



Purdue Graduate Student Senate (PGSS)
Senate Meeting Minutes

Fourth Meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 6:00 PM
Purdue Graduate Student Center (PGSC)

AGENDA

- I. Informal Discussion on Concerns/Climate from Student Body/Department**
 - a. Small departments get less recognition, compared to larger departments in the same college
 - b. Advisor/Advisee relations concerns;
 - i. Funding related to PIs may cause abusive mentorship practices
 - ii. Transition period between funding sources is a problem
 1. College of Sciences, College of Education
 2. Department Chairs may be a good point of contact
 - c. Registrar problems- students have faced incorrect transcripts being printed/delivered
 - d. Desk/Offices/Spaces to work being reduced across departments
 - e. Housing Issues- funding is too little due to cost of living rising in the area
 - i. Housing is a large issue being discussed in higher positions
 - f. Changes in PhD programs across other Universities
 - i. QUALs/Departmental Requirements may be changed/eliminated
- II. Call to Order**
 - a. 6:24 pm
- III. Roll Call**
 - a. Announcement of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates
 - i. Global Supply Chain Management Senator
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Vote to Approve Minutes
 - b. Motion passes and Minutes are Approved
- V. Approval of the Agenda**
 - a. Vote to Approve Agenda
 - b. Agenda is set
- VI. Officer Reports**
 - a. No further announcements or questions
- VII. Committee and Team Reports**
 - a. No further announcements outside of Officer Reports that were emailed
- VIII. Other Reports**
 - a. None
- IX. Old Business**
 - a. None
- X. New Business**

a. Introduction of Emergency Legislation

- i. None

b. Consideration of New Legislation

- i. **FA22-R008** – *“Support Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE) to Broaden Its Outreach Among Graduate Students”*

1. Chief of Staff gives overview of Resolution
2. Motion to waive reading by Senator from IE
 - a. Second from senator from HDFS
 - b. Motion carries and reading is waived
3. LRC feedback
 - a. Asks what Handbook the CARE information should be added to
 - i. PGSG does not control graduate handbook
 - b. Suggestions for funding for CARE may be unclear in the Resolution
 - c. Vote to consider Resolution Constitutional carries
4. Author of Resolution says that the Resolution notes that CARE should focus on graduate students more than they currently do, strive to make more graduate students aware of these services
5. Period of Clarificatory Questions
 - a. Senator from Statistics asks where funding is planning to come from
 - i. This was removed in a new version by the author of the Resolution
 - b. Senator from IE asks about CARE’s services
 - i. Services include CAPS
6. Period of Discussion
 - a. Senator from IE asks to make the amendment that was mentioned by the author of the Resolution; motions to amend
 - i. Motion to amend seconded by Senator from EAPS
 - ii. Senator from IE notes that funding language will appear in the related Bill to this Resolution
 - iii. Period of Questions and Discussion on Motion to Amend
 1. None
 - iv. Period of Voting for amendment
 1. Motion carries
 2. Amendment made
 - b. Chief of Staff thinks Resolution would be beneficial for Graduate Students
7. Period of Voting
 - a. Resolution is passed
 - i. **Aye: 45; Nay: 0; Abstain: 9**

- ii. **FA22-B003** – *“Support Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE) to Broaden Its Outreach Among Graduate Students”*

1. Motion to waive reading by Senator from IE
 - a. Second from senator from Statistics
 - b. Motion to waive reading carries
 2. Author of Bill asks PGSG to give \$1000 (\$100 for 10 GSOs) to sponsor CARE workshops. This money would aid in providing free food/refreshments to attendees. This is not a grant but a platform for PGSG and a way to attract more people to come to these workshops.
 3. President says this is a direct way to support CARE's outreach.
 4. LRC is concerned that the bill would establish a new grant. This bill might create a new line item on the budget. Cites a section of PGSG documents. LRC defers to treasurer and GRAC chair. LRC does not think the Bill meets the criteria stated in PGSS documents to be considered constitutional. Another concern is about how money is to be spent
 - a. PGSG Legislative Affairs Officer says bill does not do everything required in the by-laws to establish a new grant and therefore does not believe the bill is constitutional as it currently stands.
 - b. President states that this bill may be moved to old business if it is ruled unconstitutional.
 - c. GRAC chair notes that there is a mental health grant that is already a part of the budget. Suggests GSOs who want to host workshops with CARE utilize these or the GSOGA grants. Chair notes that bill appears unconstitutional.
 - d. Treasurer notes there is no line item in the budget, but there is a discretionary fund. Treasurer thinks bill is constitutional.
 - e. Amendment will have to be agreed upon by GRAC Chair and Treasurer since they do not agree.
 5. Bill is to be moved to old business since there was not a unanimous answer from GRAC chair and Treasurer.
 - a. Will remain on old business until written amendment is provided, LRC determination of constitutionality, or until Senate elects to abandon the legislative item
- iii. **FA22-R009/22-JR004** – *“Resolution in Support of a Middle Eastern and North African Cultural Center”*
1. Motion to waive reading by Senator from EAPS
 - a. Second from senator from BPP
 - b. Motion carries
 - c. Reading waived
 2. Sponsors of bill from PSG and Senator from IE speaks and says some amendments are needed. Suggests “SWANA” Cultural Center instead of “MENA” after gaining information from sources including the UN about terminology.

