

Graduate Student Senate

2023-2024

Year in Review



GRADUATE

S T U D E N T S E N A T E

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Contents

General Assembly Makeup and Speakers ... *Page 3*

Funding for Professional Development ... *Page 4*

Graduate Student Professional Development Day ... *Page 6*

GSS Regalia Awards ... *Page 7*

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colliquiom and GSS Awards ... *Page 8*

Jennifer J. Waldron Award for Distinguished Service Leadership ... *Page 11*

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure ... *Page 12*

GSS By the Numbers ... *Page 14*

GSS Special Projects ... *Page 15*

Graduate Student Senate Resolutions ... *Page 16*

Graduate Student Senate Year in Review Pictures ... *Page 18*



General Assembly Makeup and Speakers

This year the Graduate Student Senate was made of up 18 Senate Executive Members and 48 senators representing Graduate Degree Programs and Colleges.

We were joined by 12 speakers from the Bowling Green campus. The purpose of bringing these speakers to our General Assembly meetings is to educate the graduate student population of various resources available them, and to provide a place for BGSU administration to interact with graduate students. These speakers included:

- Dr. Jennifer Waldron (Dean., Graduate College, BGSU)
- Dr. Mary Jon Ludy (Associate Dean, Graduate College, BGSU)
- Ms. Alexia Coffman (Sr. Admin Assist., Graduate College, BGSU)
- Ms. Michele Schmitz (Budget Admin., Graduate College, BGSU)
- Ms. Heidi Bouza (Coordinator Grad. Admissions., Graduate College, BGSU)
- Ms. Kim Fleshman (Coordinator, Thesis and Dissertation., Graduate College, BGSU)
 - Ms. Tammy Oelkrug (Director of Graduate Degree Progress., Graduate College, BGSU)
- Mr. Ben Batey (Chief Wellbeing Officer., Division of Community Care, BGSU)
- Mr. Christopher Bullins (Deputy Chief Wellbeing Officer., Division of Community Care, BGSU)
- Dr. Barbara Henry (Assistant Vice President Nontraditional and Military Student Services, BGSU)
 - Dr. Rodney K. Rogers (President, BGSU)
 - Dr. Joseph B. Whitehead (Provost, BGSU)

Funding for Professional Development

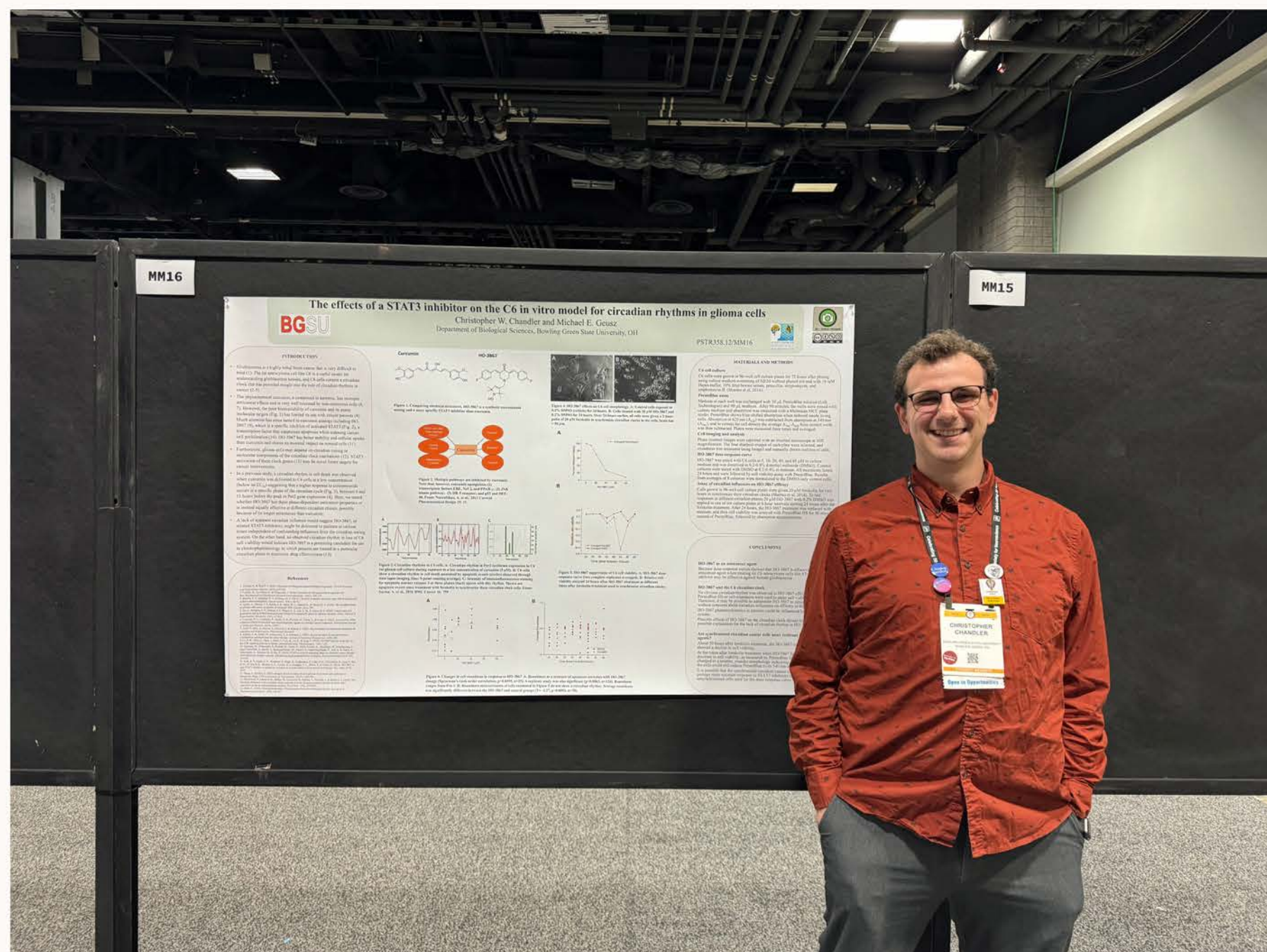
Funding for Professional Development (FPD) is designed to supplement costs for graduate students participating in professional development in the following categories: Conferences, Memberships, and Other FPD (masterclasses, workshops, musical performances at national events, music tours, and subscriptions to services, etc.).

