Minutes

Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020
Time: 8:00 PM
Location: Remote Locations
Attendees: Senators and general public

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

B. Call of the Roll

C. Special Guest – Dr. Fleming, Dean of the Graduate School
   a. Meeting daily with Emergency Operation Center regarding changes on
      campus
   b. Events surrounding football games last semester actually helped to prepare
      for the shift to e-learning
   c. Emergency Policies Passed
      i. Exams- there is the option to take the final grade on April 24th
         1. This will not apply as much with graduate classes
         2. If the instructor is teaching a class that requires a final project
            or grade, they can choose to uphold traditional grading
            policies- up to instructors- reach out to instructors to find this
            info out
      ii. Grades
         1. PASS/FAIL policy
         2. Considering student situations- international students,
            graduate students who work externally, instructor having a
challenge moving to online learning
3. These considerations moved us to the new grading policy
4. You can proceed as normal OR take a grade between an A and a C- and simply take a PASS grade
5. SCP (special circumstance pass)
6. Does not impact GPA
7. If you fail a class, you can submit a No Grade- which will also not impact GPA but will have to retake course
8. If you are on academic probation, this can actually help you- if you have 2 C’s, you can opt to pass and come out with a “higher” GPA

iii. Remote Coursework
1. Taking classes that are taught traditionally and moving them online
2. Graduation- we are thinking of having some type of event that is online
   a. May include a message from the President
   b. Considering a Facebook event to recognizing graduates
   c. If we are able to do so, there is talks of having an on campus event in August that were scheduled to have a ceremony in May
   d. Combining the August and May hooding ceremony may be too large to hold in the Brooks Ceremony- hoping to hold multiple hooding ceremonies to avoid ticketing guests

iv. Mental Health
1. Telehealth is open through CAPS
2. Take advantage of those resources
   - When do you have to decide the pass/fail option?
   - That has not been decided yet- the thought is once grades have been submitted, the decision has to be made within a week.
   - What is the turnaround time for grading finals?
   - Exam schedule is still as it is. As of now, the academic schedule will remain the same. Graduating students are a priority and we are working hard to take care of them.
   - Can you provide some clarity on the number and amount refunded?
   - Email Kaitlyn with specific questions regarding refunds. These refunds were prorated, so they consider the days left in the semester.
   - Concerning ICar students, is there a way for a certain number of students to have access
to buildings?
- We are trying to find resources for students to have access to certain materials. However, when the governor makes decisions in regards to gathering, we have to comply. We are making amendments for scenarios such as the need for students and staff to continue to feed livestock. We are hoping the number of cases will decline moving towards the summer and we will hopefully be able to relax restrictions. We are hoping to relax graduation requirements to accommodate graduating students. I cannot pretend to know what the solution will be for all programs.

- When will staff and students be allowed back on campus?
- We have to follow guidelines given by the governor. We meet daily to discuss changing circumstances. We do not have answers, but we are monitoring the situation.

- When will people have access to their offices and labs?
- We are moving in the restrictive direction- it is unrealistic to think campus will reopen while numbers are still going up. Safety is priority. We are working towards making a decision on Summer I, but may ultimately have to make a decision for the entire summer.

- Using GTG funds as a resource/support for graduate students?
- We are holding off on a decision on that right now. We still have worries about students who may be homeless come May 15th and want to make sure we have funds in the appropriate places.

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

I. President, Kaitlyn Samons
   - Feel free to email me any questions.

II. Vice President, John Porter III
   A. Executive Transition Reports soon due
   B. Executive Cabinet Positions soon to be open
   C. Honorarium and Budget bill coming next meeting
   D. Senator Check-in Poll will be ready by next meeting
      1. Help to see who is leaving and who wants to remain a senator

