

Graduate and Professional Students Association
Graduate Assembly Meeting
Eleventh Legislature – Third Regular Session
2:00 P.M. October 25, 2013
Discovery Hall Room #250 – Arizona State University, Tempe Campus

Minutes

Present:

Deborah Ayodeli, Katherine Brown, Kimberly Davidson, Alexis Farley, Venu Garikipati, Brittney Hasselwood, Jennifer Jermaine, Emily McIvor, Parth Nagarkar, Andrew Waldron, Samantha Wildman, James Alling

Absent:

Sharma Chhavi, Jillian Childress, Ayfer Golkalp, Shika Rawat, Ranson Saint, Kerrie-Anne Wilkins

By Proxy:

Bryson Jones (Megan Nelson), Heather Kropp (Bobby Abdallah), Jorge Mancillas (Rebecca Foster), Robert Schmitz (Mohammed Hassani)

Attending:

Alexis Gonzales, Dr. Weber, Adrian Chavez, Amelia Topper

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:04 PM.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes not included in meeting packet.

Alling makes motion to approve by electronic vote; approved by Assembly by unanimous consent.

III. Amendments to the Agenda

Alling presented a track changed agenda; approved by Assembly by unanimous consent.

IV. Call to the Audience

Attendance taken during this time; quorum reached.

V. Executive Reports

a. James Alling, Assembly President

Discussed the nominations for open seats up for approval under AB# 16.

Discussed GSO funding for November; Alling completed the GSO funding process due to Schmitz's illness and family obligations.

Working on joint legislative meeting; first joint legislation being voted on this meeting.

Regarding email etiquette: make sure to highlight what is important and what needs to be responded to immediately. If it's urgent then mark it urgent!

The December meeting will happen as we are constitutionally mandated to have a meeting in December.

On a personal note: Thanksgiving with James's family is an option should you find yourself unable to go home for the holidays.

Lastly, James is currently interviewing with the US Coast Guard and will not be leaving school until he finishes his law degree next December at the earliest. Additionally, he is both a law and engineering student and is currently enrolled as a student in both.

b. Megan Fisk, President

Alling moved to allow President Fisk to add a 3-5 minute question and answer session at the end of her report; there was no objection from the Assembly.

Briefly discussed legislation at the national level to lower the interest rate on graduate loans to match undergraduate rates.

Discussed the athletic fee. Ten million dollars of tuition revenue is currently supplementing athletics and we are currently the second lowest funded athletic program in the PAC 12. By agreeing to the new athletic fee we get: tickets to games, two graduate students on the athletic fee committee, the money that was being used to supplement the program will come back to student programs. This in turn could be funneled into TA and RA support as well as increased career prep, weekend shuttles to and from the campuses, test prep classes, and more.

Afterward a question and answer session clarified a few things.

c. Lisa Lacy, Vice President of Internal Affairs

Updated the Assembly on travel grant funding.

Teaching Excellence committee training will commence as soon as Tej Reddi returns to campus from an advocacy trip to DC.

d. German Cadenas, Vice President of External Affairs

Cadenas was not present; Adam Monroe gave his report in his absence.

Gave a rundown of Cadenas's report as well as his own advocacy efforts.

Announced Pauline's advocacy efforts and a Breast Cancer support walk in Tempe on Sunday.

Discussed Arizona law requiring proof of citizenship to vote in state elections but not national elections and it's possible effects on Arizonans.

e. Jason Stryker, Vice President of Professional Development

Megan gave report; discussed how to get people to come to events.

VI. External Reports

Dr. Weber gave a brief introduction of himself and his work.

Spoke about the outstanding graduate mentor awards, etc.

VII. USG Report

Alexis Gonzales was in attendance but declined opportunity to speak.

VIII. Committee Reports

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. AB #16: AN ACT Confirming New Members in October

Amended to include Amelia Topper. Assembly unanimously accepted Alling's revision.

Alling moved to allow nominees to speak for three minutes. No objection.

Adrian Chavez gave first statement.

Amelia Topper went second.

There was no debate.

The bill passed with thirteen in favor and three abstentions.

b. AB #17: AN ACT to Approve the GSO November Funding Cycle

Alling moved to make a series of formatting changes. Approved by unanimous consent.

Friendly amendment made to change STUDENTS in bill title to the singular.

The bill passed with fifteen in favor and three abstentions.

c. AB #18: A RESOLUTION in Support of a GPSA Bid to Host the National Conference of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

James moved to make a series of formatting changes. Approved by unanimous consent.

There was a brief introduction to the bill.

The bill passed with fourteen in favor and four abstentions.

Ayodeli asked a question; Alling moved for her to be allowed to speak out of order which was approved without objection.

d. AB #19: A RESOLUTION supporting the recommendation of a mandatory fee charged to the students of Arizona State University.

