Meeting Minutes
Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Clemson University Student Senate Chambers
Attendees: Senators and general public

1. Call to Order—Aury Kangelos, Graduate Student Body Vice President and President of the Senate

2. Call of the Roll: 44 Present

3. Approval of the Minutes for October 19, 2017

4. Special Guest
   a. Gerald Vander May, Director, University Planning & Design
      I am excited to be here. Will be giving an introduction to the long range framework plan. This is a combination of 18 months of work with many consultants and hundreds of students in the committees. Good time to have a new plan, a new enrollment plan and strategic plan as well. Master plans in past generally describe details building by building. This is a more flexible plan as it identifies the policies for the coming years. Long range tool to develop decisions here.

   Strategic Plan: We will grow to approximately 26000 students by 2026 and will add 1100 new employees so this adds growth pressure. We want to create a great place here, better functioning and safer campus that is all tied back to the people. Provide a space where social and intellectual interactions occur.
   Framework built of 5 layers, there are topographic changes, some special landscapes like botanical garden we need to work around. In 50’s started with library as heart of campus. Academics around it and then residence halls. (New development framework in presentation). We have the capacity to grow here on campus without expanding further.

   Mobility framework: Getting to and from campus and around campus. Two traffic circles proposed to change the traffic pattern. Move traffic to perimeter road. Make safer for pedestrians. Walter Cox Blvd. round about design (attached in presentation).
   We also got a million dollar grant to make a bike trail to a property.
   Some facilities are not up to standards. A lot of work needed to bring them up to par.
   Academic & research needs: need to build more facilities.
   Provide campus life and student life amenities outside academics too. Looking at expanding Hendrix Center. Need to do something with the senate building too.
   Demolish by 2021 and replace it.
Tillman hall and Bowman field have capacity for development. More topography. Business school opens in 2020. Expand Daniel Hall and then renovate the existing space. Potential for a library annex. Make most of the spaces between the buildings, more transparency so you can see what is going on inside the buildings. Better connection from bridge to the aqua. Renovate PNA, Lehotsky, etc. Replace older buildings with better functioning condensed buildings. Replace Newman and Redfern. Make the campus more engaging and active. Opportunities on how to use the power plant building when we shift away from the facility. Move non-academic offices outside the center.

**Q&A:**

Senator Mandal: I could not use any of these parking spaces at all.

Mr. May: We are looking on additional parking spaces. As campus densifies in the core, everything gets pushed out further, it will be a culture change.

Senator Hager: How will it impact transportation with CatBus?

Mr. May: We need to look into that. Some sort of vehicle to move students into the center but many streets will still be open.

Senator Ehlert: Can you expand on accessibility, as for now, it’s really hard for people with accessibility needs.

Mr. May: Universal accessibility plan will be complimenting the framework plan.

Senator Sherwood: Clemson has a goal to be carbon zero by 2020, how does the framework includes that?

Mr. May: We try to build according to sustainability plans. We used to have a coal powered plant when I first started working here but we are trying to get rid of fossil fuels. We try to go at least for the silver status. We have a lot of land but also a lot of restrictions on that land. We can build solar energy farms.

Senator Debaum: We need more curbs and ramps. It is really difficult to get around.

Mr. May: We do have a universal accessibility plan and I will get the questions back to the committee.

Senator Brunell: Plans to make the speed bumps more effective to make crossing the roads on campus safer. Add features to make more effective.

Mr. May: Will take the suggestions back.

Senator Anderson: What is the timetable for traffic circles on 93?

Mr. May: We don’t have a timeline but you will see a few changes very soon around the area. It has very high price tag with it so we are still looking into it.

Clemson University secured the perimeter road and we can make improvements along the corridors.

Entire plan will be on our website. Just look up Clemson University plan & design.

5. President’s Report—Courtney Allen, Graduate Student Body President
I know one of the biggest things to talk about is the tax cut. We sent out an advocacy letter. One is a contact sheet of the representatives and also on how to call your representatives.

The tax provision (Section 1204) in the Tax Cuts and Job Act that removes tax exemption status from Graduate Research/Teaching/Administrative Assistants tuition reductions. We were on a conference call earlier with NAPGS regarding their advocacy efforts on this issue which was attended by Student Body Presidents and Vice Presidents from all over. We are urging you to utilize the materials we sent today in the email and call your representatives in your home state and also in SC. It really impacts us all and we want to be heard. Grad school also sent out an email today. Best thing we can do is to provide with as much info we can and advocate for ourselves.

On a lighter note, 3MT was last week and went really really well.

GRADS coming up in spring.

Graduate spring orientation coming up and we want to make sure you are involved in it at sometime. We will have a lunch panel on Jan 8, need some representation from all Grad students. Just let us know if you are interested in participating.

Graduate Student Organization Fair in Spring.

6. Executive Reports

   a. Deputy Chief of Staff:

      Global and Cultural Awareness Symposium Kick off festival on Jan 26, Tillman hall.
      Email mrucks@g.clemson.edu if u want to participate.

   b. Outreach:

      Items shipped to hurricane affected families.

      This Sunday Tigers for babies. Nobody signed up so far.

      Dec 4, building a ramp, got cancelled last week as not enough people.

7. Steering Reports

   a. PEGAS Committee—Amber Mann, Awards Chair and John Sherwood, Applicant Reviewer Chair

      Reviews are due Saturday night. Awards will be processed within next week.

      PEGAS committee met last week and revised the rubric. We got ZERO comments outside the senate. Please give us feedback.

   b. Activities Committee—Amaris Tejada, Chair

      Past Events: Pottery painting night, 15 people showed up. Trivia night went really well.

      We will try to do one more trivia. Tailgate last weekend with BGSA, we had a blast.

