



ASG House of Graduate Representatives

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2012

I. Call to Order (1:04pm)

II. Roll Call

Reps Present: Geleana Alston, Bill Barry, Maria Beane, Megan Holmes, James Kilbride, Brent McElfresh, Gail Nelson, Cesar Rivera, Erika Ruymgaart, Joni Schneider, Melissa Vazquez, Elyse Zavar

Reps Absent but excused: Jake Hammons, Michael McCullar

Others Present: ASG Graduate House Advisor Dr. Paula Williamson, Roseann M. Mandziuk, Dag Osorio, Senator Jeremy Wortham

III. Approval of Minutes

Representative motioned to temporarily suspended the rules and considered the minutes as read. Representative Barry seconded the motion. None were opposed. Representative Zavar motioned for the approval of October 12 meeting's minutes. Representative Rivera seconded the motion. With no objections the minutes were approved.

IV. Orders of the Day

Representative Barry motioned to approve the agenda and Representative Beane seconded the motion. With no objections, the agenda was approved.

V. Guest Speaker (1:08pm)

a. Roseann M. Mandziuk—Chair of the Presidential Work Life Advisory Council

Dr. Mandziuk came to share information about the Work Life Advisory Council. This organization sponsors the Bobcat Balance Program. The Bobcat Balance Program provides resources for Texas State employees concerning work life issues such as legal, health care and family concerns. This program is available to graduate students that employed by the university.

b. Dag Osorio—Graduate Coordinator of the Student Farm (1:24pm)

Dag Osorio came to address the Self-Sustaining Student Farm that was established in November 2011. The farm was initially funded by the Environmental Service Committee. There is vegetative crop production that covers 1.5 acres. The Student Farm provides opportunities for students to do research in the fields of agriculture, biology, ecology, etc. The University and the City of San Marcos is considering to sell the farm for the expansion of the local airport. Dag asked the Graduate House to participate in an initiative to adopt the Student Farm into the university's academic curriculum because of the resources that are provided for academic research.

c. Senator Jeremy Wortham—Reserved Rooms in Library (1:38pm)

Senator Wortham came to address the House about the Reserved Rooms in the Alkek Library. He and other undergraduates have the opinion that these rooms are not efficiently used. However, he is aware that the graduate students need these rooms for research purposes and the waiting list is very lengthy. He is currently considering other alternatives for study spaces such as the new Undergraduate Academic Building. He also asked the House to join him in doing research for acquiring a Graduate Building/Center. He also asked for suggestions on how to conduct a case study for the use of those rooms to determine the how often these rooms are used.

VI. Public Forum

VII. Reports (1:46pm)

a. House Leader's Report (1:54pm)

House Leader Nelson called Representative Ruymgaart out of order twice for her email responses on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 12:53am and Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 1:03am.

b. Secretary's Report (1:46pm)

House Secretary Schneider reported that she is working to update TRACS with the Senate documents. Also she asked Representative Beane to get into contact with Special Assistant Cody DeSalvo to update the documents on the ASG website.

c. Parliamentarian's Report (1:48pm)

House Parliamentarian Alston thanked Dr. Williamson and Dr. Willoughby for getting the Representatives copies of the *Robert's Rules in Brief*. She also provided the House members with a draft of a common response to student emails and she posted the draft on TRACS. This common response will help the House stay consistent with addressing student issues.

d. Committee Reports (1:56pm)

Smoking Policy Committee-Representative Barry reported he is working on informing fellow students of the campus policy. Representative Rivera shared that he spoke with the Chief of the UPD about taking on volunteers to help with the enforcement of the policy. The Chief stated that using volunteers might not work due to the lack of resources of properly training the volunteers. Representative Vazquez suggested that in addition to no

smoking signs being posted, there should also be flyers/signs for how to report smokers on campus.

Veterans' Affairs Committee-Representative Rivera reported that he had met with Senators who are also working on similar legislation. In the proposed legislation, they will be including furnishings and commodities that would be found in the prospective Veteran's Lounge.

e. Advisor's Report (2:03pm)

Dr. Williamson asked for more volunteers for the International Research Conference.

VIII. Unfinished Business (2:05pm)

a. International Research Conference for Graduate Students
Addressed in Advisor's Report.

b. Emails to Graduate Students from Individual Colleges

The proposed deadline for the emails to be sent is November 15. Dr. Williamson suggested that the letter be sent through the Dean's office.

c. ASG Email Account

Representative Vazquez reported that an ASG Administrator must set up the Grad House email account. She contacted Kathy Weiser for assistance. Dr. Weiser suggested that House Leader Nelson contact President McDaniel to discuss acquiring the email account. Representative Barry motioned to table the discussion on the email account until the next meeting. Representative Rivera seconded. None opposed the motion.

d. H.E.A.T Information

Representative Zavar got information on the Human, Environment, and Animal Team and what initiatives that they are working on for the Texas State University-San Marcos campus. Some of those initiatives include litter pick ups, collecting cigarette butts around campus to create art displays with the message "Pollute your bodies, not our campus," and bringing in free-range meat into campus dining.

e. Social Events—Lunch with Deans

Representative Alston suggested, in interest of conserving House funds, that the House would invite the Deans to the U-Club in the LBJ Student Center for lunch. Dr. Williamson mentioned the House would need to make contact with Dr. Weiser about attaining funds from the House budget to pay for the event. Dr. Williamson also suggested as an alternative to invite the Deans to one of the House meetings and possibly Dr. Willoughby and the Graduate Office could sponsor the event.

f. Proposal for Social Media (2:19pm)

Representative Rivera would set up a temporary email for the social media accounts until the House attains an official email. Representative Schneider motioned for a vote on the

proposal and Representative Barry seconded. No oppositions were made so the proposal was accepted.

g. Reserved Alkek Study Rooms

Representative Nelson reported that she and Representative Alston are in the process of collecting data on the reserved rooms in Alkek. Currently there are 73 study rooms in the library and 29 are the only lockable rooms. Representatives Nelson and Alston will be meeting with library administrators the following week for an update of information.

Representative Alston met with Senator Wortham to him about the important role those rooms serve to graduate students. Together they discussed other alternatives for study spaces.

IX. New Business (2:24pm)

a. Lighting Situation on Campus

Representative Schneider received an email from a graduate student concerning the lighting on campus. Representative Nelson contacted Special Assistant DeSalvo to receive contact information for the administration in charge of the lighting.

Representative Nelson also suggested that the student with the concern should be invited to serve on the committee for this issue.

b. ASG Review & Steering Committee

Representative Nelson shared with the House that there is new committee created by President McDaniel to investigate the components of the ASG and determine if there are any that need to be improved. She asked if any of the Representatives would be interested in participating. Representatives Nelson, Schneider and Alston have volunteered.

c. Concealed Carry Legislation

Representative Schneider brought up a piece of legislation on the behalf of Representative Hammons. This legislation is for the support of concealed carry on campus. The Senate passed a similar piece of legislation in their latest meeting.

Representative Hammons asked if any other Representatives were interested, they could email him.

X. Questions (2:31pm)

Dr. Williamson asked if any of the Representatives received the email about the Writing Workshop. Most responded that they did not.

XI. Announcements (2:34pm)

a. Reminder of Composite Shots

Representative Nelson reminded the House that they will be taking their composite pictures at the next meeting. If they will be absent, they will be a make up session the following Friday.

XII. Adjournment (2:35pm)

Motion to adjourn by Representative Schneider, seconded by Representative Rivera and unanimously passed.