With most conferences being in-person modalities and an uptick in student's engaging in professional development, we saw record applications for each of our FPD cycles (Summer 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024), leading GSS SEC to redevelop their allocation system. Many conversations were had with the Graduate College and fellow graduate students that allowed us to extend many FPD acceptances.

Summer 2023

Summer 2023	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	25	22	3	Presenting: \$366 Attending: \$225	\$6,442.78	87.24%	53.19%
Memberships	17	10	7	\$60.00	\$522.00	7.07%	36.17%
Other	5	4	1	\$105.00	\$420.00	5.69%	10.64%
Toal	47	36	11		\$7,384.78		

We received 47 applications during Summer 2023, with 36 of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. Activities included attendance at the 33rd IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium in Aachen, Germany, membership in the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science as a few examples.



Funding for Professional Development

Fall 2023

Fall 2023							
	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	117	70	48	Presenting: \$235 Attending: \$100	\$12,805.00	86.71%	60.00%
Memberships	57	32	25	\$50.00	\$1,472.00	9.97%	29.23%
Other	21	6	15	\$100.00	\$490.00	3.32%	10.77%
Toal	195	108	88		\$14,767.00		

We received 195 applications during Fall 2023, with 108 of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. This is the most applications received for FPD in the recorded history of GSS. This shows our SEC and senators were actively sharing resources with their constituent groups. We were able to dip into our carry forward and increase money we could award students. Activities included presenting at the World Association of Lesson Studies in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Society for Neuroscience.

Spring 2024

Spring 2024							
	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	102	93	9	Presenting: \$366 Attending: \$225	\$14,960.00	87.84%	65.38%
Memberships	42	37	5	\$60.00	\$1,571.00	9.22%	26.92%
Other	12	10	2	\$105.00	\$500.00	2.94%	7.69%
Toal	156	140	16		\$17,031.00		

We received 156 applications during Spring 2024, with 140 of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. Although we had to limit the amount we could offer students, we are grateful to provide so many students with professional development funding. Activities included many students presenting at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Washington, D.C., as well as many students attending the GAGE/SAGE 2023 Community Science Workshop in Pasadena, California.

Being a Graduate Student is a different obstacle in life. From publishing papers to presenting research at conferences ranging from local, national, and even international. Being able to provide graduate students some sort of financial relief is a top priority for the Graduate Student Senate.

