Minutes

Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Student Senate Chambers
Attendees: Senators and general public

A. Call to Order—
   a. Meeting begins at 8:01 PM

B. Call of the Roll

C. Special Guest – Dr. David Fleming, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

   - another banner year for graduate students, graduate students exceed 5400, doctoral students exceeded 1600- a record breaking year

   - traditionally, assistantships have not caught up with enrollment increases, but the last 2 years we are hitting a stride in supporting more graduate students- hope to continue this momentum

   - orientation was very successful thanks to our leadership and received positive feedback from surveys

   - These policies are prospective, **not in effect**, we want feedback on things we are considering

1. Time limit for parting advisor- maintain the ability to be an advisor upon leaving the University for up to a year
2. Changing or taking away limits of transfer credits- allows for students to follow their advisors to Clemson- would still have to hold thesis credits and meet the requirements of Clemson University program
3. Grade replacement- in the current system, grades do not cancel each other out. It takes 3 A’s to alter grade to a 3.0- students unable to graduate with a GPA under 3.0; this would allow for up to 3 courses grade to be replaced- this would lower the number of students on academic probation, struggling in their program, and help students to graduate on a timely manner

Q: what are your feelings on faculty coming in with students?
A: I do not feel it is my role to tell departments how their faculty and students interact with each other. A new faculty member would receive graduate faculty status, but do not have doctoral directive status (would have to serve on a co-chair on someone’s committee)- this would allow for a mentoring process.

Q: When do you see these policies coming into effect?

A: Debating on when to bring these policies into light.

Q: How would academic integrity come into play with grade replacement?

A: I do not have an answer, this is why I have brought this policy before you guys. As it is written now, you would have to have committee approval to get the grade replaced.

Q: Is there a disproportionate number of marginalized people on academic probation?

A: I do not have this number on hand.

Comment: PhD students also switch departments, this is not only an issue at the undergraduate level.

Q: In February, there is a potential fee associated with Grad 360?

A: We proposed a fee last year and that did not pass. Increasing offerings and utilization of Grad 360 without the funding to support it. I am not in the loop about a future proposal of a fee for Grad 360. We fear not having the money to use the program to its full potential.

Q: IRB wait time is extremely long, when will this be fixed? There is also a rule against graduate students as a PI?

A: IRB ebbs and flows on time frames. IRB is essential for any research program, and I will look into this ASAP. An advisor has to be a PI because if something goes wrong, it is on the advisor, not the student.

Q: Implemented mandatory evaluation to continue feedback for assistantship, will there be steps to encourage more feedback?

A: I do not see any changes coming, but we can discuss this further.

Q: Certain courses offered at university that do not count towards degree, so this would be great for graduate students who want to explore, but it could affect your GPA

A: there are 2 GPAs offered for your program, so a Golf class would be on your transcript, but would not negatively affect your GPA

- I want to come to your event, so please invite me EARLY!

D. Executive Reports- President Miles Maynard, Vice President Kaitlyn Samons, Chief of Staff William Everroad, Pro-Tempore John Porter III

a. President, Miles Maynard

- Thank you to Dr. Fleming for coming and speaking to us this evening

- Thank you to those who attended the Trivia night at CSP and also the Ice cream social at Spill the
Beans

○ We filled out CSP for Trivia Night and had over 85 people at STB
○ Continue to push our social media accounts

■ Twitter and Instagram: @clemsongsg

● Congratulations to our advisor Dr. Kimberly Poole, who was selected as student affairs employee of the game for the football game this weekend.

● If you are not on a committee do remember that you need to be on at least one.

● If you are going to be absent from a meeting, please make sure you email Katherine Allen the Senate Secretary at kallen5@g.clemson.edu

● The GSG website has been updated thanks to Amal and is making just a few more tweaks.

● Go Tigers!

b. Vice President Kaitlyn Samons

-Congrats to Dr. Poole, Laura and Murwan, and Amir for backing us financially!
-Please join committees and make sure to update Katherine about any announcements and updates.
-You are allowed only 2 excused absences, so please make sure to get those in at least 24 hours before the Senate meeting.

c. Pro-Tempore, John Porter III- John Sherwood presenting

Importance of Discord:
- Most people were kicked because I was unsure of their status
- Please use the link re-join if you were kicked
- Please then go into the spreadsheet and add you discord tag
- Also change your username to your FIRST AND LAST name please

Committees:
- Many of you should have received information from your respective choices but it is up to you to reach out to your choice and let them know you are interested and are ready to be active.
- If they are full, then please be a good sport and move on to your other choices, trust me there is plenty of help needed
- Please also understand, that within our rules of order, all senators are REQUIRED to serve on at least 1 committee to remain senators, because we want to make sure everyone here is actively participating, and we thank you for your time and commitment.
- Once you have been added to a committee, that chair will then let me know, and I will make sure to add you to your respective committee channels (assuming I can find you in discord by your first and last name)

Discord Link:
https://discord.gg/ZjFxyKW

Senator Link:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FGSxoisp9NRoCB5YavrytRnq78x1feCdD_KC5IeoRk/edit?usp=sharing

d. Chief-of-Staff, William Everroad

- Search and screening committee for the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School:

- Candidate pool will be established by the end of the fall semester.

