Student Government Graduate House of Representatives

Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2018

I. Call to Order
House Leader Le Noc called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

II. Roll Call
All Representatives are present.

III. Approval of Minutes
Representative Idema motioned to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Representative Ramos-Karmaker second the motion. Minutes from April 20, 2018 approved.

IV. Orders of the Day
a. Representative Ayala motioned to add item to the agenda: New Business – Reporting Constituent Opinion. Representative Idema second the motion.
b. Representative Idema motion to allow guest speaker to present when she arrives instead of during the scheduled guest speaker time. Representative Douthitt second that motion.

V. Guest Speakers
a. July Moreno – Executive Director, Mermaid Society SMTX
   i. Guest speaker rescheduled for next meeting – September 14th

VI. Public Forum
No public forum

VII. Reports
a. Student Government Vice President’s Report: Ruben Becerra
   i. Vice President Becerra was not present
b. House Leader Report: Maël Le Noc
   i. Wishes to keep with our theme of “transparency” determined at the last meeting of the Spring semester
   ii. We need to confirm if we need to make simple resolutions to appoint chairs to committees
   iii. Make sure the website says up to date
   iv. Absences must be known in advance and come with an excuse.
   v. Our goal to increase collaboration with other branches of Student Government is off to a good start: eight representatives attended the Student Government retreat.
vi. All Representatives are encouraged to attend Senate meetings which are held every Monday from 7-9pm

vii. Representatives are encouraged to get involved with other branches of Student Government, such as the Freshman Council.

viii. This year, we need to be efficient in our meetings. The goal of commissions/committees is to get work done, then bring those ideas/plans to the House to write legislation or resolutions. We should discuss less at our meetings.

ix. We had about $700 left from our budget last year.

c. Advisor’s Report: Dr. Paulson

i. Volunteer Opportunities:

1. Grad Council Representative – serves on a semester basis. One Master’s student and one Doctoral. Meetings are 90 minutes on the following dates: 9/24, 10/22, and 11/12.

2. Council on inclusive excellence (formerly known as the equity and access committee). Representative Castillo will remain on that committee.


   a. Representatives Idema, Didion, and Nguyen have agreed to serve on the panel

4. Shop Talk: Get hired! Employer advice and Networking Tips

   a. Representative Didion agreed to moderate the employer panel

VIII. New Business

a. Graduate House Meetings and Procedures

   i. Meetings are conducted by following Roberts Rules of Order

   ii. Representatives can remotely attend meetings but this is intended for online, Round Rock Representatives, and Representatives who are out of town. If you want to attend remotely, email House Leader Le Noc and the House Secretary.

b. Nomination of Graduate House Officers

   i. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representative Idema for House Parliamentarian. Vote is unanimous.

   ii. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representative Davis for House Secretary. Vote is unanimous.

c. Nomination of Committee Chairs

   i. Diversity and Inclusion

      1. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representatives Nguyen and Lobo as co-chairs. Vote is unanimous.

   ii. Social Media and Technology

      1. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representative Gallardo as chair. Vote is unanimous
iii. Campus Life
   1. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representatives Castillo and
      Idema as co-chairs. Vote is unanimous.

iv. Budget and finance
   1. House Leader Le Noc nominates Representatives Didion and
      Douthitt as co-chairs. Vote is unanimous.

d. Other Positions and Opportunities Available
   i. Student Government Senate Commission Ex-Officio Members (Mondays
      at 6pm). One Representative is allowed in each commission as ex-officio.
      1. Finance: focuses on STAR grant, Student Government, and budget
      2. Student Services: all types of student services on campus
      3. Program: every specific program of student government
         a. Representative Gallardo will attend
      4. Marketing: mostly social media and communication
      5. Government affairs: community government
      6. Freshman Leadership: prepare freshman members to potentially be
         senators
      7. Diversity commission
   ii. Freshman Council Mentorship Program
      Seeking Senators or Representatives to mentor one or more students on
      the Freshman Council. No Representatives interested at this time.
   iii. Achieving Success in Graduate School Info Sessions
      1. Dr. Rao from The Graduate College is seeking Representatives to
         present at a new session during the Graduate Information Sessions.
         The first is September 13th from 2:30-3:00pm.
         a. Representatives Didion, Idema, and Gillman are interested.

e. HSR 2018-2019.01
   i. Representative Idema motions to make resolution an emergency piece as
      is reinstates House Leader Le Noc as head of the House and grants him the
      power necessary for us to conduct business.
   ii. House Secretary Davis read the resolution.
   iii. All Representatives unanimously voted to approve the simple resolution.

f. Custom Regalia Legislation
   i. House Parliamentarian Idema and Representative Ramos-Karmaker will
      draft the custom regalia resolution.

g. Expectations and Plans of the Graduate House of Representatives for 2018-2019
   i. Representative Ayala: focus on campus safety
   ii. Representative Davis: focus on bringing awareness to the Graduate House
       and work on getting SPSS and Nvivo access for graduate students free of
       cost.
   iii. Representative Larson: expanding knowledge of resources on campus
   iv. Representative Lobo: interested in starting a forum in which minority
       professors come to speak and mingle with students
v. Representative Didion: focus on veteran students and finding out what we can do to assist or develop programs for veterans.

vi. Representative Le Noc: seeks to review the process of student government in general.

vii. Representative Gallardo: focus on philanthropy and outreach. Wants to partner with marketing design students to work with local business to create designs.

viii. Representative Nguyen: wants to bring awareness to our mission and who we are, and incorporate our theme of innovation. Wants to work closer with the senate and push more representations of minorities on social media. Also, focus on more charity and community involvement.

ix. Representative Castillo: focus on bringing awareness to existing resources and opportunities and help graduate students feel involved.

x. Representative Ramos-Karmaker: aims to bridge the gap between the San Marcos and Round Rock campus.

xi. Representative Gillman: focus on food security and food access. Would like to partner with bobcat bounty.

xii. Representative Idema: focus on making the counseling center more accommodating to graduate students. Also, a variety of planned events through the Campus Life committee.

xiii. Representative Douthitt:

h. Reporting Constituent Opinion

i. Complaint email sent to Representative Ayala about an email a student received from The Graduate College referring to the GradBulletin.

ii. Dr. Paulson will take the issue to the Dean of The Graduate College and the Publications writer to address the email. The outcome will be discussed at the next meeting and all Representatives will agree on a reply to the anonymous student, which will be emailed by Representative Ayala.

IX. Questions

a. Representative Nguyen asked if we are still using Slack for communication. House Leader Le Noc and Representative Gallardo said they will attempt to use Slack in addition to email.

X. Announcement

There were no announcements

XI. Adjournment

Representative Didion motioned to adjourn the meeting. House Parliamentarian Idema second the motion. House Leader Le Noc adjourned the meeting at 2:42pm.