

GSA Meeting  
December 3, 2019

#### Approval of the minutes

EVP Juritsch recommended the assembly motion to table the approval of the minutes, citing the minutes did not go out on time for review. Representative **Anthropology** motioned to table the minutes until the next meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion; no debate. Motion passed by a majority of assembly votes.

#### Open forum

D&I Chair Peters makes a motion to add an emergency bill to the agenda as Bill #10. Motion seconded. No discussion or debate was presented. Motion was passed by a majority vote from the assembly.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive Vice President Juritsch

Nothing to report.

Vice President of Student Affairs Sotelo

Nothing to report.

Vice President of Representation Rodene

Nothing to report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Graduate Travel awards program

GTAP Chairs were not present

Quality of Life

Nothing to report.

Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing to report.

#### NEW BUSINESS

GSA Bill #8: A bill supporting the sending of a letter related about the Title IX Collaborative draft

VPSA Sotelo, connecting via Zoom, presented the bill to the assembly. She explains that the bill refers to a letter which was sent to the assembly in the December meeting packet. VPSA Sotelo provided additional insight into the lack of transparency in the organization of the Title XI collaborative and the failure to include graduate students in the collaborative. (Luz, can you please provide important details as an addendum to minutes?)

EVP Juritsch explained that, due to technical difficulties, we cannot include VPSA Sotelo in the discussion and debate.

VP of Representation Rodene asked whether President Ratcliff selected other nominees, when VPSA Sotelo learned she was not selected. EVP Juritsch explained that President Ratcliff did not know that Luz had not been selected until late in the process, but had been informed by Mike Zelany at another time that he could nominate up to 4 additional nominees, but did not recommend anyone during that time.

Representative **Physics and Astronomy** asked whether President Ratcliff planned to send the letter to media before or after sending the letter to administration. EVP Juritsch refers that the bill leaves that decision to the President. Representative retorts to say that the language may be too negative towards administration, and we should not aim to alienate them. EVP Juritsch acknowledges, but states we cannot make edits to the letter at this time.

Representative **Animal Science** asked whether any effort to contact these people other than through email. EVP Juritsch explained that Shawn and Luz have documentation of their communications with administration over email. Representative emphasizes that this letter may not represent the most constructive way forward, and wants to be sure that all other mechanisms have been exhausted. EVP Juritsch could not comment on whether that was the case.

Rep. Statistics asked whether the one graduate student that was included in the collaborative was sponsored by the GSA. EVP Juritsch confirms that they were not.

Rep. Art, Art History, and Design asks for clarification on what is being put to vote. EVP Juritsch explains that the assembly is voting on whether or not the GSA supports sending a letter to media outlets and administration.

Rep. Food Science requests that a distinction should be made between administrators and media. They also state that they feel their questions are not being sufficiently answered at this time and would prefer to wait until the authors are present for discussion. EVP Juritsch mentions that would require an amendment to the bill. They further explain that your vote gives Shawn the final say on to whom this bill is sent.

Rep. **Environmental Engineering** feels the letter is unprofessional stating “...it sounds like a kid got left out of the party.”

Rep. **Animal Science** expresses that most of the people who are most involved in this are not present today, and that they feel that the assembly cannot vote yes until they have clearer context. They go on to say that unless every other mode of communication has been exhausted, the assembly should avoid this option altogether. Representative went on to mention that they are dissatisfied with the short notice on which the assembly is being asked to read and approve this letter, and a consistent tabling of meeting minutes. They further cite the lack of attendance from the executive committee which previously authored and approved this bill.

Chairperson Karimiford (Shahab) requests information about the consequences of postponing the approval of this bill. EVP Juritsch explains that, given the importance of the subject matter here, the executive committee would like to see this delivered in a timely manner. They further explain that delaying the bill too long could reduce the impact of our complaint.

Chairperson Peters adds that we will only send a press release to the media, not the full letter. They further emphasize that President Ratcliff would like to send it Thursday night or Friday morning to make it the first item in their inbox.

VP of Representation Rodene

We are getting bogged down with details. Delaying it a month is not going to help. We voted unanimously to approve this letter. The administration does not respect us, delaying it would make us look worse. The faculty, staff are a majority, there is a fundamental flaw with this mysterious selection process for this committee, delaying this letter will not change that

Rep. **Veterinary sciences** states that “the letter is more about expressing grievances than amending the problem”. They feel that the current letter is not proactive enough.