Graduate Student Professional Development Day

On Wednesday, October 27th, GSS hosted their annual Professional Development Day. Led by the GSS Graduate Student Professional Development Representative, Syeda Zainab Akbar, and GSS Vice President, Christopher Chandler, activities were planned throughout the day that would allow graduate students to learn more about their professional identities and provide a broad range of skills. The Day began with an opening speech from our Keynote Speaker Provost Dr. Joseph Whitehead. Following this there was a career mapping activity and stress monitoring activity done by Gabriel Dunbar from Life Design. Our students then interacted with speakers via a panel about academia and beyond. Those speakers were Associate Dean of the Graduate College Dr. Mary Jon Ludy, David Drain a retired Statistician, and Kendra Lutes, Associate Director, Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. Followed by three workshops, ranging from public speaking, crafting an elevator pitch, to learning how to be mindful.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPRINT

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 10-4:30PM



BTSU 208
Graduate Students and Alumni Welcome
Food and Coffee Provided

Organized by: Graduate Student Senate

- Introduction & Keynote**
10am - 10:45 am, Talk
Dr. Joe B. Whitehead, Jr., Provost
- Life Design: Navigating your Professional Journey**
10:45 am - 11:45 am, Workshop
Gabe Dunbar, Assistant Director, Radbill Center
- Crossroads and Crossing: Stories from Academia & Beyond**
11:45 am - 12:30 pm, Panel
Dr. Mary Jon Ludy, Associate Dean, Graduate College
David Drain, Retired Statistician
Kendra Lutes, Assistant Director, Student Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Skill Up: Public Speaking & Research Writing**
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, Workshop
Jeevani Sammeta, Teaching Instructor
Charity Givens & Timothy Jacob Pyatt, University Writing program
- Lasting Impressions: Crafting Your Pitch & Presence**
2:30 pm - 3:15 pm, Workshop
Abigail Jewel Waters, Career Design Coach, Kuhlín Hub
- Nurturing Mindfulness: Reflect & Embrace Growth**
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm, Workshop
Maria Signorino, Coach, Wellness Connection
- Closing remarks**
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm



GSS Regalia Awards

It is a significant commitment of resources for graduate students at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) to attend their commencement ceremony. In order to encourage more graduate students to walk in a BGSU commencement ceremony (April, August, or December), the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) created the GSS Regalia Award to support graduate students who may need help covering the cost of renting regalia (for Doctoral students)* or purchasing regalia (for Master's students). The committee to decide on regalia awards was composed of the Graduate Student Senate Vice President, the Graduate Student Senate Chair for Professional Development, and three GSS Senators spanning across programs and all coming from different colleges. Applicants provided a written statement regarding why they need financial assistance for regalia, along with what walking in their graduation ceremony would mean for them. Many students mentioned familial support, pride, and being a first-generation college student in their responses. 9 students received regalia during summer 2023, 15 in fall 2023, and an incredible 33 received regalia during spring 2024. Being able to provide 57 master's and doctoral students with regalia shows Graduate Student Senate's dedication to supporting graduate student success.



Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

Shanklin Award for Research Excellence The Charles E. Shanklin Award for Research Excellence was established by Graduate Student Senate and endowed by the late Charles E. Shanklin as a meritorious award to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students at Bowling Green State University. In 2024, GSS celebrated the 13th annual celebration on Wednesday, April 1, 2024.

In total, we received 20 applications for the Award (10 from Arts and Humanities, 4 from Mathematics and Sciences, and 6 from Social and Behavioral Sciences). Of these 36, 6 were invited to the finalist round:



Wesley R. Barnhart, M.A.
Title: Eating when Depressed, Anxious, Bored, or Happy: Exploring Relations between Negative and Positive Emotional Eating and Mindfulness in Treatment-Seeking Adults with Elevated Weight Status



Kate Brown
Title: Bacterial community and cyanotoxin distribution of the Winam Gulf, Lake Victoria, Kenya



Andrea Freimuth
Title: Don't Just Leave It to Abigail! Adams: How a Falsely Equitable Portrayal of Early American Gender Norms Constructs an Unstable Historical Foundation



Romain DeCrop
Title: Pants on fire: Risks for, and outcomes of, atypical lying



Xin jin
Title: Hypothesis Testing on Large Random Graphs of Unequal Sizes with Application to fMRI Datas



Peter C. Strzempka
Title: Vampires, Revenants, and Phantoms: The Origins and Influences of the European Vampire

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

In addition to the Shanklin Award for Research Excellence, GSS also sponsors three other competitions for students to engage in: The Shanklin Poster Competition, Shanklin Paper Abstract Competition, and the Creative Expression Contest.

