



December 3, 2024, | 7:00 p.m.  
East Campus, Law Auditorium.

## CALL TO ORDER

7:11

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approved

## OPEN FORUM

### Housing and Dining

1. Dining Options and Graduate Students (Slideshow presentation)
  - a. GTAs have access to the Faculty/Staff rate at dining halls (You must tell the employee about this, it isn't automatic)
  - b. Housing app- myhourr
    - i. Next semester the app will be able to be used to find housing
    - ii. The app will be able to be used to communicate with the landlord
    - iii. The app can also be used to link in a UNL housing official if necessary, and they can loop in student legal services
    - iv. The goal is for the app to also be helpful for students coming from other countries who might not be able to do credit checks, etc

### Question and Discussions:

1. Going to look into a grad assistant meal plan
2. Going to look into accepted grad students accessing myhourr (accepted students might not single sign on access yet but are usually looking for housing at this point)
3. Price accessibility of meal plans?
  - a. Want to engage in pantry leadership so that confidentiality and privacy is maintained but also have ways for pantry participants to opt-in to accessing resources
4. Accessibility to fresh food around campus when the only close options are vending machines is really important
  - a. UNL dining does not have control on vending machines (it's managed by Pepsi)
  - b. Doing some creative thinking on ways to expand food options (maybe repurposing COVID huts,
5. Effectiveness of this app- is this app being tested? Previous apps for incoming students didn't work.
  - a. The are testing and want feedback if we see issues
6. What are the terms and conditions of the apps in terms of the leasing fee and other fees that someone from outside of the US might not be aware of?
  - a. UNL is not selling student data

- b. UNL cannot control individual landlord practices, but the plan is that Student Legal services will be involved in this. For example, there will be a rating or certification signifying that Student Legal Services has reviewed their leases/terms and conditions, etc.
- 7. Will landlords opting in to myHousr be lenient to international students who might accidentally commit a first-time offense or not know certain property management rules? This is very important and serious.
  - a. The director is very passionate about this and is engaged in conversations with community landlords about this. I appreciate this feedback to use as continued motivation for future community conversations.
- 8. It would be helpful to (a) have a trigger such that international students that don't have their visas yet can find housing and (b) a document/video explaining the housing and leasing process for incoming students
- 9. It would be great to have a subletting platform on the myHousr app, especially for grad students who are graduating in December
  - a. Right now, they're developing the roommate finder. Next step will be subletting.
- 10. It will be helpful to add the Lincoln Housing Authority to the myHousr network, as some grad students might be eligible for housing assistance
- 11. When does the pilot program start?
  - a. Launched in august with perks, adding properties every day.
- 12. To whom will students pay rent?
  - a. The landlords, not to UNL
- 13. How will you deal with landlords who will try to offer discounts to students for NOT using the app?
  - a. Housing will focus on the high-quality landlords, we are in initial steps right now

### **CARE office UNL**

- 1. Meet the team and today's representatives: Abby Ragain and Jenessa Jarvis
  - a. Confidential care for victims of power-bases violence
  - b. Serves student, staff, and faculty for sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking and harassment
  - c. Provide safe space to discuss issues: zoom, phone, and in-person options available; walk-in acceptable but phone call before is highly encouraged
  - d. Provide safe temporary housing for victims
  - e. Tell victims about reporting options on and off campus
  - f. Once you get connected to advocate, they help in navigating situation, talk about resources, reporting is completely OPTIONAL; they are different entity than Title IX so completely confidential, they do not report to police except if you are susceptible to harm yourself or others
  - g. Be an ally, help friends in coming over to CARE, the sooner the better!
  - h. Free access to UNL trauma recovery clinic (TRC) for UNL students by referral from CARE
  - i. CAPS is specialized in crisis care while TRC and CARE provide trauma informed care for stuff like PTSD
  - j. October and April are awareness months, follow us at Instagram @care\_at\_unl