C. Pro-Tempore, Sarah Beadle

D. Chief-of-Staff, Emily Knight

E. Internal Committee Reports
   a. Communications, Hillary Smith
   b. Graduate Travel Grants, Bridget Blood and Kathy Elhert
      i. Summer application period open until April 15
      ii. Application to run as normal **but** awards will not be announced until
the university lifts the travel ban

iii. Reimbursements as normal

iv. Please come talk to us about positions in GTG- still looking for people to fill our spots

c. Activities, Laura Huff and Murwan Siddig

i. There has been no expressed interest in online activities

ii. Budget wiped by student affairs refunds, so we are not able to support anything for the rest of the year

iii. Preparing items for transition to new activities director

d. Rules and Procedures, Sarah Beadle

i. There are 3 pieces of legislation posted in new business. Our committee has met to discuss how to effectively bring in the leaders of the next administration and train new Senators. We also are making plans for R&P members to visit committee meetings in the fall to educate members on how legislation can be helpful for pushing initiatives forward. If you’re passionate about these topics we meet on Mondays at 2:30 and I will post a WebEx link on Discord.

e. Research Initiatives, Apurva and Erik

i. GRADS is cancelled (based on Senate and Participant feedback)

   1. If there is money in that account, it will likely be rolled over into the account for next year

ii. Sustainability Commission meetings are happening again via zoom. They are trying to come up with ideas for virtual events. Ideas and feedback is welcome.

iii. Earth Day Live: https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-live/

iv. Next Sustainability Commission meeting is on May 5.

v. Contact asanch2@g.clemson.edu for meeting details

f. Finance, Amir Malek

i. We do not know how much money we have left- our account has been frozen

ii. This account only directly impacts organizational funding
iii. We will keep everyone updated

F. External Committee Reports

a. University Services, Travis Roberts

b. Diversity and Inclusion, Emmanuel Adjei

i. In discussion with Hillary about how grad students could post inspirational messages and videos during these hard times on GSG’s social media platforms

ii. Seeking for an informal vote from the senate regarding the creation of a poll to ask grad students how they are feeling and coping.

c. Health and Human Services, Rose Sommers

i. Continue to practice social distances and practicing good hygiene

ii. There are resources for students facing difficult circumstances

iii. There are therapy resources for Clemson students

iv. Please stay updated on Clemson’s COVID-19 page

v. Should you be demonstrating symptoms, please contact healthcare providers or authorities, do not leave your home

vi. Clemson pharmacy is still open, but for PICK UP ONLY

vii. There is potential for prescriptions to be transferred to Greenville

viii. We are working on a survey for Greenville students and access to parking at Redfern- that survey has been submitted successfully

ix. We have posted info on open-enrollment onto the GSG website and on discord- so keep up with that information

x. We want to create an FAQ sheet concerning Clemson health or COVID-19- we are hoping to post this onto the GSG website

1. Post any questions on the Discord

d. Graduate Campus Life, Emily Knight

i. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines with COVID-19

ii. If you have the ability and means, consider making masks and donating them to places in need of PPE (Contact Emily (ewknigh@clemson.edu) if you need help finding a place to donate)

iii. Instructions for mask making (sew and no-sew) can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html
iv. PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR COHORTS
v. Quick survey about stipends, COVID-19, and moonlighting
vi. We need preliminary data from senate before we send a larger survey
to the entire graduate body
vii. Please respond by Saturday (4/11) at 8PM
viii. Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VVMS6Z5 or QR code

- Diversity and Inclusion will be joining in with this survey

e. Parking and Facilities, Qianyi Gao

f. Graduate Academic Affairs, Robert O’Hara

i. April 13th – Registration for fall semester opens up

ii. April 17th – Withdrawal data deadline

iii. COVID-19 grading policy
   - Applies to courses from this semester (Spring 2020)
   - Course grades assigned you have some options
     - Keep grade as is
     - Convert to Pass/Fail (course credit; no impact to GPA)
     - No Grade (for Ds and Fs) (no course credit; no impact on GPA)
     - If you have an Incomplete, policy will apply after final grade
       entered
     - Exempted Finals: up to individual profs, should tell you what your
       grade is April 24th you can accept exemption or take final
     - If you don’t take final grading policy applies after April 24th
     - If you take the final grading policy applies after final grade posted
     - You still have the option to use the Pass/Fail option after grades
       are submitted- the timeline is unclear as to how long you make
       those changes.