Shanklin Poster Competition

This year, we received 18 submissions for the poster contest, with all 18 choosing to present at the colloquium. Posters were judged by members of the GSS Senate Executive Committee and the Graduate College. The top three posters belonged to: Fatima Naser Aldine (Photochemical Sciences), Hallie Ruby (Neural & Cognitive Sciences), and Erika Shultz (Neural & Cognitive Sciences).

Shanklin Paper Abstract Competitions

We received 19 submissions for the abstract competition, with 14 presenting their projects during the event. These presentations took place in back-to-back research panels, judged by members of the GSS Senate Executive Committee and the graduate college. The top three presentations were given by: Kathryn Ware (Biological Sciences), Andrea Freimuth (American Culture Studies), and Christopher Jones (Theater and Film).

Creative Expression Contest

To be mindful of creative endeavors, GSS introduced the inaugural Creative Expression Contest during the 2023 Shanklin Awards Colloquium. There were two categories for submission, which were Performative and Visual. Applicants were required to submit their piece, as well as a recording of them explaining their piece. The top two Performative applications were: Christopher Jones (Theater and Film) and Story Moosa (Theater and Film). The top two Visual applications were: Muhammad Taufiq al Makmun Makmun (American Culture Studies) and Adetope Peter Kiladejo (Art).

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colliquiom and GSS Awards

Graduate Student Senate Awards

Each year, the Graduate Student Senate honors outstanding graduate students, faculty, and staff. As an organization, we celebrate faculty and staff's work and support of graduate students, graduate student's assistantship work, and their commitment to serving the public good.

This year's recipients of the Graduate Student Senate Awards included:
Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education Dr. Christopher Ward (Biological Sciences)

Graduate Student of the Year Benjamin Thomason (American Culture Studies)

International Graduate Student of the Year Gabrielle Juteau (Sociology)

Outstanding RA-1 Kate Brown (Biological Sciences)

Outstanding RA-2 Ghada Itayem (Higher Education Administration)

SEC Member of the Year Ghada Itayem (Higher Education Administration)

Senator of the Year Ian King (Sociology)



Charles E. Shanklin Research Colliquiom and GSS Awards



Jennifer J. Waldron Award for Distinguished Service Leadership

This new award is an honor that celebrates the few individuals whose contributions exceed excellence and transcend into the territory of rare and phenomenal. With this award, each recipient is recognized to have achieved the highest levels of quality and contribution for the totality of their service, leadership, and professional activity.

The award was named after Jennifer J. Waldron in recognition of her incredible service as an advocate to the graduate student body, impactful leadership, and professionalism as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs, and contributions as faculty advisor to the Graduate Student Senate.

