

Student Government Graduate House of Representatives

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2023

I. Call to Order: Coffee Event Recap & Dr. Bruce

1:02 Called to order by House Leader Francisco V.

II. Roll Call

10 members present

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously

IV. Orders of the Day

V. Guest Speakers: Dr. Bruce

- Dr. Bruce is the primary advisor to student government, he started in this role about 4 months ago and is helping with the university transition. He brings over 25 years of experience in working with student government to Texas State.
- Dr. Bruce is excited about elevating graduate students and enhancing graduate programs at the university. As well as improving the graduate student experience.
- One focus is allowing graduate students to be represented in the graduate senate to have an active vote and voice in the senate
- Ideally for every 1500 graduate students, there should be 1 senator
- The conversation regarding Graduate House members being voted on and looking at running for graduate house positions in the future of the Graduate House
- Another idea pitched is a rotating delegate to represent the Graduate House vote in the senate.
- Moving toward meeting where all chambers meet together for a joint session of student government either once a semester or once a year.
- Discussion has begun about constructing a student chamber meeting center in the LBJ Student Center.
- A new student government constitution will be ratified in February. Messaging will be sent out to all students to vote on approval of the new constitution.
- Moving forward, we want the Graduate House Leader selected by the inauguration of the Student Body President to be recognized at the ceremony in April.
- All Graduate House and future leaders will be invited to the ceremony as well.

VI. Public Forum

VII. Reports

(a) House Secretary's Report: Lauren Green

- Coffee chat Connect was a successful event! We had roughly 25 students in attendance and a lot of them voiced helpful concerns and proposals. Please review the discussion post on the Canvas site for a thematic summary of what was expressed during focus groups. A technical report will be made in the Spring in order to best capture what students expressed to be presented to the Deans.

Please reference Lauren's email regarding the Career Closet Drive for an email template to be sent out to the faculty in your department and a flyer. Please place all donations in the designated bag in the Graduate Commons. Lauren will take the bag to Career Services every Friday to deliver donations.

(b) House Parliamentarian's Report: Adrienne Taylor

No report

(c) Social Media Liaison: Elisa Descartes

Elisa will create flyers for all events taking place next semester and record videos of each Graduate House member introducing themselves to be posted on social media next semester.

(d) Committees Reports-

i. Social Media and Technology:

ii. Campus Life:

iii. Budget and Finance:

iv. Grad Student Employer Relation:

v. Equity and Inclusion Committee:

The committee has been meeting every other week to establish a solidified foundation regarding the mission and procedures for the committee.

vi. University Committee Reports

(e) Advisors Report: Dr. Giuffre

- Dr. Giuffre is so grateful to have worked with everyone and for all of your hard work.
- Spring Meeting dates need to be updated on the website.
- First meeting of 2024 will be January 26th
- April 1st-5th GSAW
- Pizza with the Grad House will take place on the Friday of GSAW. K Damp will be invited.
- April 2nd – Graduate Student Research Conference
- April 3rd – Graduate Student Research Conference in Round Rock

(f) House Speaker Report: Francisco Valdovinos

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

What is one goal that you hope to achieve as a member of the Graduate House?

- Working with various stakeholders to elevate the Grad House
- Fostering connection and wellness for graduate students

- Including more online students and Round Rock students
- Innovating new ways to gain student feedback
- Establish documentation in place for the structure and mission of the committee
- Volunteering/Service Project – Contact Dr. Bruce
- Establishing resources for fully online programs and making online classes more immersive
- Establishing Equity and Inclusion Committee and being engaged in more events

X. Questions

XI. Announcement

XII. Adjournment

2:00 PM – Adjourned by House Leader Francisco V.

2:00 PM – Adjourned by Lauren G.

**Have a wonderful break everyone! Thank you for all your hard work all semester long!
Congratulations to our graduates!**