- a. PSG representatives say that people who are members of this culture are labeled as “white” and they say that these people and their cultures are erased when they are labeled as “white”. Students who are members of this ethnicity are often directed to the Asian culture center but many of these students are not from (East) Asia but from North Africa. Asian center is comprised of mostly east asian students. The PSG representatives favor a name change of the proposed cultural center to SWANA. SWANA is more inclusive and better represents the region of the culture.
3. President defers to speakers and finds this representation important
4. LRC finds this constitutional and suggests that the first clause be clarified
5. Period of Questions
 - a. Senator from ECE asks if PSG has already given this to University Senate
 - i. Sponsors from PSG note that this bill is from spring 2022 semester and the bill has already been sent to University senate
 - ii. Senator from ECE asks if two similar bills would be sent to university senate
 - iii. Sponsors say that this bill in PSG form has been stopped in University senate until they can be passed by PGSG
 - b. Senator from CS asks the sponsors about the first clause and the intent of it/ how it relates to the resolution as a whole
 - i. This clause draws authority from the university documents about how to form a cultural center
 - c. Senator from HDFS asks if the resolution should be changed to have SWANA terms instead of MENA.
 - i. Authors are in favor of changing to SWANA
 - d. Senator from ABE asks about funding for the cultural center, might it be funded by funds taken away from the asian and black cultural centers?
 - i. Sponsor from PSG does not want funding from existing cultural centers to be diverted. They are unsure how money and funding is allocated to cultural centers
 - ii. Senator from ABE follows up and asks about how racial demographic categories can be added to Purdue’s questionnaires.
 - iii. Sponsors state that this is also an issue in the US census. There is no SWANA category in the census and Purdue will likely follow the census categories.
 - e. Senator from IE asks about regional terms and the naming the center

- i. PSG representatives note that they ask current members of the cultural organization how they identify
 - ii. Senator from IE asks if another acronym may be more inclusive
 - iii. PSG representative says that SWANA term is commonly used
 - f. Senator from Food Science asks how culture is distinguished from race, might the bill conflate race and culture?
 - i. Sponsor says ethnicity is closer to culture and is distinct from race. Race is more closely related to phenotypes.
 - ii. Senator from Food science follows up and says that the words in the resolution may reference race more than culture
 - iii. Sponsors from PSG say they are not focusing on race, but the center is to recognize the region's culture and ethnicity

6. Period of Discussion

- a. Senator from IE asks about more description being added in the name of the cultural center, possibly adding Central Asians specifically.
 - i. Sponsor says SWANA name is not created by these students but is a nationally used term
 - ii. Senator from IE suggests listing countries in the resolution to be represented in the cultural center
- b. Senator from Chemistry notes that when forms ask you to choose *one* race it is a problem. It is difficult when you fill out a form and don't see something that represents you, for example, if you have multiple cultures. Senator supports the university's possible change of demographic categories and the cultural center.
- c. Senator from Statistics reminds everyone that since this is a joint resolution, it will have to go back to PSG if amendments are made. Asks senators to only push significant amendments.
- d. Senator from IE says that amendments may need to be made for typos and changing the existing terminology from MENA to SWANA. Asks the PSG representatives of the bill if countries can be added to the bill. Israel and Cyprus are examples. Senator wonders if listed countries might accidentally exclude people who may identify with this region from countries that are not listed.
 - i. Representative from PSG notes that the list of countries in the resolution is taken from Purdue data. Cultural centers are not exclusive of any groups.
- e. Senator from AgEcon notes that this region is bonded more by culture than geography. Senator says it is better to use an

established term for the center rather than creating a new term. Senator says that inclusivity will be reflected more in the cultural center management.