Alling stepped down as Assembly President to debate.

Wildman assumed control as acting Assembly President.

Davidson spoke on behalf of the bill and said that her constituents – though initially opposed – were generally favorable after they were explained the ins and out of the bill.

Garikapati asked about the option of an 'opt out' fee or some other sort of alternative fee. Fisk explained that was not an option as the money is necessary for athletics and will need to come from somewhere somehow regardless.

Alling spoke in opposition of the bill. He questioned the benefits of using tuition money or an additional fee for athletics as well as the overall benefits of athletics in relation to the school's educational duties. Additionally, Alling did not like that Dr. Crow and the school were not being held to the agreement by any sort of tangible promises – called for an MOU between the school and GPSA.

Jermaine asked Fisk whether or not it was possible to demand a MOU as James mentioned. Fisk explained that she did not believe that was how the administration would go about such an agreement

Ayodeli asked Fisk about the effect that additional funding for RA and TA funds or a requirement that programs offer more competitive funding would have on current funding agreements. Fisk explained that they would not retroactively change current funding agreements but would apply to future agreements.

Waldron spoke in favor of the bill. He was glad to see that a lot of the stipulations he and other student leaders had wanted were included – such as free student admission to games, a prohibition on the use of the athletic fee in recruiting or

staff salaries, language equalizing graduate student pay across all programs and campuses, and more.

Ayodeli expressed concern that the review process was once every two years and that two years was a lot of time in which a lot could happen. Her main concern was that if the school did not follow through with its promises it would be two years before students could do anything about it.

Alling commended the work that Fisk has done but worried that if passed no one would read any line but Line 34 where GPSA agrees to the athletic fee.

Alling moved to extend debate by five minutes; no opposition.

Davidson acknowledged Alling's concerns but felt like Line 31 – which places a stipulation that the bill is only good so long as there are no material changes to the agreement.

Jermaine makes a motion to amend the bill to combine the language beginning at Line 31 with the wording at Line 34.

Nagarkar moved to take a recess to allow members to talk among themselves and discuss how they wanted to word the amendment.

One back in session Jermaine removed her offered amendment from the floor.

Waldron offered is own amendment which was discussed and then approved.

Alling made a series of friendly amendments which were passed by unanimous consent.

Nagarkar called to question on the bill, Davidson seconded.

A voice vote was held on the call to question, it passed.

The bill passed with ten in favor, three opposed, and two abstentions.

e. AB #20: An ACT to Liquidate the ASU Associated Students Endowment

Discussion on this bill began after a motion to briefly table AB #19.

This bill needed to pass by a 2/3 vote due to the lateness of the bill being presented before the Assembly.

A concurrent bill in USG Tempe must also pass for the bill to go into effect.

Ayodeli asked why the distribution of the endowment is between just GPSA and USG Tempe to which James explained that the history of the endowment extends well before the other campuses existed and it's operation ended before any of them put any money into the endowment.

Representative Haselwood moved to amend line 20 so it read 'resolved.'

The bill passed with thirteen in favor and two abstentions.

XI. Graduate Student Forum

XII. Announcements

Davidson invited everyone to join the dean of COPP for a town hall meeting on Wednesday night at the downtown campus.

Brown encouraged other students to get involved with the HERstory committee; she's the only grad student on the committee and it would be great to see more grad students getting involved.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Voting Records

AB #16:

- **In Favor:** Ayodeli, Brown, Davidson, Farley, Garikapati, Haselwood, Jermaine, Jones, Mancillas, McIvor, Nagarkar, Schmitz, Wildman
- **Opposed:**
- **Abstained:** Kropp, Waldron, Alling

AB #17:

- **In Favor:** Ayodeli, Brown, Davidson, Farley, Garikapati, Haselwood, Jermaine, Jones, Mancillas, McIvor, Nagarkar, Chavez, Topper, Waldron, Wildman
- **Opposed:**
- **Abstained:** Kropp, Schmitz, Alling

AB #18:

- **In Favor:** Brown, Davidson, Farley, Garikapati, Haselwood, Jermaine, Jones, Mancillas, McIvor, Nagarkar, Chavez, Topper, Waldron, Wildman
- **Opposed:**
- **Abstained:** Ayodeli, Kropp, Schmitz, Alling

AB #19:

- **In Favor:** Brown, Davidson, Garikapati, Haselwood, Jermaine, Jones, Mancillas, McIvor, Nagarkar, Waldron
- **Opposed:** Kropp, Schmitz, Alling
- **Abstained:** Ayodeli, Wildman

AB #20:

- **In Favor:** Ayodeli, Brown, Davidson, Garikapati, Haselwood, Jermaine, Jones, Mancillas, McIvor, Nagarkar, Waldron, Schmitz, Wildman
- **Opposed:**
- **Abstained:** Kropp, Alling