



# Minutes

December 5, 2017  
Submitted by VP Clausen

Meeting was called to order by President Da Silva at 7:00pm.

Absent were Biomedical engineering, Chemistry, and History

Excused were Architectural Engineering and Construction, Audiology, Interdepartmental Nutrition Program, Law, Veterinary Medicine, and At-Large Rep Schacht.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from November 7, 2017 were approved with corrections.

## OPEN FORUM:

President Da Silva notified the assembly that the GSA Executives will be meeting with Chancellor Green, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Donde Plowman, and Tim Carr on Dec. 18 about Free Speech issues and policies.

Rep. Judkins of TLTE explained that Chancellor Ronnie Green spoke at faculty Senate today and ASUN Senator was concerned about some of the comments that were made by Green were misleading in tying. She has a recording of his comments that she's willing to share privately because they are not necessarily public.

Pres. Da Silva noted that a number of documents regarding graduate students were updated without student input over the summer. She raised concerns that these documents were not approved by the Graduate Council, and is in contact with Dr. Carr about this issue.

There was a small special Open Forum before the Dec. 18 meeting, to which all reps were invited.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

**President Da Silva:** Has been working on emails and media interviews from the latest issues involving graduate students

**Executive Vice President Clausen:** has been working closely with the co-chairs of the Academic Affairs committee on getting the stipend survey out, and finding that survey research is a long and very slow process. We're looking at a February release, and a preliminary report by the end of the Spring.

**Vice President of Student Affairs Reilly:** On the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving break VP Reilly attended the Student Advisory Board of Donde Plowman, represented our concerns that there is insufficient definition between the roles of the various graduate students. There are three graduate students in the Student Advisory Board, the students were selected based on their involvement for various campus groups. This group is new this year.

**Vice President of Representation Poudel:** No report this month.

**Vice President of Finance Twedt:** Presented the mid-semester budget. VP Twedt explained that the reallocation from reserve means that if we do not spend our allocated budget, we lose it. We are a line item for ASUN, and any money that is not spent by all of ASUN goes into a "reserve" budget. There is an inherited error from last year's bookkeeping in the printing accounts, we allocated an incorrect amount of money. There is no bill that addresses this. We can propose a new budget and requesting more money next



year. Biological Sciences requested that the Special Projects Grant be reallocated as belonging to section 406 rather than 403.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair Aditya Gupta: recognized and thanked the members of the committee. He noted that the stressors of grad life, added to the stressors of intersectionality are additive. The Committee for Diversity and Inclusion works to raise awareness of these stressors and work toward solutions and mitigations. In Fall of 2017 they represented the GSA at the annual LGBTQA+ dinner, hosted a panel discussion, and several other events. In the Spring, there will be a Coffee Hour in partnership with the Quality of Life committee on Diversity and Inclusion issues. There will be a grad mixer as part of the celebration of the UNL Black Graduate Student Associations 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will also be panel discussions and partnerships with other on campus centers. He requests help in the form of collaboration, participation, and dissemination of the information.

#### BUSINESS (25 minutes)

##### **GSA Bill #16 A bill adopting the Graduate and Professional Student Bill of Rights:**

VP Reilly likened this document to the Declaration of Independent, not the Bill of Rights (despite its name). We don't have the power to make university policy.

TLTE moved to replacing "funding" with stipend in line 2.2.viii. Amendment passed unanimously.

Modern Languages made a series of friendly amendments to correct grammar.

TLTE moved to extend discussion for 10 min.

VP Reilly made a friendly amendment.

Modern Languages noted some inconsistencies between the first, second, third, persons. Is the ideal reader the administration or other graduate students?

VP Reilly answered that the Preamble was address to the reader (being administration). The document is a list of demands to administration, as well as a document *for* graduate students. It has been massaged to serve both purposes.

TLTE moved to amend 2.3 vi to match 2.2 vi. passed unanimously.

TLTE moved to include the phrase "for information regarding University policy" at the end of the Preamble. Passed unanimously.

TLTE moved to amend 2.2 viii to include the phrase "and University-level" following departmental. VP Twedt amended the amendment to include "college-level." passed Unanimously.

Biological Sciences moved to extend discussion by 15 min.

Child Youth and Family Services moved to include "time and roll" in 2.2.b (iv)

Passed unanimously with amendments.

##### **GSA Bill #17 A bill allocating funds for a social and networking event**

Passed unanimously.



**GSA Bill #18 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Event**

Passed unanimously with friendly amendments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TLTE announced the House Tax Cuts and Jobs Act protest.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM.