

Graduate House of Representatives
Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2015

I. Call to Order

House Speaker Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

II. Role Call

Reps Present: Megan Holmes, William Sandel, Dannon Cox, Tanya Long, Rebecca Silvas, Zachary Vernon, Shelby Bouffard, Brendan Lavy, Kelly Goumluck, Maureen Pafumi, John McFarland, Joni Schneider, and Lee Hinkle

Reps Absent but Excused: Amanda Folger

Others Present: Student Government Graduate House Advisor Dr. Eric Paulson, Dean of the Graduate College Dr. Andrea Golato

III. Guest Speakers

There were no guest speakers.

IV. Public Forum

There was no public forum.

V. New Business

a. Confirmation of Nominated Representatives

- i. William Sandel, Rebecca Silvas, Shelby Bouffard, and Kelly Goumluck were officially sworn in as Graduate House Representatives; vote passed unanimously 9 – 0.

b. The Graduate College Dean Remarks – Dr. Golato

- i. Dr. Golato welcomed both new and returning Representatives to the Graduate House

c. Graduate House Advisor Remarks —Dr. Paulson

- i. Dr. Paulson welcomed the new folks and those returning.
 - Tweeted out an article from the Chronicle regarding graduate students being involved with making decisions at the university level (#TXSTGC).
 - Graduate House Twitter Handle: @grad_college
 - Charge for us this year: think of innovative ways regarding how to continue getting our message out.
 - i. This platform allows the Graduate House to get the word back to our communities.
 - ii. The Graduate House is a deliberate body designed with the intention to take messages back to students

and their respective colleges and to bring concerns from students and their respective colleges back to the administration.

- Shop Talks (formerly known as “Brown Bags”) – Degree Success (grad college website for Doc and Master’s)
 - What I Wish I Had Been Told as a New Doctoral Student?
 - i. Tuesday, September 8th from 3:00-4:30pm in Alkek 105/106
 - What I Wish I Had Been Told as a New Master’s Student?
 - i. Monday, September 14th from 1:00-2:30pm in Alkek 105/106

d. Graduate House Officer Remarks

i. House Leader—Joni Schneider

- House Leader Schneider’s is in her 4th year of her doctoral program in Mathematics Education; she has been in the Student Government Graduate House for 5 years. Has gained a lot out of participating in student government; is nice to be the person “in the know” with what is going on within the university.
- Spoke at the NSO this summer giving group tours
 - Quite a few new grad students inquired about tailgating.
 - i. School spirit is important for us to have as Texas State Students; will be continuing conversations with the Associate Athletics Director of External Operations, Don Coryell regarding how to champion the school spirit initiative with him.
 - Additional information can be provided upon request.
- Met with the Student Body President, Lauren Stotler, Vice President, Tyler Burton, and the rest of the Cabinet to talk about student initiatives over the summer.
- Representative Pafumi and House Leader Schneider both met with the Student Health Center regarding Title IX multiple times over the summer.
 - There is currently a subcommittee being formed; the committee will be a meeting sometime in September; if any Representatives had any input please let them know.

ii. House Secretary—Megan Holmes

- House Secretary Holmes is serving her 2nd year as House Secretary and has had a great experience. Is very appreciative for the work Dr. Paulson and Dr. Golato put in to help support the House and

graduate student body; also grateful for the relationships and networking opportunities made.

- Will be updating the House Roster and Contact Information that will be posted to TRACS.

iii. House Parliamentarian—Zachary Vernon

- House Parliamentarian Vernon is working on his Master of Fine Arts in the Communications Design School; this is his 2nd with the Graduate House.
- Very impressed with his experience and all the Grad House has been able to accomplish.
- Would really like Representatives to keep that in mind why they are here and never to be afraid to speak up.

- House Meetings and Procedures

- Grad House meets every other Friday at 1:00pm.
- House Leader Schneider would like to stress the attendance policy and also understands things come up such as family emergencies, work obligations, etc.
 - Note: In the event you are unable to make the meeting please email House Leader Schneider, House Secretary Holmes, and Cc Dr. Paulson for proper documentation regarding excused absences.
- House meeting schedule has been posted on TRACS; please update those dates in your personal calendars.
- Student Government Rules and Procedures are posted on the Graduate House website – next year will be an amendment year, so it is important for us to keep in mind potential changes/amendments, etc. (example: change meeting times so that we do not meet on the first Friday of the first full week of school)
- Student Government Code – House Rules and Procedures; please get familiar with this because it really helps facilitate the meetings in a much more efficient and fluid manner.
- The Graduate House follows Roberts Rules of Order; House Schneider has request copies for new Representatives.

