



ASG Graduate House of Representatives

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2012

- I. Call to Order (1:03pm)
- II. Role Call

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

Reps Absent but Excused: Erika Ruymgaart

Representative Nominees Present: Jake Hammons, Megan Holmes

Others Present: ASG Graduate House Advisor Dr. Paula Williamson, Vice President Sibley, Chief of Staff Vanessa Cortez, Graduate Student Bitra Razavimaleki
- III. Opening Ceremony
 - a. Welcoming of Visitors

House Leader Nelson welcomed visitors Bitra Razavimaleki, Vice President Sibley and Chief of Staff Vanessa Cortez.
 - b. Swearing in New Representatives

Vice President Sibley called for a motion for approval of the Nominees Jake Hammons and Megan Holmes. Representative Schneider motioned for the approval and Representative Rivera seconded. With no objections, Representatives Hammons and Holmes were sworn into office.
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes

There were no official minutes for the first meeting to be read at the time of the meeting.
- V. Reports of the Officers (1:13pm)
 - a. Leader's Report

House Leader Nelson reported on her and House Secretary Schneider's attendance to the ASG Leadership Retreat on June 26, 2012. There, House Leader Nelson and House Secretary Schneider met with members of the Senate and Student Body President Nathan McDaniel and Vice President Alison Sibley. She also mentioned the ASG Retreat that House Leader Nelson, House Secretary Schneider, Representative Zavar, and Representative Ruymgaart attended at the John Knox Ranch on August 19-20, 2012.

House Leader Nelson reported that today she attended a meeting with Vice President Alison Sibley, the Senate Liaison to Transportation/Parking Committee, and Joe Richmond, Director of Transportation Services. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss student complaints about the campus and inter-urban shuttle services.

House Leader Nelson reported on her and Representative Vazquez's attendance to Two Finance Committee Meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to review the ASG Budget and Legislation for the year. The legislation will be voted on Monday in the Senate. House Leader Nelson asked for an additional volunteer to serve on the committee as required by ASG governing documents. Representative Hammons volunteered.

House Leader Nelson reported that the Governing Documents Committee is being led by Senator Trexler. The purpose of the committee will be to revamp outdated Graduate House Rules and Procedures. Two House members are needed to serve on the committee as required by ASG governing documents. House Leader Nelson asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Representative Alston volunteered.

House Leader Nelson reported that there are a number of University committees available that need student representatives. House Secretary Schneider reviewed the information on the ASG website. Interested students should be directed to Student Body President Nathan McDaniel.

b. Secretary's Report

House Secretary Schneider reported about the events of the Senate meetings and reviewed the absence policy. If a Representative were to be absent for a future meeting, he or she should email Dr. Williamson about the absence and courtesy copy House Leader and House Secretary Schneider. A quorum of 10 is needed at each meeting to vote on official business.

c. Advisor's Report (1:25pm)

Dr. Williamson thanked the newly appointed representatives for their time. Dr. Williamson continued with asking for participation in the Equity and Access Committee. This committee meets the second Friday of the month in JCK 460 from 12:30-1:30pm. However one of committee meeting dates conflicted with the ASG House's reservation of the meeting room so Dr. Williamson would check on the matter. The Equity and Access Committee addresses equity issues and selects the Diversity Award. Representative Vazquez volunteered to serve on the committee.

Dr. Williamson mentioned the International Graduate Research Conference. Students who would like to attend or present at must register online. Representative Schneider shared her experience presenting at this conference and recommended participation in the conference for building presentation skills. Dr. Williamson provided the Representatives with a hand out that had information about the conference. Dr. Williamson mentioned that the ASG volunteered in this conference by serving as moderators for the student presentation sessions. Dr. Williamson will bring a sign-up sheet for volunteers to the next meeting.

After Dr. Williamson's report, Chief of Staff Vanessa Cortez introduced herself to the House of Representatives and explained her role in the ASG. Chief of Staff Cortez shared that she would be an excellent contact for resources for writing and researching legislation. She also highly encouraged the House to write legislation that supported or would be similar to legislation that the Senate was also writing to help in the approval process.

Vice President Sibley shared with the House that the ASG was approved for a \$25,000 travel grant, would be available as soon as November 2012. She would email the Representatives with the official details once they were available. Vice President Sibley also mentioned Engagement Week that would be taking place September 18, 19, and 20. There would be booths stationed in the Quad and the LBJ Amphitheater over those three days where students could meet with Senators. She asked if any of the House members were interested, they could participate as well. Vice President Sibley continued with mentioning the ASG Round Table Event on October 25 in the JCK Ballroom. This would be an open house for students to be able to meet with department heads to address issues and concerns.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business at the time of the meeting.

VII. New Business (1:58pm)

a. Advertising of Readings of New Legislation

House Leader Nelson provided the Representatives with a calendar of upcoming events for the remainder of the semester. She mentioned on this calendar were readings of very controversial pieces of legislation, Engagement week, and Discover Texas State “wine walk”. She announced a correction to the Student Services Roundtable times. The correct times for the event are 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Also the ASG Graduate House Composite photos were going to be taken on November 9. Representative Barry mentioned he might not be on campus that day.

House Leader Nelson suggested that a member of the House should write a piece of legislation in support of the new Veterans’ Lounge that President Nathan McDaniel mentioned in the previous meeting.

Representative Vazquez went through the components of the binders the Representatives received at the start of the meeting. In the binder, the Representatives would find the Governing Documents. The Representatives are to keep the agendas, minutes and other documents in the binder.

b. ASG ‘Meet and Greet’

Representative Schneider mentioned the ASG ‘Meet and Greet’. This is a social event for the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Representatives and Senators will be able to introduce themselves to each other. This event should take place in the fall semester. However, the budget needs to be available to sponsor the event.

Representative Schneider then mentioned the Grad House Social. This event took place last spring semester at George’s in the LBJ Student Center. There graduate students and their families were able to socialize. Ping-pong, pool, shuffleboard, and karaoke were available for entertainment. Also Jason’s Deli catering was provided as refreshments. This event would be beneficial to be held during the fall, provided budgeting permitted.

Dr. Williamson also mentioned ‘Lunch with the Deans.’ This event provided the Representatives to meet the deans of the colleges. This event would also be nice for the House to host, provided the budget permitted.

VIII. Questions

Representative Hammons asked for the time and location of the readings of legislation. Representative Schneider responded that the readings took place in the Senate meetings on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Parliamentary Procedures Overview

House Parliamentarian Alston provided a PowerPoint presentation that gave a brief review of Parliamentary Procedures.

X. Announcements

No announcements were made.

XI. Adjournment (2:28pm)

XII. Motion to adjourn by House Leader Nelson, seconded by Representative Rivera and unanimously passed.