- f. Chief of Staff notes that the last clause of the document includes University staff that may no longer be in these positions.
- g. Senator from ABE supports the cultural center but acknowledges that the name of the center may be problematic/may get pushback from university faculty. Suggests a survey.
- h. PGSG Diversity Officer supports the cultural center and suggests perhaps holding a meeting with ODIB (Purdue Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging) to get the cultural center started
- i. Senator from HDFS suggests using an established acronym in the resolution
 - i. Yields time to PSG sponsors to amend title of the cultural center in the resolution
 - ii. PSG sponsors note that they are going to survey students about the title of the cultural center
 - iii. Motion to amend by senator from HDFS
 1. Changing MENA acronym to SWANA throughout the resolution
 - a. Second by Senator from ECE
 2. Friendly amendment by Senator from IE who suggests changing other acronyms with the word “or” to Southwest Asian as well
 3. Senator from Biology notes that countries that are explicitly mentioned in the resolution are cited from a study from Purdue
 4. Senator from IE makes friendly amendment (with Senator from ECE) and adds Cyprus, Israel, and South Sudan to list of countries
 5. Senator from Statistics proposes a friendly amendment to add “at least 666...students”
 6. Senator from AgEcon notes that Sudan and South Sudan being grouped together may be a problem
 7. PSG sponsors reiterate that they are not focused on the list of countries and note that other cultural centers do not list countries. The sponsors added the country to give the data to show the need for the cultural center.
 8. Senator from ECE motions to move to voting
 - a. Second from senator from statistics
 - b. Motion passes

9. Period of voting for amendment
 - a. motion carries
 - b. Amendment passes
- j. Senator from ECE notes that friendly amendment has been made and motions to end discussion and move to voting
 - i. Second by Senator from PULSE
 - ii. Discussion ends
7. Period of voting
 - a. Resolution passes
 - i. **Aye: 36; Nay: 1; Abstain: 17**
- iv. **FA22-R010/22-JR005** – “*Resolution in Support of Amending the Military Absence Policy for Students (MAPS)*”
 1. Author from PSG notes that she has feedback from faculty and wants to make some amendments. She says that this resolution protects active duty and reservist military students when they have to miss class for their mandatory training. The resolution increases the number of days students in this category can miss.
 2. President states that the provisions in this resolution are important.
 3. LRC rules resolution constitutional and suggests adding the summer semester with the fall and spring semesters.
 4. Period of Questions opens
 - a. none
 5. Period of Discussion
 - a. Author of Bill notes that addressing summer semester may be a problem because summer courses are shorter.
 - b. Senator from ECE motions to amend and yields time to Author of Bill from PSG to proposes friendly amendments that are to be made in light of faculty feedback
 - i. Second by senator from EAPS
 - ii. PSG Representative (who is also an author of the bill) proposes changes in 1) defining Purdue as a land-grant institution, 2) changing “our national security” to “U.S”, 3) including National Guard students, 4) changing “15 days” to “15 weekdays” 5) addition of a clause about make-up work
 - iii. Period of discussion on motion to amend
 1. Senator from EAPS asks about mentioning research and classes
 2. Voting on amendments
 - a. Motion to amend passes
 6. Period of voting for legislation
 - a. Resolution passes
 - i. **Aye: 41; Nay: 0; Abstain: 13**

- v. **FA22-R011/22-JR006** – *“Resolution in Support of Creating a Carbon Neutral Purdue by 2030”*
1. Motion to waive reading by Senator from IE
 - a. Second from senator from BPP
 2. Senator from Statistics discusses resolution and states that there is precedence for the bill from other universities
 - a. Yields time to someone who is not a senator
 - b. Senator from EAPS who is a sponsor discusses effects on climate change and the significance of the bill
 - c. Senator from IE notes that the goals in the resolution are similar to many companies
 3. LRC finds this constitutional and suggests a few minor edits and citations
 4. President says this resolution appears good
 5. Period of questions
 - a. Senator from MSE asks what tire-derived fuels are
 6. Period of discussion
 - a. Senator from CS says they support the bill but asks about the intent behind adding carbon credits
 - i. Representative says that the intent is that Purdue become carbon neutral by itself. The goal is that Purdue announce that they have an intent to be carbon neutral
 - ii. Senator from Statistics (sponsor) notes that Purdue has a plan for carbon neutrality but hasn't yet committed to it
 - b. Senator from IE notes that the resolution seems to give a general message of what students want
 - c. Senator from ECE says that the resolution is a good step to move forward
 - d. Senator from HDFS motions to end discussion
 - i. Second from Senator from PULSe
 - ii. Motion passes
 - e. Period of Voting
 - i. Resolution passes
 1. **Aye: 43; Nay: 0; Abstain: 11**

c. Consideration of Emergency Legislation

- i. None

XI. Reports of University Committees and Boards

- a. None

XII. Announcements

a. Semester Feedback and Demographics Questionnaire

- i. December Team Night email includes a questionnaire to get feedback on the senate and teams

b. Free Professional Headshots for Graduate Students

- i. Career team is organizing this event

- ii. December 1 and 2 at the Graduate Center
- c. Senate Chair expresses his thanks to the senators for their work this semester

XIII. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Senator from PULSe
 - i. Second from senator from IE
- b. 8:56 pm

