Minutes
Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Clemson University Student Senate Chambers
Attendees: Senators and general public

1. Call to Order— Beth Solomon, President Pro Tempore
2. Call of the Roll
3. Approval of Previous Minutes – PASSES
4. Special Guest – Dr. George Clay, Executive Director of Student Health Services
   a. I want to give you an idea on what we’ve been up to in the last year.
   b. Student health services consists of 3 divisions: the health center, counseling and psychological services (CAPS), and healthy campus. We’re accredited by the Joint Commission which is the highest accreditation in the nation.
   c. We had just over 50,000 total provider visits over almost 13,300 patients/clients last year across all services.
   d. We went out to bid for new medical insurance and were able to a “very good premium” of $2,017 for mandatory students and $2,795 for voluntary students.
   e. We implemented a 24/7 online appointment booking online in MyHealth-e portal. We have gotten very positive feedback from students and have been able to reduce our “no show” rate.
   f. We’re now providing depression screening in all our medical visits which has helped us to proactively identify students with mental health issues and get them into CAPS when needed. Students seem to be very supportive of this initiative and have appreciated our efforts here.
   g. We have a Drug Take-Back Box in the pharmacy where you can dispose over-the-counter and prescription drugs safely and anonymously. We will then safely dispose of the drugs. This prevents the drugs from getting into the environment through improper disposal like flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash to then go to the landfill.
   h. Healthy Campus has been expanding the “Tigers Together” Suicide Prevention program. They’ve increased the number of trainings for suicide prevention advocacy and a special program for student athletes. We’ve been doing a lot of trainings for suicide prevention advocacy and will continue to grow that program.
   i. Our plans for next year are the following:
      • Expanding our Women’s Clinic, bringing on an OB-GYN and doing some construction over the summer to provide that expansion.
      • Bringing on a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner to help manage the Psychiatric needs of the students. The current psychiatrist is in high demand and we have to refer a lot of students off campus. Bringing on a NP will help reduce that demand and will also be an affordable option for students as it will cost less for them to see the NP than the Dr.
      • We’re looking to build a CAPS Satellite location because Redfern is just too small to support the student need. The only way we can expand CAPS services is if we consider an offsite satellite. We have a number of requirements for the space like having to be on a bus route and have ample parking. We thought we found a space, but when facilities was touring the space to determine what work needed to be done to meet our goals, they
found subpar air quality. We believe we have a new option and will share with the campus when plans have been finalized.

- We’re planning on adding two additional full-time staff for CAPS in the fall. There’s growing counseling needs for students as the student population grows and we’re trying our hardest to meet that need.
- We’re looking to collaborate with MUSC to build a telemedicine partnership. We’ll start with psychiatry and counseling as those are currently our biggest needs and then expand into other needs like neurology and other specialties.

j. Senator Samons: You said you’re going to expand to a CAPS satellite space. Are you still going to also keep CAPS in Redfern? I want to make sure that counseling is still accessible to students who can’t easily get off campus.
   - No, there will still be counselors in Redfern. This is an expansion of services, not a moving of them.

k. Senator Kleinbort: Can you add an option to book to the women’s clinic online?
   - Yes.

l. Senator Kleinbort: Do you have the stats on how many students go to CAPS for more than 20 visits and then “max out” and what happens then?
   - There is no maximum number of visits for students at CAPS. As long as they have counseling needs, the students will get that support. However, that support may change to help manage the high demand of CAPS. So students who need less support may see their counselor less frequently or be encouraged to participate in the group sessions. That way we have the capacity to see the students of high need.

m. Senator Tori: Is there a grad student specific group session for CAPS? It can cause problems if you are a teacher of record and potentially be in a group with students.
   - We can look into that. We don’t have one now, but I can see how that can be a problem.

n. Senator Allard: What are you doing to better serve the MBA students that are located in Greenville?
   - We’ve looked at the possibility of offering CAPS services in Greenville. There is not the critical mass of students in Greenville to rationalize medical care as of now, but we’ve been in contact with USC, because they also have students in Greenville, to see if a joint venture is viable. If we can show that between the two schools, there is enough need, then we’ll move forward with medical support as well.

o. Senator Allard: I’m supportive of the telemedicine policy and would like to encourage those efforts. I think it’s an efficient use of resources.

p. Senator Samons: I can’t get into your therapist assisted online portal (TAO). It’s down frequently and that can be a major turnoff for students.
   - I agree that would be a real turnoff and is an issue. I did not know there were issues with it, but now that I know, I’ll look into it.

q. Senator Knight: As a TA, we’re “on the frontlines” and often see things that teachers of record might not see. Can you include suicide prevention in the TA training process?
   - I can look into that. I agree that it would be valuable. Some departments have invited us to come to train their instructors and I would hope they would include TAs in that group, but it has not been offered across the university.

