



February 07, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.
Nebraska Union | Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER (1 minute)
The meeting was called to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (1 minute)
The minutes were approved unanimously.

OPEN FORUM (5 minutes)

A representative from NuTech Ventures announced that they are recruiting for the position of commercialization affiliate. There are internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. The application can be accessed through the University's handshake portal and will close in mid-march. There will also be information sessions during February.

A graduate student addresses the Assembly regarding having more graduate student input in the unionizing efforts. They requested the Assembly representatives to act as a liaison or to point them to a student willing to be a liaison between the current unionizing leaders and the graduate students in their respective departments. Their email is unionizeunl@gmail.com and their website unionizeunl.org.

Representative Karimifard asked what was their target number. The graduate student replied that at the time of voting, they will need the vote of 50% of graduate students plus one employed by the University.

The graduate student also reminded the Assembly that in situations such as what has arisen with student health insurance, employers are obligated to sit and bargain with unions, whereas they are currently not obligated to include graduate students or to consider graduate student input in their decisions.

Social Events Chair Hackett asked what is the timeline. The graduate student replied that from the moment it is announced, the unionizing committee has 90 days to collect all the necessary votes.

The Assembly was also encouraged to avoid using their institutional email and use their personal email in personal matters such as this one, and to think of their institutional (i.e., huskers or unl domain emails) as their work email only.

Representative Gutierrez Pinto asked what would be the mechanics of the vote. The graduate student replied that they were hoping to make it an online system.

President Ratcliff reminded the Assembly that this effort is not part of their Assembly responsibilities.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President Ratcliff (5-7 minutes)

President Ratcliff encouraged an open discussion regarding the new Student Code of Conduct (SCC) draft. He raised concerns regarding the University's inability to clearly lay out the line between graduate students as University students, and as University employees. He said that this version of the code of conduct further blurs that division.

Representative Warrington indicated that besides failing to properly address graduate students, the SCC included several worrisome points including holding students responsible and face penalties for common student activities outside of campus or for the violation of laws, and points limiting students first amendment and academic freedom rights.

President Ratcliff informed the assembly that GSA will vote on whether the Assembly approves or not of the final version of the SCC, however, ultimately if the SCC is approved by ASUN it would be enacted even if the GSA votes against it. He encouraged representatives to read the current SCC draft and email him any concerns.

The assembly commented on the hypocrisy of having the assembly vote if the vote was not going to have any real impact on the decision. Also, some assembly representatives commented on the fact that most of us are currently in violation of this SCC draft, and on the possibility that the University will use this to target any student the University would like removed. Many assembly representatives agreed that interpretation of the current SCC draft would be a problem and could lead to partial decisions being made in regards to "violations".

VPR Rodene indicated that the original intention behind the revamping of the SCC was positive, however, the current draft is extremely concerning.

Representative Leighty asked what actions could representatives take. President Ratcliff replied that they could email him expressing their concerns, and that if we vote NO as a student body we could specify the reasons behind our disapproval to ASUN and hope they would take this into account. There is no answer yet as to when will ASUN vote.

Representative Gutierrez Pinto asked how could representatives have access to the presentation and the text of the SCC draft. President Ratcliff said, the SCC draft is publicly available and that he will inquire regarding the presentation.

Executive Vice President Juritsch (2 minutes)

No report.

Vice President of Student Affairs Sotelo (2 minutes)

VPSA Sotelo reported to the assembly regarding the parking and transit committee meeting she sits on and the upcoming changes in costs of operation for parking and transit services. She mentioned we would need to continue strongly advocating for students such that those changes

are not reflected on student fees. She also reported on attending the Sexual Misconduct Student Committee meeting and being in the Intervention Subcommittee, she encouraged the assembly to contact her if there was anything they would like to share to the committee or if they wanted to participate in the committee.

Vice President of Representation Rodene (2 minutes)

No report.

Vice President of Finance Huben (2 minutes)

VPF Huben informed the assembly that he is investigating the possibility of buying graduation gowns, working on the details, and that there might be a bill on this matter in March.

Students were informed that a photo ID is now a requirement during the commencement ceremony.

Representative Leighty asked if purchasing gowns was not possible, could the Assembly establish a fund for this purpose instead. VPF replied that the possibility could be explored if necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Graduate Travel Award Program (2 minutes)

GTAP Chair Tobin informed the assembly that there will be a bill in this meeting, because the committee observed that the amounts currently being awarded are likely not enough.

Quality of Life (2 minutes)

No report.

Diversity and Inclusion (2 minutes)

Not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

GSA Bill #11: A bill authorizing the organization of a February Bowling with Food Social Outing. Social events chair Hackett informed the assembly that the purpose of this bill was to authorize an event on February 28th that would be planned in collaboration with ISSO, the Diversity and Inclusion committee, and Graduate Studies. The bill passed with a friendly amendment by Representative Leighty.

GSA Bill #12:

Professional Development chair Atieno presented the bill, informing the assembly the purpose of this bill was to fund a breakfast mingle event for graduate students to network with employers in the context of the Spring Career Fair.

The bill passed unanimously.

Representative Zhou asked if the list of employers participating in the breakfast mingle could be shared. Professional Development chair Atieno replied that they don't have that information on time to share it with students, however, the employers are likely to be employers seeking graduate students on the STEM day. The bill passed unanimously.

GSA Bill #13: A bill authorizing the increase of GTAP funds for travel based on perceived need of applicants and overall coverage of travel costs.

GTAP chair Tobin presented this bill. She informed the assembly that the purpose of this bill is to increase the amount awarded to students for travel. The bill passed unanimously after a series of friendly amendments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Rodrigues invited members to the speed elevator contest hosted by Plant Pathology.

Representative Warrington invited the assembly to their art exhibition.

VPSA Sotelo invited students to the first College of Engineering Graduate Student Symposium.

VPR Rodene reminded representatives that elections are coming up.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.