Rep. **Plant pathology** says that there is a lack of information and states that they feel the assembly has not had enough time to fully consider this letter and the implications of approving this bill.

Rep. **Animal Sciences** states they will vote “no” on this bill and hopes that will give the assembly more time to write a letter that is productive.

Finance

From hearing responses, I want to make sure I understand what is going on here. The administration is being dicks and we should probably point this out right? If we do not revise it, if we wait a month nothing is going to change. I do think administration has been dicks. If you are not giving them money or costing them money, they do not give a shit.

EVP Juritsch states that often, administration will form committees to make others feel that they are having a conversation about an issue, but measurable change never follows. They also state that these committees have no obligation to acknowledge the input from students on these committees. EVP Juritsch also says that the assembly's comments emphasize that they do not feel prepared to vote on this today. EVP Juritsch recommends the assembly motion to table this bill until next month's meeting.

Rep. **Animal Science** motions to table this letter until the next meeting. The motion is seconded. EVP Juritsch invites discussion.

Rep. **Communication Studies** (Not sure how to write this part)

A committee that is stakeholders – our approach is emotional, we should not be surprised that an out spoken activism. We want to look professional, contingency plan, to suggest that graduate students are a unique place – we are uniquely situated with faculty, graduate students could have students

Appeal to be taken seriously, I do not think the committee will move so quickly that our Folks that are invested in these types of things

Tony

Share your comments with Sean, we were concerned about it taking too much time

Rep. **Environmental Engineering** asks whether it would be possible for updates to come as revisions to the letter are made. EVP Juritsch comments that someone could raise that motion.

Rep. **Environmental Engineering** motions that the revision process for this letter should be transparent and that assembly members be given the chance to comment before the the next meeting. The motion is seconded. EVP Juritsch invites discussion.

Rep. **Statistics** raised a question regarding the process for nominating members to committees. They express that an open process may have expanded the applicant pool and avoided this situation altogether. EVP Juritsch acknowledges the comment but has already announced the VPSA Sotelo is attempting to make a comment via Zoom.

Luz

Thank you for your consideration and comments. I am happy to provide information you need. Before the next time you meet, if you have any questions, address them to Sean or Luz. You can share my contact information. A very good resource for more information if the DEARUNL.com. Everything we have been working on are there, all of the articles, summary of meeting with Chancellors, I would like to thank you all. I am available if anyone wants to have a conversation.

Communication Studies

WGS this committee is still open and taking nominations, the office of WGS is accepting applications for this committee, we would want people to submit, deadline is December 13.

Green will review in May of 2020. Folks who are interested, especially graduate students should apply.

Tony

If that is the case, going to the Statistics comment, go to Sean to represent the GSA too.

Jesse

That application was open for only a week, they closed the application, they did not tell the criteria for the selection. Luz and Marnie were nominated but not selected. This hour we spent discussing it was not a waste of time.

Tony

Voting to approve – transparent review process over the next month, the assembly will be made aware of the changes and have opportunity to make comments

All in favor – MOTION passes

Now we are voting to table the letter until the January assembly Bill #8

Do we have any questions

Natural Resources

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Tony

Table the vote

Motion passes

Bill – social events presents

This bill was given to me by a graduate student in the ISSO office, so what is happening is that in January the ISSO office has a welcome back social for international students, this year we want this to be open to all of the underrepresented population, most of the funding would come from food funding \$200 for gift cards to the bookstore, supplementary part of the bill tells all that is going on that night

Physics and Astronomy

Still open to revision in the supplement section – is that still true?

Vote –

Motion passes

Bill #10 is the emergency bill that we added at the beginning of the meeting

Jesse Peters – students with children to help students who are parents during the holiday season, you could submit a request to nominate someone, or you could sponsor them, we

decided to choose the remaining 4 families, we will go shopping tomorrow to get clothes, diapers, toys, for these families – I have a list of things the families requested. To help the families during holiday season.

Physics and astronomy

Are they for graduate student parents?

Jesse

These families are anonymous. It is possible that they are not graduate students but they are UNL students.

Voting – Motion Passes

Announcements: Does anyone have any announcements?

Art, Art History, and Design

Next Friday is the ceramics sale – 2 days, Friday from 9-5, Saturday from 9-4 Rachel's Hall, art building on campus

VP Representation

If you do not have your placard

Philosophy

Regarding the Bill 8, I would recommend everyone look at the FQA on the [dearunl.com](http://dearunl.com) website before our next meeting.