r. Senator Norman: The university is planning on expanding to 30,000 students. Are you confident Redfern could handle that expansion?
   - Not without a new building. No.

s. Senator Osuofa: I really like the messaging through the online portal, but one thing that I notice is that you can’t message doctors back. What’s the reasoning behind that? If I have other interface suggestions, who do I contact?
   - For suggestions, you can send them to me. The reason that we, and most
providers, do not allow reply messaging is because email is very indirect, and doctors/patients don’t get immediate responses. The big concern is if the doctor is away and the patient emails the doctor with an emergency, then their care can’t be addressed in a timely manner. The practitioners are rightfully concerned that a patient’s needs may not be addressed so they support the decision to keep the messaging system one-way.

t. Senator Sherwood: It seems to me that there has been a lot of friction between all parties with respect to the insurance change. Can you provide your perspective on the bid process and why the provider and plan changed?
- The bid process is on a 5-year cycle and we were very happy with the insurance plan we had. We were told by the folks in Columbia that we had to move to the bid option and had to be o. We had 5 “qualified bids” and they went through a scoring process. ½ of the score went to the price, the other ½ went to years of experience, the ability to market, the ease of the system. The scoring was blinded so that when we were scoring the non-price metrics, we weren’t influenced by prices. The bid ultimately went to BC/BS of South Carolina. BC/BS of South Carolina is a great health insurance company and they handle about 90% of the insurance needs of South Carolinians, but this is their first student insurance plan. It’s always a challenge on implementing a new plan, but this was much harder than others. There was a struggle because BC/BS hasn’t ever worked with this type of population and there were certain expectations that weren’t met. We’re working VERY hard to iron out the struggles in communications and the differences in expectations. I apologize that there were issues from the get-go, and I expect that things will get much better over the next year.

u. Senator Ehlert: Do you know the number of students on the mandatory insurance that hit their out of pocket maximum in a single year? I was wondering if there is a way health services can consider some way to help financially support those students who hit their out of pocket maximum because that’s a major financial burden to take on?
- I’ve thought about that and it’s a tricky problem. One major issue is if we implement some sort of need-based scale then we can quickly move into the insurance fraud space. The other struggle is that we don’t have much access to student financial records and that could restrict our ability to evaluate the need. We’re trying to keep the premiums lower and that’s why there is such a high deductible. Relatedly, we have some undergraduate students who come to Redfern or use the pharmacy who do not have insurance at all or have such minimal plans that they essentially don’t have insurance. We don’t turn those students away and we try our hardest to mitigate the burden on them.

v. Senator Allard: What policies at the state and national level that can impact our health insurance?
- My personal focus is on the issue of healthcare reform and providing all affordable healthcare to ALL CITIZENS. We’ve lost a lot of ground over the last few years. Providing affordable healthcare to all citizens can truly have an impact on your health insurance, both in the cost of the insurance as well as the services you get. There is only so much that we can negotiate as of now because we only have so much power. The state and national polices can have great power over what you are responsible for.

w. Senator Pham: Given that BC/BS seems to have overpromised and underdelivered. Is there a time point where the school can terminate the plan before the 5-year contract is up?
- We can, but it won’t be easy… if we tried to revoke the contract, it would take a VERY long time full of a large amount of litigation. Not only would it take a long time, but it could be rather costly paying for the legal representation. Not to mention that we would need to have documentation of serious contractual negligence. Additionally, during that time, BC/BS would stop working with us to fix the problems. Because of all of this, we find that
working with them and guiding them through these struggles is our best bet at getting students access to the best services.

5. President’s Report—Bryce Conti, Graduate Student Body President
   a. Quick update on Elections!!! Cole Robinson, my roommate who I have guilted into participating, is the elections commissioner and depending on what happens tonight with the bills, we’ll send out the role descriptions to the candidates. We have 10 people sign up for the 3 positions (President, Vice President, and Vice President, Greenville Campus). Thank you for all the interest! I’m looking forward to the process.
   b. The rules meeting will be held on March 26th, the open candidate forum will be held on April 1st, and the general election will be on April 4th.
   c. Senator Sherwood: Are we going to have a capital improvement project?
      • Yes. Let’s do it! We have the money in the budget so I’m game.
   d. Senator Blood: Thanks for your financial support for the healthcare survey
      • That’s not a problem, but in reference to surveys, committees, please check with Cody, Dr. Poole, and me before sending them out. We don’t want to reinvent the wheel so let’s first see if there is another office on campus that is already collecting that data and be strategic about our surveys. We don’t want to overwhelm the grad students.
   e. Senator: Because China is no longer accepting our plastic to recycle, major cities are considering stopping their recycling programs. Do you know if Clemson is on that list and is planning on burning our recycling?
      • I don’t know. I will have to look into that.
      • Senator Samons: I’ve been following this, and the US is hoping to find another country to take and recycle the plastic.

