

GRASAG-KNUST, KUMASI.

1ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD AT THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AUDITORIUM ON 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The meeting began at 9:09 am with an opening prayer by Miss Joycelyn Sarfo-Frimpong.

The President chaired the meeting and moved for its commencement. He started by giving a brief history of GRASAG and the Agenda of the day.

Miss Efua Apprey, the vice president, was called upon to inform members of the upcoming Entrepreneurship Competition to be organised by the association.

The PRO (MC) introduced all executives to the General Assembly after which he introduced members to interventional signs to be adopted for the meeting.

NATIONAL CONGRESS REPORT

The Secretary read the report of the national congress held at UDS, Tamale and after which the Chairman called for questions. Miss Faustina Adurtey suggested that, in recording the time, it should be more precise.

Solomon asked how delegates were selected for congress. The President informed the house of delegates were constituted. This he said included members of executive committee, council, outgoing executives, and some selected members of the General Assembly.

Miss Ruby Gyimah asked of the number of KNUST students who vied for any of the national positions. The President responded by saying we had only one candidate and that made supporting that individual easier.

Mr. Agyemang asked whether National GRASAG was able to donate to the orphanage as scheduled. The President answered that it was made later after congress on behalf of all delegates.

NATIONAL SENATE REPORT (10TH SEPTEMBER 2016).

The president gave a summary of the senate report to the General Assembly. He informed the house on the relevance of the National Senate and its direct benefits to the GRASAG-KNUST.

He briefed the house on the activities put in place by NEC and National GRASAG to put pressure on the government to release student bursaries. He also informed the house on GRASAG's intention to picket at the flagstaff house for the release of student bursaries and urged all students to be part of it when the time is due. He continued that provisions were made for GRASAG-KNUST to take part of the picketing or demonstration if it becomes necessary.

BURSARY AND THESIS GRANT

The President briefed the house on the relevance of the Bursary and Thesis Grant given by the Government of Ghana and its relevance to research and national development.

Mr. Abdul Rahim asked of the amount that is due a student, which the president responded duly. There were various questions on this agenda therefore the president explained the entire process and procedures to students.

He informed students that, every post-graduate student qualifies except for fee-paying students, international students, students on scholarship and IDL students. He also noted that qualified students are expected to fill a form, which will be provided at the appropriate time. He again explained to students why the forms have not been released yet.

Jeffery Aryee suggested that, bursary forms should be moved from paper to online application and with this, the president accepted and acknowledged this suggestion but added that, due to some security features the scholarship secretariat wants to bring on the forms, it will not be possible this year but hopes that with time, the application will be more paperless.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECT

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC**

The President entreated students to visit the GRASAG website to register and know more about the clinic and that registration is on-going until the seminar begins.

- **EDUCATIONAL FORUM**

The WOCOM briefed the house on the program and entreated all to be part of the program coming up on the 20th October, 2016 and that in addition to this year's forum, GRASAG will be doing an eye screening for members which will be paid for by the association.

- **RESEARCH TRAINING**

The president briefed the house on the upcoming research training which is going to train members on how to do an effective research.

The president informed the house on the association's intention to set up a fund that will help support graduates for research work.

- **SOCIALIZING (NOVEMBER)**

Time for members to party, make new friends and network.

- **GRASAG COMES TO YOU**

This is to help bring GRASAG executives closer to its members through various means such as visiting at hostels, colleges, departments, lecture rooms etc.

- **CRECHE PROJECT**

The president on this informed the house the intention behind this project to help IDL nursing mothers to study while their babies are well catered for. He underscored that preparations are underway for its implementation.

- **BUILDING PROJECT**

This is to help provide graduate students with accommodation. The president added that although, all students have been billed with this, we may not be the ones to enjoy because it is a huge project but the current administration wishes to begin for subsequent administrations to continue.

- **GRASAG WEEK (PROGRAMS FOR THE WEEK)**

- Trip
- Senior High School Outreach
- International Students' Day
- Research Conference
- GRASAG Secretariat Facelift

On this, the President asked General Assembly to give council some time to prepare details of this week to be presented to senate for approval.

Daniel Propane complained that, last year, advertisement for the research conference did not go down well on students and hopes that, this year, publicity or advertisement of programs by the association will go well to help enhance students' participation in GRASAG programs.

- **RESEARCH SUPPORT FEE**

The Chair of the General Assembly briefed the house on the reason or essence of the research support fee, which was to help graduate students complete the research work successfully, and on time. The President explained that, there is a proposal for students to pay 30% of this fee to their departments and keep the 70% for their research work. According to the President, it is before academic board, which is Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor. The chairman was optimistic this proposal will be positive and students will be informed duly. Mr. Cyril Sylo commended council on the good job done on this fee and that, there are some department accountants who claim that students pay twice this fee. He therefore entreated council to help resolve this issue so that students can smoothly register and not have any issue with any finance officer.

A student lamented on the research support fee for PhD students and on this, the president asked that, the assembly give him some time since a piece is being prepared on this issue to be presented to the next academic board meeting to be addressed.

Mr. Forson Eric asked why oral thesis presentation is charged twice and on this, the president educated the house on why it was started and its relevance and that is to help students get their projects being looked at by external examiners and also to help bring in external examiners for end of research presentation or viva.

- **2016/2017 SENATE ELECTIONS**

The Chair briefed the house on the responsibilities of the legislative arm of GRASAG (senate) and the upcoming senate elections. He therefore asked the Electoral Commissioner, Mr. Eric Angmortey to brief the house on this. After this, he, Mr. Angmortey declared nominations for the various senatorial positions opened subject to eligibility by applicants. He entreated interested candidates to refer to the chapter 4 of the GRASAG constitution to check for the eligibility and responsibilities of this arm of governance.

He added that, nominations are opened from today 6pm 20th September, 2016.

Applicants were to include in their application their name, college, department, and their number and submitted to grasagsenate16@gmail.com and copy angmorteyeric@gmail.com

and scan a passport size picture with a white background to submit to the email. He added that the election would come off, on the 29th of September 2016. He encouraged as many students as possible to show interest in the exercise.

A student asked whether candidates could campaign after filing the nomination. The EC replied that, campaign could start immediately nomination is closed and that is Sunday. Another asked of students who will be voting for senators and on this, the president replied that only graduate students in that particular department are eligible to vote.

- **AONB**

Mr. Alloysius Bangura, an international student lamented on the allowance been given international students to be too meagre hence must be looked at critically and increased.

He again complained about the discrepancies in the fees on both the students' portal and website.

Alloysius again complained of poor supervision and some supervisors feeling reluctant to supervise students well making it difficult for some students to graduate on time. He therefore, suggested that, all students be assigned two supervisors so that when one is unavailable, or inactive, the other can take over.

On the discrepancies of the fees at the portal and website as well as the frequent changes that occur, the executives would work on it, the Chairman assured.

Miss Winifred also suggested that Graduate Hostel get a generator. The President promised that, steps would be taken to help the hostel to secure a generator from the Dean of students' office because he is in charge now, but said he couldn't assure it was going to come during his administration.

A student complained on delayed release of academic results. The president assured students that, the association would take steps to resolve this challenge.

Present at General Assembly was the National President who is also a member of KNUST. He assured us that, sooner than expected, second years will get their bursaries and first years will get their bursary forms to fill for application.

The President concluded the meeting by entreating all students to log on to Facebook and like the association's page to get relevant information.

- General Assembly meeting ended at 12:53pm with a closing prayer by Miss Esther from the Business School.

SIGNED

W. DELPHINA DOLPHINE

GENERAL SECRETARY

KUSI BOAKYE

CHAIRMAN,