USA Graduate Council Meeting Minutes 10/24/22 @ 3 PM Faculty Club

Members Present: Eric Loomis, Mark Taylor U Gwendolyn Pennywell, Debra ChapmastetlamalesRobert Cloutier, Leigh Minchew, Ben Lee Blair Saale, Aishwarya Prakash David Woolverton, Joyce Pitman, Haley Mullinax, Todd Andel, Edmund Spencer, Harold Pardue Lorene Flanders, Normalean Tanner, Ashley Sugas, Heather Nix, De Anna Cobb

Guests: Ashleyi Scon, Avery Boinson, acyln Bunch, Neli Schwarz, Rajh Budhury, Tanmy Vance

Agenda and materials distributed prior to meeting.

- 1. Minutes from prior meeting(Pardue): Motioned, seconded, approved.
- 2. Graduate Dean's Repo(Pardue): The Graduate School was not affected by budget cuts for this **yeak**ethe previous budget cut. The USA Foundation funding coverignificant portion of the graduate assistant stipends. We do not have an endowment source yet, however, the university is alert

they cannot pay the application fee, how will they be able to afford to get to Mobile? Also, part of the application fee covers marketing funds as well. An international student has been hired to welcome international applicants answer questions and nudge any applicants who have not completed the application process.

4. GSA Organization and role in the Graduate Cou(Nobolverton)-David Woolverton was introduced and serves as the President of the GSA. This is a student led and student founded independent organization with no institutional association. The GSA campuswide outreach to make graduate student voices heard. The GSA will identify graduate student needsuch as an increase in stipends for example. The GSA wants to be a part of the administrative decision-making occesson behalf of graduate students at large. Housing/accommodations is a current need. TresStefurak agreed that housing is a critical need and the advising process needs improvemen as well. Satisfied graduate students lead to higher retention rates and would help South become a more successful institution Currently, it is not feasible to have the same organization up as the undergrad student association, but this is a potention. A neutral physical office of the control of t