6. Executive Reports
   a. Chief of Staff, Chris Egan
   b. Deputy Chief of Staff, KatieJuriewicz
      • We’re finished with submissions for GSG Achievement Awards. There were 112 submissions so thank you all for participating. There was at least one person nominated for each category. Since we had such high turnout, we didn’t send reminders. We should have a list of awardees sometime next week (hopefully on Wednesday) because we need to order trophies soon. We’ll directly contact the winners so make sure to check in with the people you nominated next week.
   c. Director of Communications, Gray Lee
      • Send announcements to Gray to get included on the weekly GSG email (vglee@clemson.edu). Preferably send on Sunday night, but at the latest before 8 am on Monday.
   d. Community Outreach, Courtney Allen
      • Tuesday, March 12 – Homework Help from 3 – 5 pm at the Little John Community Center (644 Old Greenville Hwy, Clemson, SC 29631). Contact: Ms. A
      • Wednesday, March 13 – Homework Help from 3 – 5 pm at the Little John Community Center (644 Old Greenville Hwy, Clemson, SC 29631). Contact: Ms. A
      • Thursday, March 14 – Clemson Downs Socialization (500 Downs Loop, Clemson, SC 29631). Contact: Ms. Kathy
         • Please email Courtney (callen7@g.clemson.edu) if you plan to attend Clemson Downs.
      • Monday, March 18 – GSG Spring Break Service Event
         • Please sign up, if you would like to participate in service during Spring Break. The site and location will be provided at the end of this week. To sign up, complete the poll here: https://doodle.com/poll/4kqw2x425yteme59c
      • Saturday, April 13 – Rebuild Upstate event from 8 am – 4 pm. GSG will provide lunch. If you are interested, please complete this poll:
• Ongoing – GSG Independent Service Projects
  - If you would like to participate in service independently, please complete the link below and add to the service projects. You can complete the project and add your name and email address, just so we can note the service happening independently. If you need assistance from GSG, please email Courtney.
  - Link for independent service: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WeP3JygzLXnCPaaXNc
p0y7dZt7PWsIFScdjozO7jdF8/edit?usp=sharing

  • Please contact Courtney Allen (callen7@clemson.edu) for more information or to sign up for these events.

e. Research Initiatives, Shraddhaa Narasimha and Jaime Idarraga
  • GRADS has 195 participants! Thanks for all your recruiting efforts. We’re very excited for the event. We’re giving away over $4,000 in awards which is awesome. We’re in need of photographers so if you are interested in helping (or have friends with photography skills you can guilt into helping out) please let us know.

f. Director of Finance, Amir Malek
g. Webmaster, Courtney Linder
  - Minutes will be posted to the website and are located here: https://gsg.people.clemson.edu/resources.php?
  - If you have questions or problems with the GSG website, please email Courtney at clinder@g.clemson.edu and she’ll gladly work with you.
  - If you don’t see yourself on the Legislative tab (https://gsg.people.clemson.edu/legislative.php) send Courtney an email with your username and she’ll update it.

7. Steering Reports
  a. GTG Committee, Stephanie Schenck, Awards Chair and John Sherwood, Applicant Reviewer Chair
  • The summer session is open now and will close on March 20th. We have about 100 applications so far. We have extra money this summer than in previous terms so you should consider applying and encouraging your constituents to do the same. If we show that the GTG is in demand, it could help us negotiate for more funding next year.
  • I’m stepping down and GTG needs more committee members and it’s better if you start now because we’re super awesome. If you want to say you contribute to handing out $180,000 of grant money, you should join our team! Please fill out this short application https://goo.gl/forms/X6csE5PVw55pPS1B2

b. Activities Committee, Sruthy Orozhiyathumana Agnisarman
  • Wednesday, March 27 – The Office Trivia Night at Backstreets starting at 8 pm. Need a break after coming back from spring break? Come test your knowledge of the hit show The Office (U.S.)! How well do you know Jim’s pranks on Dwight or Michael’s screenplay “Threat Level Midnight”?
  • Friday, April 26 – End of the year party at Palmetto’s Event Center and Catering. More details to follow.
  • Please Sruthy is working on the events for the semester. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact her at sorozhi@clemson.edu

c. Finance Committee, Anastasia Frank-Kamenetskii
  • We had a meeting last week. We’re proposing to give ~$10,000 to various student organizations in the bill below.
  • Our last funding meeting is April 9th, 2019. We have about $5,000 left so make sure you tell your student groups to apply for funding, just not that much funding.

d. Rules and Procedures Committee, John Porter III
• We’re moving forward with the whole reorganization process. Please email us with thoughts and suggestions.
• Collaboration sheet is live on the GSG website and can be found on the main GSG webpage in the “Senate Updates” box
• Legislation that is up for debate is also located there
• We have a new email address! Email is gsgrules@clemson.edu (yes, GSG does rule 😊)