The first recipient of this award was Amanda Grace Taylor

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

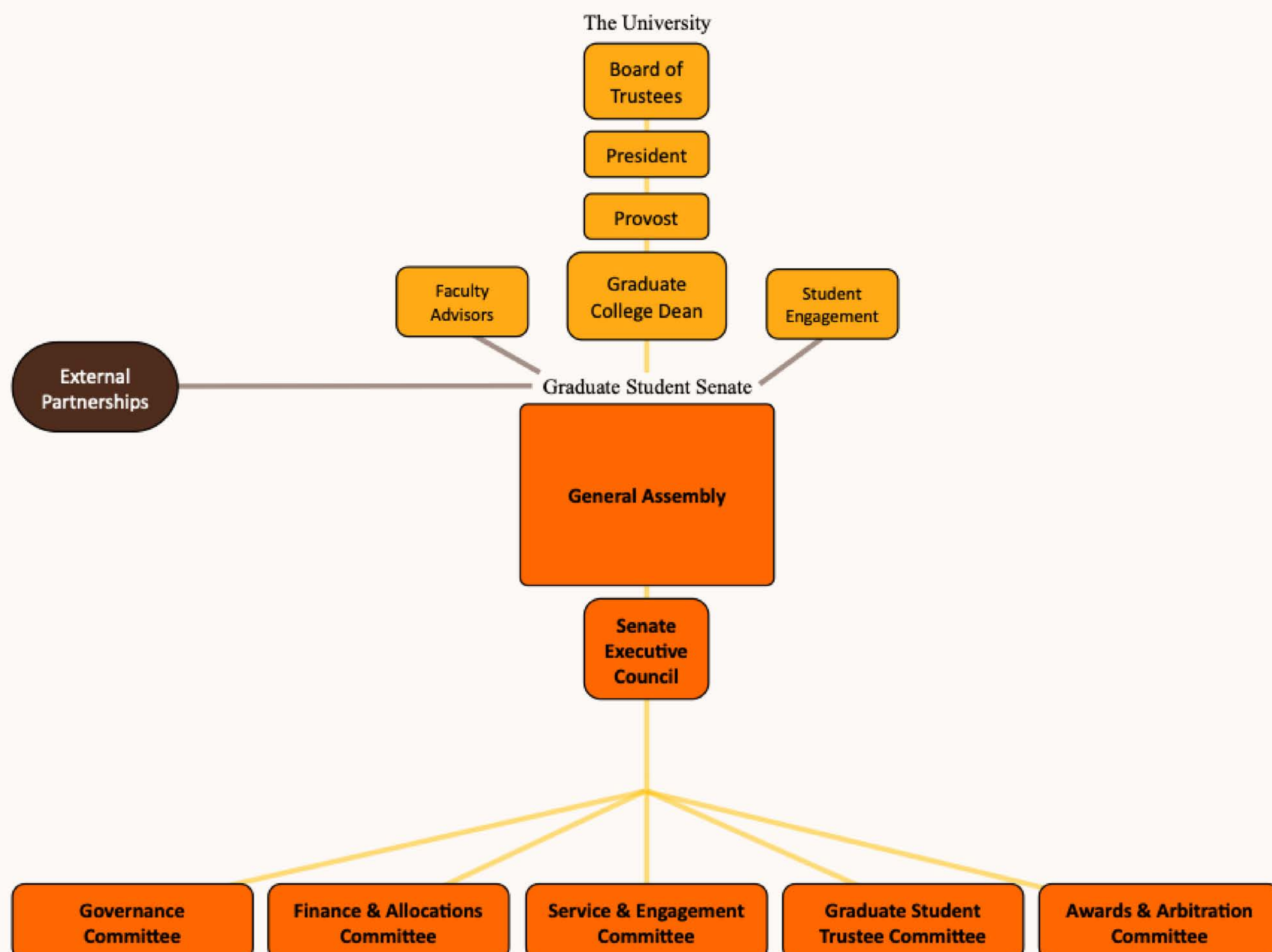
Throughout the year, the Senate Executive Committee worked towards updating the organizational structure of the GSS. Before, GSS had 4 committees: (1) the Senate Executive Committee, (2) the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, (3) the Funding for Professional Development Committee, and (4) the Regalia Committee. Currently, the GSS has the 6 following committees as approved by the General Assembly: (1) the Senate Executive Committee, (2) the Governance Committee, (3) the Finance and Allocations Committee, (4) the Service and Engagement Committee, (5) the Awards and Arbitration Committee, and (6) the Graduate Student Trustee Search Committee.

Previous Structure	New Structure
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate Executive Committee 2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee 3. Funding for Professional Development Committee 4. Regalia Committee 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate Executive Committee 2. Governance Committee 3. Finance and Allocations Committee 4. Service and Engagement Committee 5. Awards and Arbitration Committee 6. Graduate Student Trustee Search Committee

The newly formed Finance and Allocations Committee is a combination of the Funding for Professional Development Committee and Regalia Committee. The Service and Engagement Committee and Awards Arbitration Committee are both newly formed this year.

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

The newly created Governance Committee is an expanded reformulation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. This year the committee included David M. Fisher (Chair), Austin Sartori, Ian King, Peter Limbert, Ghada Itayem, and Christopher Chandler. The committee members have created a proposed total rewrite of the current Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed changes will be presented to next academic year's General Assembly during the Fall. Five such proposed changes include: (1) a creation of a set of policies to exist as a third governance document, (2) the elevation of the Senate Executive Committee to become Senate Executive Council, (3) a complete overhaul of the formal structuring of the documents, (4) an explicit authority hierarchy of the governing documents, and (5) a conversion of the position of the elected Diversity and Belonging Representative into an ex officio position that is determined by the Graduate College's selection of a specific Graduate Assistant position.



GSS By the Numbers

Networking

Build community with the almost 2,900 graduate students around campus by hosting 9 open General Assembly meetings during the academic year with many guest speakers from the BGSU and Bowling Green community.

Funding for Professional Development

We have processed 400 applications and awarded \$39,182.87 during Summer 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024. There was a total of \$189,388.70 in eligible requests for supplementing professional development activities.