- Committees, Commissions, and Other Positions

- Social Media and Technology, maintaining social media accounts and staying connected with graduate students by communicating events, scholarships, and the Graduate College – Rebecca Silvas has volunteered to Chair the committee and Representative Vernon is more than willing to assist.
- Diversity and Inclusion - Representative Meier, who is no longer with the Graduate House, previously, chaired diversity and Inclusion;

Representative Long has volunteered to Chair the committee and will also be able to attend the Gender Symposium meeting with Dr. Anderson on Friday, September 4th at 10:00am in UAC 478.

- Campus Life – Representative McFarland has volunteered to Chair the committee.
- Budget and Finance – Representative Pafumi will remain Chair of the committee.
- Cabinet – At the House Senate meeting House Leader Schneider will specifically address this concern with either the Student Body President, Lauren Stotler, or Vice President, Tyler Burton, whomever will be in attendance at the next House meeting.
- House Leader Schneider made a friendly reminder for Representatives to please apply for committees (link was sent out via email).
- Shop Talks by the Graduate College
 - Shop Talks are specifically designed to help students throughout their degree, transitioning into careers; with a variety of information being presented.
 - Encourage graduate colleagues to attend.
- International Research Conference for Graduate Students – November 17-18th 2015
 - i. Abstracts Due: September 25
 - ii. Research Paper Contest: September 25 (only awarded to Texas State graduate students)
 - Dr. Rao will be reaching out to contact the Graduate House for help.
 - Dr. Golato reminded Representatives presentations must have preliminary results and background literature in order to submit work.
- Expectations/Plans for Graduate House of Representatives for 2015-2016
 - Introductions:
 - o Representative McFarland – MBA program in the McCoy College of Business, emphasis in engineering technology; undergraduate in BioChem and Public Administration. Would like to help students within the university have a voice.
 - o Representative Hinkle – Master’s in Computer Science; started out at the Round Rock Campus; first full semester here in San Marcos, has noticed there is a lot going on around the university and would like to learn more about how to get involved.
 - o Representative Sandel – Doctoral student in Criminal Justice and RA out at the alert center; likes the Graduate House because he is

very interested in finding out a lot of information when starting out a program. Looking forward to working with the Graduate House and being informed.

- Representative Bouffard – Masters in Health Care Administration; interested in health care politics; excited to be here and dive in a little bit and just get evolved.
- Representative Silvas – 2nd year of Mass Communications Graduate Program and concentration is global media; here because she is President of the Mass Communications Graduate Student Association, and is about empowering students with knowledge.
- Representative Pafumi – MBA program, undergraduate in International Relations; really enjoys government.
- Representative Gourluck – Masters in Sociology – interested in Educational Administration and being able to see that side of the university is something she would like to do as a career.
- Representative Long – PhD Student and in the SI program CLAS over in the College of Education; been involved in one-way or another and is here to serve, and that is how her life have been as far as leadership and teaching concerned.
- Representative Cox – attending the College of Education and working on his Master’s in Physical Education; office is over in Jowers and kind of feels kind of disconnected; plans to pursue PhD afterwards and believes the Graduate House will be a good way to learn the ins and outs of the university.
- Representative Lavy – 3rd year doctoral student in Geography, here for the service aspect of Student Government and also here to “peek behind the curtain” in regards to learning more about university administration and feels this is invaluable experience.

II. Questions

- Representative Long asked where she could find a description of the expectations regarding chairing a committee.
- House Parliamentarian answered the expectations regarding chairing committees can be found in the Graduate House Rules and Regulations.

III. Announcements

- Dr. Paulson – Grad House College t-shirts are available and will be taking an updated picture of Grad House.
- Representative Cox – call for backup regarding help with Senate meetings on Monday.
- Dr. Golato – There will be a 10k on Sept 19th for Running with the Deans.

IV. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by House Secretary Holmes, seconded by House Parliamentarian Vernon, motion unanimously passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.

V. Leave for Retreat

- 7A Resort Indian Lodge
333 Wayside Drive
Wimberley, TX 78676