Minutes

Submitted March 9, 2018 by VP of Student Affairs Reilly

Executive Vice President Clausen called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Ballroom, City Union.

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Vice President (EVP) Clausen: Thanks for being here everyone, we have a long agenda to get through quickly.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

EVP Clausen: Are there any corrections to the minutes from February 6 as distributed in the meeting packet?
Academic Affairs Co-Chair Ziara: suggestion, like how the minutes are very detailed, when someone was speaking, it was documented by their first or last name, it’s more appropriate to document them by department.
EVP Clausen: that’s a good suggestion.
Physics and Astronomy: will this be posted on the website?
President Da Silva: We will go over all the names and make sure it’s okay before we put it on the website.

EVP Clausen: If there are no further corrections, the minutes will be approved as distributed.

APPOINTMENTS/ELECTIONS

EVP Clausen: Election for GSA Rep of the year, have had three nominees-- Chelsea Stehle, Brandy Judkins, Rami Ziara. Open the floor to other nominations at this time.

At-large: nominated Rami, he’s already nominated.

EVP Clausen: Does anyone not have an internet connected advice?

Philosophy needs paper ballot, At-large Sotelo does not have one.
EVP Clausen: Will now read nomination paragraphs from nominees. Chelsea Stehle: nominated for good work in SPGP and is active in the meetings. Brandy Judkins: closing the door, Brandy has always been an inspiring figure in GSA and her role in helping facilitate HuskerOUT was instrumental. Hard work, passion, commitment. Rami Ziara: the person who put the work into developing the graduate student stipend survey, which all of you hopefully saw in your inboxes and is still open. Those are our three candidates, and now about the logistics of voting.

Academic Affairs Co-Chair Martin: there was a lot of work that had to go into getting that survey approved by a significant number of channels. Vote for Rami!

EVP Clausen: all three of them are highly deserving of this award and are very hard working, but we’re going to have a vote.

President Da Silva: introduces voting through Kahoot. Everyone can access Kahoot.com and type game pin: 4846731. Every type in and see if you can log on. Does everyone have their pin number? If you haven’t logged in, raise your hand high so we can see. Once I click on start, there will be several geometry shapes and names, so you just choose the geometry shape that matches the name. Everyone is logged in, starting the voting.

Academic Affairs Co-Chair Ziara—21 electronic votes
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins—20 electronic votes and 2 paper votes
Professional Development Co-Chair Stehle—4

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins elected Representative of the Year.

OPEN FORUM

EVP Clausen: Would anyone like to speak at Open Forum?

Academic Affairs Co-Chair Ziara: developing a GSA welcome packet to help new members function better, we are open to any suggestions about what should be included-- feel free to contact Alex and Rami to hear input. Thank everyone for the votes in the award, and the survey. Thank you to everyone who helped with the survey: Alex, committee members, Daniel and Karen. As of Monday, we got 400 responses on the survey-- opened March 1 and will go through April 2. People will get weekly reminders before it expires. There are certain departments with 0 response: Accountancy (School of), Actuarial Science (Master of Science in), Architectural Engineering and Construction (Durham School of), Architecture (Master of), Architecture (Master of Science in), Biochemistry, Interdepartmental Nutrition (Program), Law (College of), Plant Health (Doctor of), Survey Research and Methodology (Program in), Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design, and Veterinary Medicine (Doctor of).
If your department’s name was said, please talk to people in your department and have them take the survey so that we have a better understanding of how students across departments are paid. Encourage all of you to start thinking about how we’re going to use the data that we collect and the results of the survey from your own department. If you want better pay in your department, that is your responsibility—execs don’t have time. You as the graduate students in your department are situated to do that, so please think about how you’re going to do that. Alex is working with a couple people in her department and is already talking with different faculty members who provide support letters so that they can go into the department and ask about money. Started a departmental GSA in my department, am using that as a platform for doing different things including pay grade and things like that. You’re probably going to hear that the university is going through budget cuts, but it’s been cut to 1% from 4%, but there has been discussion of increasing graduate student stipends to attract more students. Organizing would really help push these efforts forward. If you’re interested in analyzing the results, please contact them.