GSS Regalia Award

This year we have awarded 57 graduate students an award for regalia that totals \$5,286 in the Summer 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024 semester.

Committee/Subcommittee Membership and Ex-Officio Service

GSS SEC has sat on and maintained an active role on 30+ different Committees/Subcommittees throughout the semester.

Event Programming and Participation

Actively participated in or hosted 20+ events at BGSU including the graduate student orientation ice cream social, student organization showcase, Halloween Funfest, MLK Day of service and so much more. These activities have helped support the organization's mission and the public good as our focus for this 2023-2024 academic year has been on community convergence.

GSS Special Projects

Surveys:

GSS conducted 3 campus-wide surveys this year, led by Ariel Esposito, Shane Weathers, Carren Burkey, Christopher Chandler, David Fisher

First Survey

The first was designed and launched in the beginning of Fall 2023 of over 2,800 Graduate Students to better understand and serve their interests. In this survey, we learned what they like and what they are concerned about regarding BGSU, and gauge their campus sense of belonging. Noteworthy results included: Graduate Students feel like they were provided with enough information on how to register for student health insurance however the students were concerned about the high price of it. Graduate Students were also concerned about their stipend levels.

Second Survey

The Second survey was conducted by the request of the Chief Information Officer at BGSU. It was asking how the technology on campus fit the general student needs. Through this we learned what students think about the technology on campus and what could be improved on. Noteworthy results included that Information Technology Support does a wonderful job of responding to student issues when they arise. A majority of the respondents feel like the way the classrooms are set up poorly give them the opportunity to get a great technology experience in the classroom. A vast majority of the respondents expressed that they have had an interruption on class due to technology related issues.

Third Survey

The Third survey was also conducted by the request of the Chief Information Officer at BGSU. This survey was similar to the second survey but was asking graduate students who have a teaching responsibility how the technology in their classes stand up to expectations. Noteworthy responses included that a majority of the respondents indicated that they are well prepared to use the technology on campus. A majority of the respondents indicated that they had to request assistance for technology related issues while teaching, however the response times to fix the issue were quick and the issue was solved.

Graduate Student Senate Resolutions

The Graduate Student Senate has passed one resolution for the 2023-2024 academic year. That resolution was to express to the administration that graduate students would like to see the Graduate pay schedule bumped up by one pay period. This is to prevent a month long lapse in pay when students are starting.

THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT BODY

A Resolution to Amend Graduate Assistant Pay Schedule

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

11/17/23

Authored by:

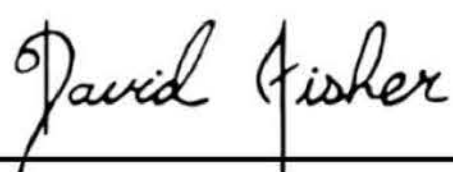
Samuel Scott Morkal-Williams – Senator, Philosophy PhD

2/16/24

Approved by the General Assembly of the Graduate Student Senate, and prepared for the presentation to the president of the Graduate Student Senate

2/16/24

Approved by the president of the Graduate Student Senate, and so order into effect.



David M. Fisher

President of the Graduate Student Senate

Chair of the Senate Executive Committee



Christopher W. Chandler

Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate

Chair of the General Assembly

Graduate Student Senate Resolutions

Resolution to Amend Graduate Assistant Pay Schedule

WHEREAS: Graduate stipends are not only compensation for hourly labor, but are also meant to be “a form of financial support to assist students complete [sic] graduate school.”¹

AND WHEREAS: Relative financial stability plays an important role in completing and succeeding in graduate school.

AND WHEREAS: The first pay day for graduate assistantships occurs at least four weeks into the semester.

AND WHEREAS: The time without pay can present a significant financial hardship to graduate students, especially those in their first semester.

AND WHEREAS: Bowling Green State University has a bi-weekly pay structure,

AND WHEREAS: Shifting all graduate assistant pay dates one pay period earlier would maintain the current number of pay dates for graduate assistants.

RESOLVED: That the Graduate Student Senate officially endorse, and request that Bowling Green State University implement, a revised pay schedule for graduate assistantships, in which the first pay date and last pay date are both two weeks earlier than the current pay schedule for graduate assistants.

¹ “Graduate Assistantships,” Bowling Green State University, accessed Nov. 12, 2023, <https://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/graduate-assistantships.html>.

Graduate Student Senate Year in Review

Pictures

