



Graduate Student Senate  
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<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

# General Assembly

Friday, February 14, 2020, 3:00pm-5:00pm – Education 115

## Call to Order

Called to order at 3:02 pm

## Roll Call

Quorum achieved!

## Approval of Minutes and Agenda (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)

Motion: Economics and MBA, Seconded: Biological Sciences PhD  
Approved!

## Guest Speakers

Interim Dean – Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell

- Been serving this role for 6 months now, administrators have been hired off cycle
- As an interim, looking at the new program opportunities, doesn't have to come up with a new expansive mission
- Also sits on the Graduate Student Issues
- Questions: No questions.

## Old/Unfinished Business

### **Funding of Professional Development Summary – Sajjad, Interim Treasurer**

- Meeting was conducted last week; 155 applications got funding: 65 for conference, 36 for membership and rest for others.
- For conference application - \$85 awarded and \$35 for membership.

- 55% of the whole fund goes to conference presenting, 35% for conference attending and others
- *General questions:*
  - a.) MBA and ECON – Maybe a better option to accept fewer applicants so that we can award more funding.
 

Answer:

    - Sajjad - Wanted to start this last semester, decisions were based on comparing essays and it's a hard process. Some applicants even now didn't get funding because of the essays.
    - Robin - Transitioning in Treasurer also made it difficult to start something new.
    - Ashley – Last semester was the working process; this idea couldn't have been implemented this semester anyway. Can only come into next Fall.
    - Robin – Nobody hasn't been notified yet. Will be going through the decisions again to be accurate. People will be receiving letters by the middle of the next week.
  - b.) Biological Sciences, PhD – How many applications were received? Answer: Sajjad – 200-220 roughly.
  - c.) Mathematics, PhD – Can the amount to be distributed on the PFD be increased so more funds can be awarded? Answer: Robin – That's administrative process. There is a possibility but at the same time it depends on the allocation.
    - For further specific questions, contact Sajjad.

#### **Shanklin Research Awards – Ashley, Vice President**

- Deadline passed; Preliminary process going on, will be notified if selected for the next process
- Applications still open for Outstanding Graduate Student, International Graduate Student, RA1 and RA2
- Opportunity to present the research paper in the awards; Poster and paper presentation, accepting abstracts; applications will be up by next week; April 23rd, 2020 is the event

#### **Senator Training – Quick run through – Ashley, Vice President**

- Have to attend every GA meeting, send the minutes to your constituents as soon as you receive them, if they have questions they come to you or can ask the GSS.
- Cannot miss two consecutive meetings, if done, it will put department under censorship for funding purposes and awards
- Roll call quorum – email the GSS if you will be late or need to leave early, highly recommended to attend the whole meeting.
- *Questions:*
  - Will proxy work if the Senator cannot attend three meetings consecutively?
    - Answer, It works, as soon as someone is there to represent the Department in the GA meetings.
  - Biological Sciences PhD, If there are two programs represented under the same Dept like MS and PhD, and one misses the two consecutive meetings, will the whole Department be censored?
    - Answer: No, only the program that missed the meeting.

## New Business

### BG City of Council Tenants Survey

- Past Professor elected as the city Council, trying to work in the field of student housing where the rental agencies has potential to exploit student tenants.
- Survey's link will be sent to everyone, not anonymous, send it to respective constituents, will work as the evidence to bring to city council for which the landlords will be held accountable.
- *Questions:*
  - MACIE – How are landlords understanding their population which includes the good portion of International students? Answer: That questions are in survey too. Asking for a co-signer too is a problem.
  - Data Science – Expected time to complete the survey? Answer: 10 minutes maximum.
  - If someone interested, City Council meetings are open to everyone.

### Canvas Accessibility Service

- To create awareness of how to make Canvas more accessible, aware of the red dot or the green mark that pops up while uploading pdf on the Canvas
- Crafting ideas about awareness, departments to share more information; A software ally, university subscribes to which helps in accessing the files in the accessible formats, few modifications can help in changing the formats, also can in mp3 formats.
- Over the few weeks, new resolution will be drafted, anyone interested can come on board.
- *Questions:*
  - Biological Sciences – Can a video be made to make people aware on “how to make files more accessible?” Answer: It is easy and once the resources been made, it will be easier to understand.
  - Pop Culture, Point of Information – You can teach your students to do it yourself, there is a green check mark, will do it for them. For undergrads too, do we have to replicate the information? Answer – No.

### Treasurer nominations and elections

- March 6th, elections open for GSS Executive Board 2020-21
- Information session in 307, BTSU for the Executive Board positions and their respective roles.
- Name to be nominated and seconded by a Senator
- *Questions:*
  - Theatre and Film, PhD – If the President gets a portrait put up in the Graduate College. Answer – Yes.
  - Mathematics, PhD – Payment received schedule and details. Answer – Robin – Can meet up and talk about this in detail.

## Officer Reports

### President – Robin Hershkowitz:

- Karen Kelsky, last episode of the podcast was on “Dealing with rejection,” look for the next episode next week.
- Do's and Don'ts in a job interview dinner, good for people who are job hunting and might go to job interview dinners, information is on the Graduate College website.
- Questions: MBA and Econ – POI – If you reserve the ticket, can you indicate allergies? Answer: Yes, questions will be asked while registering.

### Academic Affairs – Lauren Dial:

- Class Capacity Determination Committee, If you are a graduate instructor, a survey will be coming around in next two weeks.

#### **Representative at large – Cheyanne Jeffries:**

- Diversity and Belonging Survey, if haven't filled yet, give the survey, link will be on the email sent, basic questions asked, takes just about 10 minutes.

## **Announcements**

#### **MBA and ECON**

- Economics club happening this week

#### **Theatre and Film**

- Collective Rage, the third mainstream show, next Thursday at 8:00 PM, Wolfe Center; Friday, February 28, presentation session on discussion on improving diversity in casting, Wolfe Center at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- seminar in East Hall on how to convert your pdfs to make Canvas more accessible.

#### **Data Science**

- Seminars on Wednesday morning, 9:30 AM, getting more people from different departments to talk about Data Science, last meeting talked about "Transportation infrastructures during disasters," Contact Craig Zirbel MSC 238 for collaborations

#### **Sajjad - International Affairs Chair**

- IPP Office will be making trip to Walmart, Aldi, TJ Maxx during Spring break too; OPT Training seminar next week, check Facebook page for more details: Taxes forms for Intl students, this year working with Glacier, next week training resources will be out on how to use the software
- Questions: Biological Sciences – Name of the forms. Ans – 1040 NR, A843.
- If you are traveling back or outside US, contact IPP to be aware of the problems if you leave US
- Iranian and Persian New Year, which is 1<sup>st</sup> day of spring, IPP will set tables for one week, for more information contact Sajjad.

#### **Robin Hershkowitz**

- Recognizing Emily Miller, Physics 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 3-minute thesis, Quantum dots

#### **Ashley Hendricks**

- looking for people to volunteer as judge for debate next week, contact Ashley by Friday asap.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Biological Sciences, PhD, 2nd by MACIE  
 All in favor  
 Adjourned at 4:07 PM