regalia and (insert other reasons why they like the regalia). As such, we recommend the House more forward in support with the custom regalia and work on a resolution.