Minutes

Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020
Time: 8:00 PM
Location: Remote Locations
Attendees: Senators and general public

A. Call to Order— 8:00 PM
   a. Meeting Begins at 8:02 PM
   b. Approval of prior meeting minutes

B. Call of the Roll

C. Special Guest – Dr. Kimberly Poole
   - Appreciate all attending with this challenging time- you all are supporting a lot of other students with your roles across campus and through your assistantships
   - Please do not hesitate to reach out to the executives of GSG or myself for additional support, we are working closely with administration.
   - We are planning something special in the future concerning graduation.

D. Executive Reports- President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Pro-Tempore

I. President, Kaitlyn Samons
   a. Academic Council meeting notes. Had an emergency meeting regarding something to do with a Temporary Final Exam policy. As soon as Provost Bob Jones sends out the email, I will post my notes to discord.
   b. Dr. Fleming and Dr. Miller are working on Graduate Convocation walk flexibility for all time (not just Spring 2020).
   c. Meetings with Chris Miller (March 19th and March 26th).
   d. Senate Chambers and offices will not be destroyed in 2020-2021 Academic Year per Dr. Miller.
   e. Email me if there is any questions to bring up at these meetings
B. Vice President, John Porter III
   a. The demolition of the Senate Chambers has been postponed so we will continue meetings there next semester.
   b. Kaitlyn and I are getting together to setup a call for 2020-2021 executive members
C. Pro-Tempore, Sarah Beadle *Rules and Procedures
D. Chief-of-Staff, Emily Knight *Graduate Campus Life

E. Internal Committee Reports
   a. Communications, Hillary Smith
   b. Graduate Travel Grants, Bridget Blood and Kathy Elhert
      i. All spring travel is cancelled -- we are reimbursing all grant winners for any non-refundable things
      ii. Postponed summer application period because of the COVID-19 uncertainty
      iii. All students who have received awards have been contacted.
   c. Activities, Laura Huff and Murwan Siddig
      i. All activities cancelled for the rest of the semester.
      ii. If there is a desire for online activities, please reach out to me with suggestions at llhuff@clemson.edu
   d. Rules and Procedures, Sarah
      i. We have 3 pieces of legislation that will be voted on tonight.
      ii. Our upcoming legislation will be on officer transitions and tracking Senate initiatives as they move through committees. As we review the Senator training from this year, email gsgrules@g.clemson.edu if you have specific changes you would like to see.
   e. Research Initiatives, Apurva and Erik
      i. Vote on the fate of GRADS 2020; with campus being closed, on-campus GRADS is not possible. Therefore, we want your opinion, as representatives of your programs, on how we should move forward with GRADS this year.
      ii. For the rest of the semester, the committee will mostly be working on preparing event plans for 3MT and GRADS for future semesters. Additionally, we will try to come up with contingency plans for these events in the case that we run into something like this again.
iii. With the closure of campus, an in-person GRADS is no longer possible for this year. How would you like us to proceed with GRADS 2020?

I. Cancel GRADS for this year votes: 27

II. Hold an online only poster competition (no presentations/lectures) votes: 18

III. Organize a full online GRADS with posters and lectures votes: 9

f. Finance, Amir Malek

F. External Committee Reports

a. University Services, Travis Roberts

b. Diversity and Inclusion, Emmanuel Adjei

i. International festival for this year has been cancelled. Tentatively, we may have it on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

ii. Pride events for this year have also been cancelled. However, we are looking into the possibility of having some talks online.

iii. Happy Women’s History Month! Unfortunately, we could not celebrate women enough because of this pandemic.

c. Health and Human Services, Rose Sommers

d. Graduate Campus Life, Emily Knight

e. Parking and Facilities, Qianyi Gao

- If you have access to campus because you are “essential” on campus, there is a special permit that you can acquire to park in orange and green spaces.
- The qualifications of being “essential” are frequently changing and less and less people will have access to campus.

f. Graduate Academic Affairs, Robert O’Hara

i. No new updates. Please continue to check the Clemson COVID-19 website (https://www.clemson.edu/coronavirus/index.html) for the most up-to-date info regarding academic affairs at Clemson.