Veterinary Science: Survey about increasing the pay?

Academic Affairs Co-Chair Martin: Yes.

EVP Clausen: For more information, please contact Academic Affairs

Physics: what is the average stipend so far?

Academic Affairs Co-Chair Ziara: hard to say, have seen anywhere from $700 to $2800 per month.

Veterinary Medicine: We don’t get stipends, so you can take us off.

EVP Clausen: we still encourage all graduate students to take the survey.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President Da Silva: Since I sit on a university wide committee, I will start on university wide committee reports.

Academic Planning Committee--advise the Chancellor about cuts that are coming up. 1% of the budget will be cut, will have fewer personnel cuts than there were before, when there were 4%. Mobilization to celebrate the 105th year of the university, Chancellor Green is coming out with more details.

Want to acknowledge the professional development committee for working hard at the career fair and the morning mingle. Really hoping that next year or the years ahead we can have a career fair only for graduate students.

Would like to acknowledge the Quality of Life Committee for all the work they’re doing with the coffee talks.
Want to mention that ASUN has the Green Fund that has the opportunity for graduate students to apply for projects to make UNL more sustainable, a lot of money. You can go on our website and use the link to apply.
Next month is the last minute, so we’ll have a dense agenda.
We’ll be transferring to the new president.
Graduate Student Appreciation week.

EVP Clausen: Thursday’s Graduate Council Meeting will be looking at the Graduate College handbook, most of the changes are to change the status of the Dean of graduate students to make him a higher administrator, if you have strong feelings contact me or Julia.

VPSA Reilly: Contact Eva Bachman if you or someone in your department need help that you can’t get in your department. Green Fund is a great professional development opportunity.

VPR Poudel: Ongoing recruiting for university wide positions

VPF report delivered by President Da Silva: Max has been busy with his research and couldn’t come today. He said that all the finances through the CFA has been finalized, we have the new GSA budget that I’ll be presenting in April, a summary from this and then we’ll have the new budget for next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee for Social Events reported delivered by Committee Chair Vincent Perez
First year, a lot of work, has been fun so far.
Graduate Student Appreciation has been up in the beginning of March.
Please come out to Donuts with the Dean.
Thanks to the committee for helping me plan everything, it’s been really hectic.
Fall 2017 Events: Summer Ice Cream Social (182 students, lots of deans, Mike Beahm, Heng-Moss), GSA Back to School Social(250 students), Fall Bowling Social (70 people),
Spring 2018 Events: GSA Game Night,
Upcoming: Graduate Student Appreciation Week, massage, ice cream, donuts with dean, Brewsky’s
Graduate Student Appreciation April 2-6
Monday: free massages
Tuesday: GSA Meeting with pizza
Wednesday: Ice Cream
Thursday: Donuts with the dean
Friday: Brewsky’s
Questions?

University wide committee reports
Convocations Committee report in packet-- please read that over at your leisure
Faculty Senate (Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins)-- Academic Affairs and ASUN executives presented changes to the attendance policy  
Health Center Board (Quality of Life Co-Chairs Judkins and Rodene)-- have convened a committee to focus on how insurance changes are communicated to graduate students  
Academic Integrity (Erica Musgrave)-- first meeting, newly formed committee, brainstorming ways to change campus culture on academic integrity  
Course and Laboratory Fee Advisory (VPR Poudel)-- no report  
Grading and Examination Committee (Britney Piper)  
Informational Technology and Services (VPF Twedt)-- for those who don’t know the old Blackboard service will no longer be available, so make sure people are aware of the traditional apps for Box if you want to retrieve any information from Blackboard.  
Library Committee (rep not here)  
Parking Advisory Committee(Quality of Life Co-Chair Rodene)-- beginning to tear up the parking lot east of the stadium, that construction project is starting  
Teaching Council (Raeda Anderson and Erica Miller)  
UNL Police Department Advisory Board (Curtis Walker)  

If you have a grievance that falls under the aegis of a committee, use our website contact information to submit complaints to them.  

