



Minutes

November 7, 2017
Submitted by VP Clausen

President Da Silva called the meeting to order at 7:00. The agenda with additions was approved without objections.

Accountancy, Biomedical, Chemical, Biomedical Medical, Communication, Economics, Entomology, Food Science, Journalism, Modern Languages, Music, Nutrition and Health Science, Philosophy and Plant Health were excused.

Absent was Textile.

Minutes from October 3, 2017 were passed without objection after friendly amendments (addition: Bill 8 passed unanimously).

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS: all candidates were elected without objections.

Carol Ott Schacht (Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication)

Luz Sotelo (Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering)

Noelle Atieno Mware (Department of Civil Engineering)

Shahab Karimifard (Department of Civil Engineering)

OPEN FORUM

Parking survey presentation by Eric Rodene: His survey in AY 16-17 was part of a larger project to allow grad students to purchase faculty and staff permits. 95 respondents, ~70% did not have a parking permit, of the 30% that do, 9 were willing to pay for a faculty permit; 13 were **not** willing, 7 said there were willing, but didn't specify a faculty lot. Conclusion: 10% of respondents said they would be interested in the permit—could extrapolate that up to 450 students would be interested in faculty and staff permits, this increase would represent ~10% increase in permits. He proposes a more official survey on parking and safety.

Notes on discussion: Rep. Segal raised concerns about employee status. At large Rep. Sotelo noted that there was a separate *space* for Faculty/Staff, Rep. Rodene noted there was no *price* difference. Rep. Arch. & Engineering Construction: UNL Students in Omaha *can* purchase parking in the faculty/staff lots. Civil Engineering asked the ratio of faculty/staff permits to spaces. Community and Regional Planning pointed out that focus on parking incentives driving, there could be alternate solutions *besides* parking. VP Rep pointed out that graduate students who *aren't* working for the university need to be considered. Rep. Ott: reemphasizes need for capacity to be considered.

Child Youth and Family Studies: Rep. Erwin reported on her NAGPS travel to Syracuse, NY. She is serving as the regional Social Justice chair for the Midwest. Pres. DeSilva was elected International Students Concerns Advocate to the national organization. We have access to discounts on certain goods and services (mostly insurance). NAGPS is a nonprofit that advocates for structural changes to improve Grad Studies in the United States, including international student visas, student debt reform, and working conditions. UNL was moved from the South Central to the Midwest Region. UNL moved that the Board minutes be posted, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President Da Silva: GSA attended the LGBTQA dinner, along with president from ASUN. Next month we will know who will suffer from the \$8.5 million cuts to the University Budget.



Executive Vice President Clausen: Grad Council Meeting upcoming, please contact for concerns.

Vice President of Student Affairs Reilly: Will be going to a student advisory board meeting with Donde Plowman. Eric still sits on the Parking Advisory board. Surface lots have expanded, this has raised safety issues for Grad students who work all hours. She requested that anyone who has safety concerns approach her directly. She also wished to draw attention to a bill that will be going to ASUN, which has a government liaison committee and would have more sway with government officers.

Vice President of Representation Poudel: Congratulations to the At-Large representatives, they will be joining committees. Asks for feedback about being treated as staff.

Vice President of Finance Twedt: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Professional Development Co-Chairs Thompson and Stehle: Planned events in partnership with the Career Center including a Graduate Career Fair Prep night and the Morning Mingle. They are looking into events that can connect graduate students with employers outside of Career Fair. Look for upcoming Professional Development Networking Event.

Professional Development grant seeks to provide funds for projects designed by and for graduate students. In Spring 2017, 4 projects of 10 applications were funded: Writing Research for Publishing and Practice, Workshop on writing math exams, Community based project on childhood homelessness, UNL Hack-a-thon. Total of ~\$2,500 across those four applications was funded. Summer 2017, 3 of 4 applications were funded. Online workshop on universal accessibility. International student career workshop. Science Communication Bootcamp. No funding in Fa 2018. This was the impetus to change the special rules.

Also working to build relationships with Grad Studies.

Rep. from Plant Technology—point of clarification, NUTech Ventures *is* UNL, they offer internships for graduate students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GSA bill of rights and responsibilities

Rep. Segal: Recognized the writing team: Ananna Ahmed, Karen Da Silva, Angela DeLuccia, Mykesha Jackson, Brandy Judkins, Julia Reilly, Eric Rodene, Lauren Segal, Chelsea Stehle and Trace Vardsveen

Has been meeting with Tim Carr, provided a few suggestions, looks forward to a fruitful partnership. Lauren expressed disappointment from the lack of input in the creation of this document, we need to be using our voice, we need to be in this together, called for unity and solidarity. The suggestions that came through indicated that students did not have a grasp of their own professional development, she encourage students to understand what is a responsibility and what is a right.

She requests comments *only* on section 3 concerning Rights. This document won't ensure every right. However, this document will ensure that future students have a say in governance on campus.

Preamble and Definitions sections will be removed.

Responsibilities section detracts from the central goal. Grad Studies will cover the responsibilities.

Structural Issues and grammar will be addressed at the vote in December.

Requests that representatives gather the students in their department gather and send a single email within the next two weeks do update the draft.



Rep. Sotelo: Will there be an updated draft? Yes at the Dec. meeting.

Pres. Da Silva reports that NAGPS was excited by our pioneering work.

BUSINESS (10 minutes)

GSA Bill #12 A bill authorizing the GSA Coffee Hour Campaign

Rep. Judkins: the rationale for the bill springs from sharing the work of the GSA committees and foster partnerships with other units and centers across campus.

VP Finance—Point of order: Account 402 has ~\$3,500

The coffee hour would take place in the hour and a half prior to the monthly GSA meeting.

Passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

GSA Bill #13 A bill amending the Special Rules –Special Projects Grants Program

Rep. Stehle: the rationale of the bill is that summer is not a good time for Professional Development programs to be planned.

Passed unanimously by voice vote with no abstentions.

GSA Bill #14 A bill amending the GSA Bylaws

VP of Student Affairs Reilly: Thanks to the campaign finance working group. Rationale: formed in the special session in September out of concerns that outside groups could influence GSA and ASUN elections. Pres. and Exec VP are ASUN positions, and regulated by that groups rules. All other VP (Student Affairs, Representation, and Finance) are unregulated. GSA can internally regulate only the *non* ASUN positions. This bill requires that internal Vice Presidents who run with a Student Election group *or* accept campaign funds *then* you are disqualified from accepting a nomination from the floor. There is no electoral commission. Their papers are kept in a cabinet, but the people don't exist. The three physical forms that exist require three reports of campaign finances, but these do not show itemization of contributions—only by *type*. Ex. in 2012, the "Party Party" raised over \$8,000 in campaign funds, which was eventually donated to an Orphanage in Africa. The only way to check the forms is physical access of the forms.

The disclosure form will be drafted before December, and input from Representatives is welcome.

Passed with one abstention.

GSA Bill #15 A bill opposing the proposed 2018 national tax plan.

Rep. Erwin (Child Youth and Family Services): The recent tax proposal (released Nov. 2) would require graduate students to pay taxes on their tuition remission. It would require her to pay 26% of her current stipend in taxes, or 51% of a \$21,000 stipend.

Pres. DeSilva will distribute a template to speak to university admin or state officials including letters, tweets, etc.

Bill passes unanimously with amendments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VP Reilly reports that Rep. Judkins is presenting a lobbying bill to ASUN.
GTAP is looking for reviewers for applications.

ADJOURNMENT



Pres. Da Silva adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.