



September 3, 2024, | 7:00 p.m.
City Campus Union, Centennial Room

CALL TO ORDER

7:10

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

No questions, no discussion

Passed

OPEN FORUM

ASUN Executive Team-introducing themselves-student organization that governs all student RSOs. GSA is an executive committee of ASUN. Main Priority-Office of Diversity and Inclusion Closure. They are working on a response to this, more information will be on their Instagram. Have a bunch of different committees, including Campus Life and Safety, DEI, and Student Services. Each member of the ASUN executive committee introduced themselves. A priority is legislative collaboration between ASUN and GSA. Office is on the Union first floor, feel free to stop in and discuss issues/say hello!

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President Jemkur

Introduced GSA via the Introduction to GSA Powerpoint.

Over the summer had a series of meetings with leadership, including the Vice Chancellor, Dean Hope, Dean Lang. Discussed housing for new graduate students, especially for incoming international students who often have to wait until they can change currencies upon arrival in the US. Dean Hope also said there have been several cases of domestic students who have to come to Lincoln in June to get a lease before they go back home and move here in August. Asked them to consider temporary housing, so some of our grad students can have a place upon arrival and be able to. choose a better long term place. This is something happening now! Temporary housing exists in Sellick, and it's working well.

Also discussed family housing. Some of the buildings are not up to code. Vice Chancellor said a time will come when the families will need to move out of them, but the university doesn't have the money to go purchase a new building. She is going to keep the current units as soon as she can, but in the near future we need to do something.

Grievance Policy- This is something that previous President Katie Mowat worked very hard on.

Katie shared more about this: Not a policy/procedure written down anywhere as to what students should do when/if they have issues. Last year's cabinet worked on this, and President Jemkur and VP of Student Affairs is continuing this.

Faculty Senate Meeting- President Gold was in attendance. Some of the faculty were asking about IT issues and data management that he does not directly control. Overall it was an opportunity for faculty to discuss concerns.

President Gold's investiture- President Jemkur will be attending. It's this Thursday at the State Capitol, and it's open to the public. Come if you would like.

Executive Vice President Vasquez

No report, gave a personal introduction.

Internal Committees: Allie will be the one to assign members of GSA to internal committees. We will send a link by next week where people can fill out their committee interests. All GSA representatives are expected to be in an internal committee or external committee, but you can join more than one if you would like. External committees are just as important as internal committees because it's where we advocate for graduate student needs campus wide.

Vice President of Student Affairs Hafeez

Personal Introduction.

Previous experience is on Student Stipend Data- collecting data of stipends across UNL and other universities and advocating for stipend increases.

And Grievance and appeals Policy. She does confidential interviews with graduate students, with a goal to understand how the appeals and grievance process has gone for previous people, what the timeline was like, if they had a successful outcome and if so, what did that look like. Very thankful for the information she has gained from these insightful interviews. If you are having a problem or are considering an appeals process, you can come talk to VP Hafeez. She will listen to you and provide what information she has to you. If you know of anyone else going through this process, please refer them to VP Hafeez as well. The system is decentralized and varies across departments and she wants to understand it.

External Committees- VP Hafeez assigns external committees. VP Hafeez can answer questions about external committees-send her an email if you have a question. Goal is to assign to external committees first, then internal committee assignments will happen.

Vice President of Representation Skinner
Personal Introduction.

Come talk to VP Skinner if you don't think you're on the email list. He takes attendance each meeting since due to GSA Bylaws if you miss more than two meetings your department is no longer eligible for GTAP and other GSA funding options. This is why meeting attendance is very important. If you can't make it to a meeting, email VP Skinner about it and you will get a Zoom link. If this isn't possible, ask a department colleague to attend in your place. If the link on the website doesn't work let him know.

Vice President of Finance Morris

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ASUN

Academic Affairs Committee

Met with Office of Grad Studies and they have some nice events planned so keep an eye out on your email for it.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Had a meeting three weeks ago. Plans for this year- increase awareness of what we have done so far, the existence of our committee, introduced themselves to ISSO and other offices they can potentially collaborate with. Also want to other GSA committees from other universities to learn what they're doing with students and if we can collaborate with them. Plan to hold more events, maybe in collaboration with Social Events committee, on topics that are relevant, like things that will help international students feel at home.

Graduate Travel Award Program (GTAP) Committee

Finds reviewers to look over applications. Look over the special rules to see if you as a GSA representative are able to apply for this money. We especially need faculty reviewers (must have Graduate Faculty status) so think of people who would be good. A good chunk of our budget is going to this sub category so please encourage people to apply.

Quality of Life Committee

Please join if you want to be a co-chair! Some things are beyond the control of GSA but as a committee they do their best to provide feedback and enact changes that will ensure the best possible experience for our graduate students.

Priorities: Food and other things that are being discussed with President Jemkur. If you know of other issues you feel this committee should look at all, please reach out to the committee about this.

Social Events Committee

In charge of food for GSA meetings, so please fill out the form that was on the agenda if you have dietary restrictions and if you're interested in carpooling to make transportation to East Campus easier. Next meetings for the rest of the year are planned to be at the UNL Law School.

Planning a welcome back event, a game night, and a Friendsgiving the Wednesday before Thanksgiving for people who don't go home for this holiday.

There are also a lot of UNL Sporting games that are free for students to attend, so this committee plans to distribute information about these events and carpool to them together.

If you have any events you're interested in GSA having or funding, let this committee know.

Communications Committee

This committee exists to facilitate and retain all forms of communication within the GSA, including email communication, social media, and the website. Just regained access to the GSA social media accounts where information about GSA activities will be shared. This committee also maintains the website and makes information accessible there for GSA members and the general public.

External Committees

Katie Mowat- representative on the University System Health Insurance. This committee is reviewing quotes for next year. This committee took advice from all campuses. The premiums likely will not go down, but hopefully will not go up. If you have questions about health insurance, speak with Katie Mowat.

10 MINUTE BREAK

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

GSA Bill #2

A bill authorizing the organization of a November Social Event.

Vice President Finance Morris and Social Chair Dhillon presented the bill.

No questions, no discussion.

Bill approved 08:13pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VP Representation Skinner announced that the History Department is putting on the Rowlee Graduate Student Conference in the Humanities on War and Society in early October. All graduate students are welcome to come check this out. There are still a few spots open in the lightning round if you'd like to give a presentation. Email VP Representation Skinner if you're interested in discussing.

Any other news, reach out to Communications Committee about this.

A link will be sent out about committee interests. PLEASE FILL IT OUT!

Take food with you, because if you don't it will be thrown away.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.