iv. CCIT email sent last week (3/31) – survey about support through
   online learning
Please complete it if you haven’t done so – give honest and constructive feedback

v. Center for Career and Professional Development website has virtual resources for students
   - https://career.sites.clemson.edu/about_us/covid-19.php

vi. Please see President Samons’ message from this morning on discord...has additional, current, info

vii. I will continue to update via discord and meetings when things come up that affect academic affairs

G. Old Business

H. New Business
   a. G.B. # 2020-17B: A Bill to Control Operation Success and to Promote emPowerment of Teamwork (CoS & PPT)
   b. Senator Ehlert: Concerns about the very specific language being used in these bills. If there are feelings of restrictiveness in these roles, there will be limitations on how well these positions can be upheld.
   c. Senator Pham: We removed some examples that were too restrictive. This bill is designed to explicitly lay out the expectations for this role. The CoS position position was a blank page going into this year. This bill is not to restrict, but to provide an outline for this position.
   d. Senator Beadle: I had similar concerns, but a lot of the language has been changed so it is not so action specific. It gives CoS and PPT the right to seek information about Senator activities from Committee heads and the right to re-assign Senators based on need.
   e. President Samons: The comment about language being changed at a later date was made in regards to future leadership. This would provide flexibility at a later date. This bill will simply aid the exec now to establish a standard.
      i. Pass: 36 fail: 1 abstain: 9
   f. G.B. # 2020-18B: A Bill to Formalize Operations Reporting Within Administration and be Ready to Delegate (FORWARD)
      i. Pass: 42 fail: 2 abstain: 2
   g. G.R. # 2020-19: A Resolution to Modernize with Online Business and Information Legislative Enactment (MOBILE)
   h. Senator Blood: For GTG, we cannot move them online to the public because we discuss specific students—for example, if someone has plagiarized
i. President Samons: The meeting video does not have to be published or recorded. This is just so you have the ability to go online - it is not necessarily pushed.

j. Senator Beadle: This is a resolution, not a bill - this is just something as a body that we would like to fulfill.

k. Senator Ehlert: I do not see why we need to hold a vote for this resolution - this is something we should have as a functioning body generally. This resolution is redundant, as this should be standard procedure.

l. Senator Pham: I think GTG is one of the best run committees - it is difficult to locate when a lot of the external committees. We are hoping this vote will define the standard for all committees to operate under. A lot of updates are not on the GSG website - so this reiterates the necessity for all committees to operate at a higher standard.

m. Senator O’Hara: There may be times when the GSG president is meeting with administration that is not public information - maybe put an asterisk or clause about “when information is public knowledge and for university consumption”

n. Senator Beadle: This is an effort to push administration to fulfill a role.

o. President Samons: Motion to add a friendly amendment

p. VP Porter: I pass the friendly amendment in Senator Pham’s stead
   i. Pass: 41  fail: 3  abstain: 4

I. Other Announcements and Open Remarks

   a. Senator Green: reaching out to students who have not logged on to any Clemson systems - please make sure to update all information on iRoar. Tomorrow night and Saturday afternoon we are trying to host some games and any students are invited.

   b. Senator Green: This information will be posted under the “General” section of the Discord.

   c. Dr. Poole - I wanted to highlight the health section on the COVID-19 page, so I encourage you to utilize those resources.

   d. Senator Malek: Headspace App is offering a $10 subscription for the year for students. Great for meditation and relaxation.

J. Good of the Senate

   a. Senator Beadle - Thanks to those of you who volunteered to help me review the nominations for GSG Achievement Awards. We’ll be doing the bulk of that work next week. Thank you to the Senators who forwarded my email to their departments, we have a good amount of responses. You have until
11:59 pm tomorrow, Friday, April 10 to send in nominations.

11. Adjournment – 9:59 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.