- Candidate interviews will take place early spring.

- Anticipated hire date before the end of the spring semester.

Send emails to weverro@clemson.edu if you have any attributes, experience, or qualifications you would like to see in a potential candidate for this position.

E. Internal Committee Reports

a. Communications

b. Graduate Travel Grants

- We're hosting a GTG Feedback Session for Summer and Fall 2019 applicants/awardees

- Bridget and Kathy will be in the Graduate Student Center tomorrow, Friday, September 20th from 11 am - 4 pm for graduate students to drop in and talk to us about the whole GTG process

- We hope to take this feedback to improve our application and reimbursement process, consider future policy changes, update our rubric criteria or definitions, update and expand our published FAQs, implement changes in our new website design, or any other productive use of the feedback. If you can't make the drop-in, please email us at GTGS@clemson.edu with "Feedback" in the subject line.

- Spring Applications will be coming out in early November

c. Research Initiatives

- 3MT finals will be held November 8

- Sign up link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUMGutHJe57hzbEmfc7wUIS_wS3S4NusV2ZUCICKe6UZgbTQ/viewform

- A petition has been created to get Clemson to recommit to the pledge they signed in 2007 to make Clemson carbon neutral by 2030


d. Finance Director

- October 1st, projected first meeting for this committee

e. Activities
- We had a super successful Trivia Night at Charleston Sports Pub last week and look forward to hosting an event there again next month. Grad students filled the restaurant which was awesome!
- Last night we had ice cream and board games at Spill the Beans and we had about 70 grad students join us for that! Thanks to everyone who came out and took a little study break with us.
- We are planning to have a tailgate for the women's soccer game vs. Virginia Tech on **Sunday, September 29th**, so keep an eye on your email for details.
- Our first official activities committee meeting will be this **Wednesday, September 25th at 5pm in the Graduate Student Center**. This is your chance to give your input on what events we have and when they happen, so please come visit with us if you have suggestions!

  f. **Rules and Procedures**- Sarah Beadle (sbeadle@g.clemson.edu)
     - Canvas Training for “How to be a Senator”
     - New Senators, contact Sarah about being added to the Canvas page
     - documents associated with GSG, we are trying to organize and make a super document to make them easier to process

  F. **External Committee Reports**

     a. University Services and Affairs

     b. Diversity and Inclusion

        - Suicide Prevention Week approaching- can join for particular events but also still looking for committee members!

     c. Graduate Academic Affairs

     d. Parking and Facilities

        - Working on game day parking pass for graduate students so they can park on campus

     e. Health and Human Services

     f. Graduate Campus Life

        - We are currently looking for members to join our committee. The goal of our committee is to improve the lives of graduate students at CU by tackling issues such as reducing fees for graduate students and putting an end to academic bullying.
        - We have several ideas for new initiatives and would love to have some feedback and ideas on other topics and issues we can improve on.
        - Please contact the Graduate Campus Life chair (Emily Knight-ewknigh@clemson.edu) for more information or ideas on how we can improve graduate life.
        - Discipline and athletics and ticketing committees forming and people needed

  G. **Old Business**
H. New Business

I. Other Announcements and Open Remarks

a. Committee Sign-Ups Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdooEL4v0x8cqBxzdACTInau-O7O0CYmzu4tej9LGjbD82bew/viewform?usp=sf_link

b. ALL SENATORS MUST SERVE ON AT LEAST ONE COMMITTEE

c. Select 3 committees you would like to be on, but list one as a first choice; we will try to get everyone their first choice, but obviously cannot place everyone on the same committee

d. Habitat for Humanity Event Friday, October 18

e. ITSAB committee in need of members- choosing projects to fund

f. Women’s Soccer team opens against Notre Dame Sept. 20 at 5:00 PM, Men play against Duke following the Women’s game (dinner and dessert theme, dinner @ Women’s, Dessert @ Men’s)- -Donuts on library bridge around 9 AM

J. Good of the Senate

a. The Clemson circle of ODK is now accepting applications for the Fall 2019 funding awards. All individuals, organizations, or events are eligible for awards. Clemson ODK wishes to support endeavors that relate to at least one of our five pillars: Scholarship, Athletics, Speech and the Mass Media, Creative and Performing Arts, or Campus/Community Service. Please complete the attached application and submit it by email to Elizabeth Gianino at egianin@g.clemson.edu by 11:59 pm on October 4th.

b. The Clemson Circle of ODK is also accepting applications for membership. The application can be found on the ODK website (odk.people.clemson.edu).

11. Adjournment – 9:28 PM

12. Senate Secretary Katherine Allen: 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 kallen5@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.