8. Special Committees
   a. Health Services Committee, Bridget Blood
      • We are sending out a survey to determine student satisfaction with the Clemson Health Plan. Please contribute to the survey and encourage your constituents to do the same.
      https://clemson.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MCJno42ewMEIZ
   b. Athletics and Ticketing Committee
   c. Parking and Transportation Committee, Bridget Blood
      • We will be sending out a survey by department to determine how many students need access to campus on game days for research in the fall, specifically if they would need to park on campus and in what buildings. This will be done through a departmental representative.
      • Dan will be here in 2 weeks. If you have questions related to parking, please email Bridget (bbblood@g.clemson.edu). Dan can talk for hours so let’s try to be efficient with our discussion.
   d. GSG Reorganization Committee
   e. Graduate Student Life Committee
   f. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
      • Senator Samons: We’re looking at CUSG’s resolution to rename Tillman Hall back to Old Main. Please contact me.
      • Senator Pham: I talked with the Special Assistant to the Vice President and they said that the university is stuck because it’s a historical marker.
      • Senator Samons: There is a two-fold strategy that I’m working on. First to get a placard describing the name changes and why the names have changed. This should help with the whole “we can’t do anything because of history” argument. The history will be documented AND displayed. I also am working with a History professor to talk about how buildings get named and if there is a way we can get a building named after someone who is a strong and positive influence for this campus.

9. Old Business
10. New Business
   a. GB 341 – A Bill to Redefine the Roles of GSG President and GSG Vice President – PASSES (Y: 40 N: 1 A: 4)
      • Senator Kleinbort: Are you going to change the election process so that the president and vice president run together on a single ticket?
      • Senator Porter: We’ve considered it, but we’re trying to be respectful of the candidates and make sure that we don’t discourage someone from running because they can’t find a running mate.
      • Senator Beadle: We’ve considered these roles a lot and have tried to make sure that the roles and responsibilities are clear moving forward.
   b. GB 342 – A Bill to Redefine the Roles of GSG President and GSG Vice President in the Rules of Order – PASSES (Y: 38 N: 2 A: 3)
      • Senator Sherwood: What would happen if we didn’t pass this bill after we passed the previous one?
      • Senator Allard: Then our Constitution would be out of sync with our Rules of Order which isn’t the best thing to have. I would recommend if you voted for the previous bill, you should vote for this one.
c. GB 343 – A Bill to Approve Allocation of Funds – PASSES (Y: 42 N: 0 A: 1)
d. GR 89 – A Resolution to Redistribute GTG Webmaster Honoraria – PASSES (Y: 38 N: 0 A: 4)
   • Senator Sherwood: The idea behind this bill is because the GTG Webmaster role was never filled and I have been responsible for doing all of it.
   • Senator Pham: Does Cody know?
      • Senator Sherwood: I emailed Chris and Bryce and I think I included Cody in the conversation, but the conversation died out.
      • President Pro Tempore Solomon: We already had the stipend earmarked for a GTG Webmaster and it hasn’t been filled all year so it’s not money we’re taking away from anything else.

e. GR 90 – A Resolution to Create a Campus Technology and Libraries Committee – PASSES (Y: 37 N: 0 A: 4)
   • Senator Beadle: The ITSAB has about $5,000 to support student needs and we have two groups that don’t have pathways for graduate student input. We feel this is an important committee and can help GSG interface with these two influential entities on campus.

11. Other Announcements and Open Remarks
   a. Senate Secretary Ehlert: If you have events that you would like to share with the Graduate Student community, I WILL ADD THEM TO THE MEETING AGENDAS! Please email me at kehlert@g.clemson.edu with what you would like to include, and it will be placed in this section. During the meeting, you can give more details and answer any questions. Items received by Tuesday at 8 pm will be included in the agenda that will be distributed on Wednesday. Other items will be included in the meeting minutes.
   b. Gant Multicultural Center Events
      • Ally Training – Mondays, March 25th and April 22nd at Various Times in Daniel Hall 213
      • Sunday, April 7 – 26th Annual International Festival from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bowman Field
   c. Dr. Poole: Just to share more about what Bryce talked about in reference to surveys. What we’re learning is that everyone is trying to get a baseline and similar types of data. Survey fatigue is real, and we don’t want to undermine the surveys and data gathering process. Please try to talk with us so we can see if there is data that we already have that you can use for your projects. Student affairs, and other branches of the university, have established data governance policies and we want to be respectful of those policies.

12. Good of the Senate
   a. Senator Pham: As a part of the student affairs meeting we had this morning, Aramark is establishing a dining hall advisory board and is in desperate need of graduate students. Please see the Discord message for the link to the application process.

13. Adjournment – Adjourns at 9:20 pm