

General Assembly

Friday, 20th January 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance: 12 Executives and 38 Senators

Meeting Started: 3:03 pm

Call to Order: By the Vice President

Roll Call: By the Secretary (we had a quorum with a total of 12 Executives and 38 Senators in attendance).

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Seeing no changes requested, meeting minutes were approved.

❖ Guest Speakers

- Dean Mary-Jon Ludy introduces herself (the new Associate Dean Graduate College) at the GA meeting
- Mrs. Hannah Marozzi; Director of State Government Relations, BGSU
 - A presentation about her role and graduate student advocacy
 - What does she do for the university? She is a registered lobbyist, who is required to register for the State of Ohio and reports to the Joint Legislature Ethics Commission on spent allocations. This is because it is all public information, hence it must be reported
 - Her key role is to keep track of the legislature (tracks passed bills)
 - She said she tries to lobby at an institutional wide level i.e., she represents all entities in BGSU

- The goal is to lobby on things that are consensus among the general body; this helps as there are lot of concerns/complaints
- A new voter ID law was passed last year; voters will be required to show a photo ID as a requirement to vote
- Issues that state can legislate include road maintenance, guns, higher education funding, healthcare, pandemic response and so on
- Bills to expect:
 - Ohio department of education, State Operating Budget, Death Penalty, Lake Erie and water quality, Redistricting, Ohio Fairness Act
- How to be an effective advocate
 - It is important to be part of a dialogue and conversation. One must be emotionally intelligent when communicating your interest
- Dean Waldron asked how an individual can speak on how behalf of GSS
 - The speaker answered by clarifying herself and affirming that such an individual must seek consensus from the GSS body on any such issue before advocating for GSS at any sitting
- Another question was asked from the chat: Do you think we have the enabling environment to advocate on controversial issues?
 - Yes, it is possible. The key is to find a legislature that will be interested in introducing that type of bill at the sitting
- Question from Chair for Graduate Diversity and Belonging: How possible is it to advocate on issues concerning graduate education in Ohio especially the obvious reduction of

financial allocations to graduate students which affects their day-to-day activities?

- There's actually no check that is directly allocated to graduate students. The funds are wrapped up in funds for the institution. However, one can write up or talk to a legislature to take more interest in graduate education funding by allocating specific or direct funds to it
- Question: Under what criteria do I split between the different institution of higher education in Ohio
 - It is dependent on a lot of criteria; basically, Ohio State University will get the highest check because they have the highest number of students, highest number of program specialties, and so on
- Questions from Chair for Environmental Affairs: Is there any reassurance that if we do reach out to legislature that we would get feedback from them and what are some of the barriers facing students and preventing them from voting?
 - The best way to go about this is to ask for a meeting. This is because they receive a whole lot of emails daily and hence there is no guarantee that there will be a response for all those messages. Usually, a representative aid replies to such messages
 - There is a voting group on campus and their goal is to try as much as possible to register eligible student voters on campus. She thinks that the biggest barrier is low education on the individuals who are on the ballot and what their plans would be for the public; hence, students will show little interest since they don't really care. However, there is needs to be a shift in mindset

about elections, all elections state and federal level should be taken seriously

❖ Officer Reports

○ President

- Election note
 - Special election on the 27th of January 2023. BGSU GSS consists of SEC and Senators from each department. SEC initially consisted of elected and appointed officers, however, there was a unanimous vote at the GA meeting last year to convert all the appointed roles to elected roles to increase sustainability of the roles hence, the need for the election on the 27th of January 2023
- Follow-up on Top 3 GSS Initiatives:
 - GA Stipends
 - This is still an ongoing conversation.
 - Transportation/GA Parking
 - On this, GSS Representative-at-Large produced a presentation and forwarded same to Chief Campbell who is currently reviewing the proposal
 - Student Health Insurance
 - This is still an ongoing conversation.
- Canvas Resources Hub Project
 - Dr. Glenn Davis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and his team are excited about the partnership with GSS
 - The President, the Vice President and the Representative-at-Large would have a follow-up meeting with potential collaborators in the coming weeks

- Increased meal swipes for graduate assistants
 - The advocacy and discussion is still on going
- Leadership Certificates
 - Marvin Center for Student Leadership, Civic Engagement and Teaching & Learning Certificate and Center for Faculty Excellence
 - Any graduate student can take any of these courses. They are highly recommended for all graduate students
- Vice President
 - The Vice President reiterates the obligations of Senators
 - All senators have the right to speak and make motions during the general assembly meetings
 - Presence and availability of senators at GA and committee meetings are important
 - Censureship Reminder: Sanctions for missing two consecutive meetings or three meetings in a semester
 - Shanklin Colloquium Award
 - Celebrating graduate student's research; 14th Annual Event
 - Wednesday, 5th of April, 2023: 12 pm – 9 pm
 - Charles E. Shanklin Award for Research Excellence (Main Award)
 - Peer review award
 - Max 30-page paper
 - 1st place: \$1250, 2nd place: \$750
 - Research must be completely done
 - The research must have been done at BGSU