BUSINESS  

Bill 23 submitted by Social Events Chair Vincent Perez  

Social Events Chair Perez: this bill pays for last Friday’s game night social. I know it was submitted after the fact; I dropped the ball on this and I apologize for it. Total of $500 wasn’t spent, it cost $350.  
No questions.  

EVP Clausen: Seeing no questions, we will move to debate. The resolution is to adopt this bill, is there any debate.  

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: Because this is a retroactive bill, should the allocation be changed to what was actually spent? 352.74? We can amend line 5 to read that the GSA allocated. We need to be very careful about the precedent we’re setting about having bills that retroactively fund events-- we need to have the bill before the event is held.  

Professional Development Co-Chair Stehle seconds.  

EVP Clausen: Do you all agree to change that amount to 345.74? Seeing no discussion of the amendment, we’ll put it to a vote.  
Amendment passes.  

EVP Clausen: Is there any further discussion
At-large: amend line 3 to past tense.

EVP Clausen: we can consider that a friendly amendment. Seeing no further debate, a vote. All in favor of adopting 23…

GSA Bill 23 passes.

Bill 24: A bill allocating funds for Graduate Student Appreciation Week

Bill introduced by Social Events Co-Chair Perez

Social Events Co-Chair Perez: Same thing, but not retroactively doing something. Allocating $2000 to social committee, likely will be about $1200, but $2000 is a safety net.

EVP Clausen: Questions? Seeing none, open to debate. The resolution is to accept Bill 24 and fund GSAW. Is there any debate?

Physics and Astronomy: should there be a list of expected expenses?

Social Events Co-Chair Perez: Monday is the ice cream social will cost $300, Tuesday pizza and soda and subway for GSA meeting will be $250, Wednesday massages will cost $400, Thursday donuts with dean will be $100, and Friday at Brewsky’s will be $300.

Physics and Astronomy: is more of a suggestion. That list should be attached to the bill it would be good information so that if I wanted that kind of information, I would know how much it would cost.

President Da Silva: that is a good suggestion, I can definitely bring it to the next meeting.

Department Representative: good tool to compare actual costs with expected costs

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: thank you for having the bill in advance. As a something it is really helpful to have a budget whenever possible.

Seeing no further debate, vote.

Bill 24 passes.

Bill 25: A bill supporting GSA representation at the Professional Women’s Summit

Submitted by Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair Gupta, Representative Sotelo will present
Representative Sotelo: been in conversation about partnering with the women’s center, participate in professional women’s center which happened in February. If any of the committee chairs would like information about the event, please ask. All the bill is doing is supporting our presence at the event.

No questions.

No debate.

Vote. 1 abstention.

Bill 25 passes.

Bill 26: A bill amending the bylaws regarding the qualifications for representatives and committee chairs

Introduced by President Da Silva

President Da Silva: after re-reading the bylaws there was some ambiguity that needed to be solved, so this is why we have the current wording. I will go over all the changes made. “Full time certified” students now eligible to be represented. Disciplinary procedures for “failure to report a change in eligibility resulting in disqualification.” “All nominees and committee chairs shall meet requirements 1 and 2 for being a representative.” Added the option of self-nomination of committee chairs. Expanded ad-hoc members to include post-baccalauriate non degree seeking students and part-time students.

EVP Clausen: there are a few changes that didn’t get highlighted in this file but they are changes. We changed the qualifications to be a representation from 2 bullet points to 3. The bylaws have to be passed through the executive committee, given to you a week in advance, and then to pass, they have to be voted on by 75% of GSA reps. Are there any questions?

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: When do these go into effect as of right now?

VPSA Reilly: Third option-- go into effect now and not retroactively.

EVP Clausen: We can make an amendment to make them go into effect until the elections.

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: Add “therefore be it enacted, with the seating of the 2018-2019 GSA body, that the following amendments in the document below as highlighted be adopted.