      We would love to see more of you come out and use the space.

      This Saturday tailgate for Citadel game partnering with NRGSA. Starting at 9am outside Fike.

      End of year holiday party: Dec 9 at Pendleton. We will provide transit. Please sign up.
Game night: Nov 28, 6-8 pm at Grad Student Center.

Senator Namara: Who is going to be the DJ at the holiday party?

Senate President: We have 2 options right now, one is the DJ for meet n greet and the space has a DJ too.

c. Finance Committee—Elaine Sotherden, Chair

Last funding meeting of the semester was last night. Next meeting Jan 17. Form request to be filed a day before. Encourage organizations to apply for funding, also read the funding process on website or email finance.

Senator Mandal: Any other obligations beside recognition?

Finance Chair: We can’t give money to an organization that is not recognized.

Finance Chair: Last night an organization requested funding for an event which is not eligible for funding due to alcohol. They also described a few other events that could be funded by GSG but they never applied for those.

d. Sustainability Taskforce—John Sherwood

We are working with the Provost Commission. Sustainability day in spring, bringing a speaker.

e. Rules and Procedures Committee—Beth Solomon, Chair

Productive meeting yesterday. Proposing a new attendance and vote procedure. Text to vote will be open for pilot in January. Also a streaming link for people out of town who can’t make it to senate meeting but they will have to request the link ahead of time. We will be testing it in spring. If you interested in helping with the testing, please let us know.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

a. GB 318 A Bill to Update Robert’s Rules to Reflect Current PEGAS Practices

Senator Mann: It just updates Robert rules. Don’t add or take anything away. Clarify our roles.

Senator Woods: We can’t edit Robert’s rules of order so need to change the title to ‘update the rules of order of Clemson University graduate student senate to reflect current PEGAS practices’.

Accepted a friendly amendment

Vote on GB 318: Yes: 44. No: 0. Abstain: 0. Bill Passed!

b. GB 319 A Bill to Formally Create the Position of CGSG Webmaster

Senator Mann: Last year PEGAS webmaster position was not formally instituted. So in spring we had no one to help us with system programs and we went two terms without a webmaster to help us.

Senator Woods: Again friendly amendment to update rules of order in title

Senator Namara: What about the technology person on team. With current director of technology with GSG?
Senator Mann: PEGAS can be very different than what the Director of technology can handle. This semester we are lucky to have someone who can fill both positions but PEGAS can also be very time consuming so better to have a separate position.

Vote on GB 319: Yes: 44. No: 0. Abstain: 0. Bill Passed!

c. GB320 A Bill to Approve Allocation of Funds
Senator Sotherden: It is a bill for the allocation of funds to organisations who requested funded in last finance meeting.
Senator Ehlert: Where are we with the budget?
Senator Sotherden: We are under our projections for fall semester.
Senator President: Do you have a total that is distributed?
Senator Sotherden: We have one but I can’t recall, its less than half.
Senator Wilkes: What is not used this semester, does that rolls to next semester?
Senator Sotherden: No, what is not used this semester will be a good justification to roll back.
Senator President: Last year whatever rollover we had went to cover the deficit.

Vote on GB 320: Yes: 44. No: 0. Abstain: 0. Bill Passed!

10. Other Announcements and Open Remarks
Senator Wilkes: GRADS coming up next semester. Please participate and attend. We are also having an appreciation lunch for 3MT sponsors, judges and finalists.
Senator Coppinger: GIS day at library tomorrow 10 am - 4 pm. Free pizza 10 am – 12 pm. Some talks on how to use a drone and you can also win a drone.
Senator Sherwood: PEGAS committee met last week, discussion on scoring leadership. Currently stated by undisclosed algorithm. Legislation Next meeting to remove that. Adding another box where u can talk about leadership. Email us or give feedback on how to incorporate that. Committee meeting next week, you can come to that also.

11. Good of the Senate
Senate President: Tax cuts and jobs act. I had been discussing some of the implications of that bill. I got a lot of emails from a lot of students. This is directly going to relate what you pay in tax season, a pretty good chunk of your stipend. House passed the version of their bill today.
All bad stuff in the bill. Interest you pay on student loans, they are removing the exemption.
Currently waiver be considered taxable income. University endowment is tax exempt, that exempt status will be removed too. Athletics, season tickets up to 800 tax deductible, removed that too.
Senate passed a version which didn’t include grad students. Best way to call our senator and representatives to thank them and ask them not to propose any amendments. House will have to
hold their nose and pass the senate version. It’s moving fast and quick.

Tuition waiver for partial assistantship. Graduated system so if you are 20 hours then 100% waiver, 15 hours - 75%, 10 hours - 50%. It is also stackable so for two 10 hours - 100%.

No need to take classes during summer if on assistantship.

Sargent at Arms: What about those registered as international student?

Senate President: Yes you also call since you are paying taxes on stipend. Tell them specifically that you are a grad student at Clemson University.

Senator Coppinger: Not in favor of going to a graduated tuition waiver as many students in our department on a 10 hour assistantship and rest is sponsored.

Senate President: I will bring this up with the committee.

Senator Ehlert: We received an email about students on assistantship evaluated. Any more info on that?

Senate President: I don’t have any info.

Student Body President: Dr. Fleming will be here next meeting, so ask him.

Senator Sherwood: I think this is more in line with peer institutions.

Senator Ehlert: It can create more push on students and some faculty treat students in a way as to kick them out.

Student Body President: I will mention that to Dr. Fleming. It shouldn’t be used as a channel to put people out.

Senate President: We received a wonderful thank you note from a student who got PEG.

Kudos to all who work on PEGAS committee.

12. Adjournment