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### **President Jemkur**

Updates on meeting with Chancellor \_ aka it was amazing, he is supportive

Katie: update on meeting with the Chancellor and EK

1. Assured that grad student stipends will not be impacted in the next round of budget cuts, Chancellor will try to increase stipends and raise minimum

Alejandra: he increased stipends for grad students in his previous position and would like to do it here

1. Chancellor also appreciated the grad student research awards initiative that GSA is currently working on

Venn: met with faculty senate today who were planning on removing grad student reps from D&I committee because of 'no response' by them

1. I asked them questions which they failed to answer and told them to contact the executive team as we WILL respond!
2. Background checks???
3. ASUN student reagent Elizabeth complained that some teaching tools are triggering for students including language, images, videos, etc. TAs and instructors, please warn students ahead of time and give them a chance to leave shortly so they don't get traumatized by class materials, be mindful of people with different backgrounds and trauma histories

### **Executive Vice President Vasquez**

Update on the jackets for students passing comprehensive exams:

1. Only need about 120 jackets a year. Now we are discussing the design and are planning on implementing it by August 2025. Spoke with Dean Hope regarding having a little event to celebrate the awarding of these jackets and passing their comprehensive exams

Research award:

1. Have a group of people

### **Vice President of Student Affairs Hafeez**

Need representation on the faculty senate Parking Advisory committee, meets once a month.

Please contact VP Hafeez if interested!

### **Vice President of Representation Skinner**

No report

### **Vice President of Finance Morris**

1. Quick update on current budget
2. Money spent on Friendsgiving and thanksgiving events by GSA is reflected in budget
3. Anticipate bigger amount in allocated portion for spring as GTAP awards will be decided
4. Met with Josh Ovarocker ...

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Affairs Committee

Biggest focus in the SPGP program rules. Will be bringing a bill at next meeting to update

### Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Making good progress with the Spring police event (knowing your rights, US law enforcement practices, and Student Legal Services). Are securing guest speakers. Date: Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Location: being finalized. Drafting the bill to present next semester for funding.

### Graduate Travel Award Program (GTAP) Committee

Deadline was November 30<sup>th</sup>. Received 22 applications. Reviewers are now looking at the applications and then the funds will be allocated.

### Quality of Life Committee

Working on compiling resources for the grad student orientation canvas page, like resources for support, and off campus events like family events.

### Social Events Committee

Last Wednesday was Friendsgiving- had over 100 people show up!!!! Are working on future projects, stay tuned for news about this!

### Communications Committee

Getting more social media activity for the next semester. Will be posting the friendsgiving pictures soon. If you have any information that needs to be updated on the GSA website, let us know.

### External Committees

#### Fee Allocation Committee

1. Had 61 proposals in the categories of new fee, increased fee, or fee removal.
2. Proposals were either approved, disapproved, or “requested clarification”
3. First layer of review is thus approved and is being sent to higher levels for approvals

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Want to recognize and appreciate GSA reps that work so hard for things to happen. We want to start recognizing GSA reps every month. Today we recognize certain members.

Note: Recently some members have asked, if they have an idea, what should they do? The President WANTS members to say ideas out loud- email the GSA executives, speak out in the meeting, etc. We want all members to contribute! Please don't be shy! 😊

Committee members, if there is anyone on your committee that you would like to acknowledge, pl

Today we acknowledge great work by:

Anuradha Dillon, Ramon Vella III, Gabriella, Meryl O. Sahouet, Wilma, and Kirsten Morris

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A good motivation for monthly GSA meetings is to provide food. Is there any certain external budget for coffee for monthly GSA meetings?

Unfortunately, no. MME allows for a small budget per semester for monthly GSA meetings. The social events committee chair recommends reaching out to individual department heads. However, this underscores wanting to expand the reach of SPGP to support other grad student events.

The Social Events Committee is also looking for Performing Arts individuals.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

See everyone next semester!