Seconded.
Debate?
Vote.
Motion carries unanimous yes.
Further debate?
Put the question to the vote: All in favor of accepting 26.
Vote.
Unanimous yes.

Bill 27: Bill amending the bylaws orientation for officers and chairs,

Introduced by Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: Bylaw amendment about orientation for officers and chairs. This is my fourth year in GSA, one of the things that we struggle with is the steep learning curve for new people, we want to address this. From this experience, I realized that one of the things missing in the bylaws or regulations there is no requirement for preparations. In talking with Julia, we’re going to create an orientation for new officers and chairs prior to their term. Read out the measure.
Questions?
Natural Resources: Who is required to go to this?
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: this would be a requirement for officers of GSA, including committee chairs.
Natural Resources: Can we make it for everyone?
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: there will be a portion for people involved in GSA.
Academic Affairs Co-Chair Martin: will be developing packet documents for exec training as well, we’ll have access the same information.
EVP Clausen: the language being used here is consistent with the rest of the bylaws.
Electrical and Computer Engineering: standardized curriculum?
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: the bylaws don’t mandate it, but we are working on developing a standardized curriculum.
EVP Clausen: There is some standardization here.
Computer Science: How can we vote for a bill that we don’t have documents available?
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: this doesn’t require funding, the intent of this bill is to introduce a requirement that orientation be held.
Computer Science: why not make the orientation materials now?
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: it takes time.
VPSA Reilly: we’re waiting for the year to finish up from the current committee chairs.

Friendly amendment (VPSA Reilly): change “individual” in line 19 to “alternate”
Friendly amendment(Representative Sotelo): change 22 to “they”
Friendly amendment (Sociology): change line 19 to they

Vote: All in favor of Adopting bill 27.
Vote taken.

Bill 28: Sexual Assault Awareness Advocacy Event HuskerOUT 3.0

Introduced by Representative Sotelo
Representative Sotelo: acknowledge work of Julia, Alexandra, and Brandy, came from them and from previous HuskerOUT event. Previous HuskerOUT events focused on advocacy, sexual assault awareness, we’re looking to support legislation was proposed, provide information about the legislation, and provide opportunities for people to write to legislative authorities, and have a collaborative art piece where people can show support for survivors. Detail events proposed, and ideal event for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support.

Questions
At-large Representative: Question about the funds requested-- you can get more and return whatever’s left.
Academic Affairs Committee Co-Chair Martin: Fine accepting more money in general, it’s $100 more than we were anticipating. We don’t think we’ll spend that money.
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: we’ll be more responsible stewards of that money.
Physics and Astronomy: funds for GSA representation at end rape on campus march?
Representative Sotelo: Women’s Center invited different RSOs to this march, if the RSO wants to be represented, they have different options for sponsorship, the most inexpensive being $100. This might not apply to our body.

Debate
Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: friendly amendment on line 20: add # to HuskerOut
Further debate? Seeing none, we’ll put this to a vote.
Passes unanimously.

Bill 29: A bill authorizing the organization of the Diversity Coffee Hour on East Campus

Introduced by Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair Jackson

Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair Jackson: from the success of our coffee hour last month, in collaboration with Brandy and the QoL committee, it will be the 13th to 27th. A lot of students proposed doing events over there.
Natural Resources: East campus appreciate events like this. Thank you!
Seeing no questions, move to debate.
No debate.
Vote. Unanimous bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quality of Life Co-Chair Judkins: thank you to those who voted for GSA Rep of the Year. There will be an event on April 5 on Innovation Campus, Campus Conversations Setting Yourself Up for Success-- open educational resources grant, as graduate students who might teach, you might want to attend this.

VPSA Reilly: talk to me if you want to run for office.
EVP Clausen: ASUN elections are this week. Please vote for them, please get other people on the ballot. If your work in any way touches on the Great Plains, apply to be a great plains travel fellows.

President Da Silva: workshop in civil discourse through CASNR.

ADJOURNMENT