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- Research work conducted outside BGSU is not eligible
- Paper Presentations: Abstract submission only
 - For incomplete research
 - 1st place: \$300, 2nd place: \$150, 3rd place: \$75
- Poster Session: Abstract submission only (Max 250 words)
 - 1st place: \$300, 2nd place: \$150, 3rd place: \$75
- GSS Awards
 - 2023 Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education
 - For faculty/staff member that has demonstrated great commitment to graduate education
 - Items needed for submission include:
 - A short essay of how the individual impacted you
 - Outstanding Research Assistant 1 & 2 (Self Nominated)
 - Focused on innovation initiative and performance at the university
 - Items needed:
 - 2 letters of recommendation: at least one must come from the individual's direct supervisor
 - 2 short essays
 - Jill Carr Outstanding Graduate Student Award
 - All graduate students qualify. This entails how the individual has impacted the

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community and how the work done by the individual has impacted BGSU

- Items needed:
 - 2 letters of recommendation: one from the individual's graduate coordinator and direct supervisor
 - Outstanding International Graduate Student
 - Graduate Student Senator of the Year
 - These applications are due February 24th, 2023
- Regalia Awards
 - A short essay on why you need the regalia, why do you need assistance to cover the cost of the regalia and why attending your graduation is important to you
- Graduate College Awards
 - 3-minute thesis competition
 - Distinguished Dissertation Award
- For more information, contact GSS at gss@bgsu.edu
- Treasurer
 - Cosponsorship Form
 - Sponsorship of events that can be beneficial to all graduate students on campus
 - All required authority has approved the form
 - Call for application by any student body/organization needing a platform/sponsorship for an event that graduate students can benefit from are welcomed to apply
 - Spring 2023 Funding for Professional Development (FPD)

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- Application opened on the 26th of December, 2022 and ends on the 27th of January, 2023
 - Membership in Professional Organization
 - Academic Conference (presenting/attending)
 - Other Professional Development Activities
- Successful applicants will be notified around February 10th 2023
- Questions
 - The Academic Affairs Representative asked: How do I get to apply for the FPD if I have more than one membership application payment to make?
 - You can submit as many applications as possible. So long it falls each application falls under the appropriate category
 - Each application would be reviewed individually
 - The History Masters Representative asked: Can the cost of an air ticket travel for an intended conference be estimated to meet the FPD deadline?
 - Yes, this is permissible. However, receipts of the eventual amount for the air tickets would be required to get reimbursed
 - For conferences that requires traveling, the Office of the Dean of Students requires a travel registration form that is available on BGSU website, and this form must be completed at least 14 days prior to the trip
 - The form should be linked to your application to get reimbursed

- The Chair for Graduate Outreach and Marketing asked:
Will there be redress on the number of hours permissible in a semester for a student to be eligible for the FPD application? Is there any possibility of an extension of the deadline for the FPD application?
 - Extension of the deadline is tight because deliberations are meant for a specified period in an academic semester. Hence, extending the deadline is not feasible
 - As regards the first question, feedback will be given based on information from the Graduate College

❖ **Old Business**

- None to Report.

❖ **New Business**

- Election: January 27th 2023 (On Zoom)
- Elections will be held for the following roles:
 - Chair for Graduate Outreach and Marketing
 - Chair for Graduate Diversity and Belonging
 - Chair for Graduate Student Professional Development
 - Chair for International Graduate Students
 - Chair for Environmental Affairs
- Applicants will be expected to state the reason for their application and other required information
- Candidates will be nominated through:
 - A successfully completed and received application will be considered a nomination. However, there would be a need to second this nomination at the GA meeting before the election date

- Election for this cycle will be on January 27th, 2023 and for the new administration, it will be on April 14th, 2023
- Ratifications/Resolutions
 - 3-Minute Thesis Competition
 - This resolution involves resolving to propose a petition that the 3-minute thesis competition founders at the University of Queensland to reconsider the rule that states:
 - Presentation are to be in spoken word and not through songs, rap, or poetry
 - We are going to petition for inclusiveness of these themes and hopefully get support from faculties and other institutions to strengthen our advocacy
 - First generation commission
 - GSS Senate is proposing to seek additional support for first generation college students
 - For these, senators will be required to vote during the February general assembly meeting
 - Holiday Resolution on Election day
 - This resolution is a joint initiative of the Undergraduate Student Senate, GSS and Faculty Senate
 - GSS Vice President is spearheading this resolution on behalf of GSS

❖ Meeting Adjourned: 4:58pm

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