ii. Everything I have heard or seen has stated that you should email faculty and staff with questions (I watched a video this morning from Dean Peterson in CoE saying the exact same thing) -- Don’t hesitate if you are having any issues reach out to faculty and staff
G. Old Business

H. New Business

a. Bills linked at: 
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nPHqv3qCnGx4TXy1B7Qa7BpmcTmHGGLnDrfPuXuW9fE/edit?usp=sharing

b. G.B. 2020-14R- A Resolution to Express Graduate Student Support for the Creation of a Women’s and Gender Center at Clemson University
   i. Sponsors: Emily Knight, Graduate Campus Life Committee, Sarah Beadle
   ii. TLDR: a parallel resolution with CUSG and Faculty Senate as follow up for the Women’s March and It’s On Us student orgs call for action to create a new center on campus for support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault
   iii. Pass-50 fail-1 abstain-2

c. G.B. 2020-15B- A Bill to Approve Allocation of Funds
   i. Sponsors: Amir Malek, Finance Committee
   ii. TLDR: student organization funding request for 9 events
      iii. Pass-48 fail-2 abstain-3

d. G.B. 2020-16B- A Bill to Amend the GSG Finance Code
   i. Sponsors: Sarah Beadle, Kien Pham, Amir Malek, Laura Huff, Kaitlyn Samons, John Porter III
   ii. TLDR: updates to finance code in the Bylaws to require Executive Board approval for use of discretionary funds by leadership, requirements for submission of annual budget by close of prior academic year
      iii. Pass-49 fail-0 abstain-4

I. Other Announcements and Open Remarks

a. https://savemaps.io/ -- A Clemson undergrad made this website to support local business who did not have their own gift card infrastructure (i.e. local bars and such)

b. Senator Ehler: Careful about hiring? Does that mean they are postponing hires or halting the hiring process?

c. Dr. Poole: HR is reaching out to new hires. HR has a list of exceptions, but this falls under their umbrella. Please reach out to hiring managers or provost
for more questions.

d. Senator Pham- Is there a plan for committees to continue their work online?

e. President Samons- discussing what we should be doing as individual leaders and how to transition online as well as dealing with cabinet changes. Short answer, we have not discussed this in enough detail. Trying to fill in new committee leaders so they can be a part of these changes and transitions.

f. Senator Pham: We have until April 23rd to do their job, and existing committees are the same as of now. Functions should be upheld in accordance with the bylaws.

g. President Samons: We have currently been dealing with the shutting down of activities. Committees are not acting to add, but figuring out how to adjust their work to an online setting.

h. Senator Huff: I was a liaison between TigerQuest and the elections committee- there is an anonymous voting record and I would be happy to share that with you- just email me for that information.

i. Senator Matniyaz: What does GSG plan to do concerning COVID19? Does/Will Clemson Student Health Insurance have special open enrollment due to COVID-19 like some other universities have done? Should GSG advocate for reopening enrollment?

j. Senator Sommers: We have to talk to Redfern as far as that is concerned- we do not have an official answer for that right now. I will look into this and keep you all updated. Check emails frequently. When you refer to open-enrollment, what are you referring to?

k. President Samons: reopen insurance with a lower rate; most insurances are offering special conditions in reference to COVID-19

l. Senator Norman: What is going to happen to our budget surplus?

m. Dr. Poole: Money in the budget will roll over into the next year from student activity fees.

n. Vice President Porter: A lot of questions about awards- I do not know if University is still holding awards online. We are fine with awards moving forward, but we will need people to help with awards. Continue to check the Discord. *May be able to do an IOU for awards if there is an issue with accounts being frozen. This is not set in stone.*

o. Senator Blood: We need to uphold awards- only 2 awards for grad students. Submit the award online and then just hold a Zoom conference.

p. Senator Shute: For fees we pay like the gym membership, given that we are unable to use this service for essentially half the semester is there any chance
we can advocate for prorated reimbursement? Obviously this is a more important thing for issues like room and board for on campus undergrads but like if we can't use something it seems like we shouldn't have to pay for it.

q. Senator Knight: Adam Baker has reached out about this and we will keep everyone posted as this unfolds.

r. Dr. Poole: All reimbursements of any type are being looked at by finance and others. They are working on getting information out about that.

J. Good of the Senate

11. Adjournment – 9:20 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.