

General Assembly

Friday, 17th February 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

ATTENDANCE: 12 Executives and 34 Senators

MEETING STARTED: 3:04 pm

CALL TO ORDER: By the Vice President

ROLL CALL: By the Secretary (we had a quorum with a total of 12 Executives and 34 Senators in attendance).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA: Seeing no changes requested, meeting minutes were approved.

GUEST SPEAKERS

❖ Welcome to the Board of Trustees Chair, Ms. Marilyn Eisele!

- She greeted everyone and stated that she came just to observe how the meeting would be conducted and she welcomed questions from the General Assembly.
 - The Graduate Diversity and Belongings Representative said that the State Share of Instruction budget over the years has reduced significantly. She wanted to know the influence of the Board of Trustees in advocating for an increment in this budget so that it can benefit the graduate students and BGSU as a whole
 - Marilyn Eisele replied that is a constant conversation among the concerned parties. The Board of Trustees and the school authorities takes the welfare of the students seriously
 - How does the Board of Trustees work with the international students particularly with increment of fees and lack of

opportunity to generate income internally to cater for the increased fees?

- A diversity, equity and inclusion committee was set up two years ago and as issues come up, they are presented to the board. However, this issue has not been raised

❖ **Mrs. Justina Fuqua-Black, Education and Outreach Coordinator, the Cocoon**

- The Cocoon is a resource in the city of Bowling Green for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, their children, and anyone else impacted by these abuses. We know these topics may be triggering for some, so please take time for yourself if that is needed. For more information about the Cocoon, kindly visit their website: <https://thecocoon.org/>
- The speaker spoke about the Cocoon's services, mission and vision for the agency and the community as a whole
- The organization started since June 2005
- They provide advocacy and support to survivors of all form of violence regardless of when the incidence took place (sexual, domestic, sex trafficking, victims who have experienced stalking and any form of trauma either in their youthful age or adulthood etc.)
- They provide
 - Legal advocacy
 - Education on legal processes
 - Services are free and confidential
 - Eligible to residents of Wood County and students at BGSU
 - Domestic Violence Program/ Crisis Intervention aspect
 - Trained advocates who are willing and able to provide the emotional support to victims
 - This is done and monitored through a 24/7 hotline service

- Provision of emergency shelters to victims experiencing domestic violence. Emotional support is provided to the victims and goals are set for these victims to usher them back into the society after a set time frame
 - The shelter is unique as it houses victims of all color, sexuality, identities and races. The shelter also accommodate household pets
 - Also, they have partnership with the humane society that can help accommodate if the threshold of acceptance is stretched
- Sexual Violence Program
 - This includes sexual assault, rape, sex trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment and supporting survivors who experienced sexual violence in their childhood
 - Medical assistance, academic advocacy, legal assistance, emotional help is provided to the victim
 - There is a trained advocate in BGSU (Center for Violence Prevention Office), and the advocate is open to listen to all students for free and confidential service
 - Sexual Awareness month in April
 - Programs would be organized on campus
 - A movie exhibit would be shown
 - Domestic Awareness month in October
 - Programs would also be available on campus
- Education opportunities and training are offered
 - Student awareness program on campuses can also be facilitated by them
- Ways to help
 - Referral
 - Promoting and advocating
 - Volunteer: Volunteer opportunities are opened

Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0181
Phone: (419) 372-2727
<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

- Follow on social media handles (Instagram and Facebook):
@thecocoon_woodco
- Contact: 419-373-1730
- Question
 - Does a student of BGSU from another county qualify for this?
 - Yes, such a person qualifies because the person is a student at BGSU

OFFICER'S REPORTS

❖ The President

- Student Meal Swipes
 - Plans to meet with Pamela Conlin; the Vice President for University Advancement/ President of BGSU Foundation and Laura Moore, the Executive Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship to discuss possible solutions to this issue
- Student Health Insurance
 - Some GSS SEC members and Senators met with Ben Batey and Marlene Reynolds on January 7th 2023 to discuss different insurance options
 - Talks are still ongoing on this
 - If you want update on this; kindly reach out to GSS or the President gss@bgsu.edu
- Canvas Resource Hub Project
 - Dr Glenn Davis offered to work with BGSU GSS on this project. The Representative-at-Large is spearheading this project
 - A comprehensive module would be built
 - Resources available to all students
 - Resources available to graduate students
 - Resources available to undergraduate students
 - Resources available to Bowling Green community

- Call for volunteers and contributors
 - A link would be shared subsequently for individuals who are willing to contribute/volunteer for this project
- GSS SEC Open House
 - A meet and greet with GSS SEC at the graduate college
 - Individuals who want to know more about the GSS SEC, its members and processes are welcomed
 - A date and time will be communicated as soon as possible
- The President thanks the GSS SEC and Senators for the good work thus far

❖ Vice President

- Policy Feedback
 - Thanked individuals who gave feedback to the policies that was disseminated during the past weeks
- Shanklin Awards Colloquium
 - GSS Award Applications Open
 - Letters of recommendation will be due March 3rd. The Vice President will help reach out to applicant's referees if the need arise
 - Outstanding Contributor Graduate Education
 - An individual that contributed positively to the academics of a graduate student (academic advisor, supervisor etc.)
 - Winner of this award will be determined by GSS SEC
 - The other awards are self-nominated awards
 - 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:

Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0181
Phone: (419) 372-2727
<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

- 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 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
- Graduate College Awards
 - 3-minute thesis competition
 - Distinguished Dissertation Award
- For more information, contact GSS at gss@bgsu.edu
- Shanklin Abstract Application Open
- Creative Contest Application Open
- Introduction to Election
 - Application for election would open in March GA meeting
 - Application will end two weeks before the April GA meeting
 - For the role of President and Vice President, the applicant must have served under GSS at least one semester
 - More updates would be given subsequently
- Regalia Application Update
 - 57 regalia applications were submitted
 - Successful applicants will be notified in the coming weeks

❖ **Treasurer**

- FPD Update
 - Most applicants in the Spring semester
 - Applicants requesting for \$107,632 for the FPD and this amount is double the BGSU GSS annual budget
 - Hence, the amount that will be given to successful applicant will be rationed based on the budgeted funds for FPD
 - Applicants were advised to reach out to their department for funding opportunities
- Co-sponsorship
 - Reach out GSS SEC or the Treasurer if you have any event that can benefit graduate students and you need sponsor

❖ **Graduate Diversity and Belonging Representative**

- Black Issues Conference
- Latin Issues: Conference will be in March
 - Registration is still undergoing
- Parenting Student Organization Update
 - Ongoing discussion with Ariel Esposito
 - Planning to create a constitution
 - Aiming to find at least 10 students who are interested
- GSS Joint Resolution Condemning Governmental Restrictions to Academic Freedom/Tenure
 - Laws in Florida that do not favor graduate students, in the long run needs to be questioned and examined thoroughly
 - Plans to work with Graduate Student Senate, Undergraduate Student Senate, Faculty Senate to create a joint resolution publicly condemning the actions in Florida and how it can affect the careers of many
 - Interested individuals are welcomed
- Ohio State Share of Instruction and SB1
 - There is a need to fund public education

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

❖ Voting on Ratifications

- The Representative from Biology Masters and Higher Education Administration Doctoral motioned to end the discussion of the unfinished business
- The voting is shows that GSS is in full support of these legislation
 - S1: 3 Minute Thesis (Vice President)
 - S2: First-Generation Commission (Vice President)
 - The Biology Masters Representative agreed that there is a need to review this
 - S3: Election Day as Campus Holiday (Vice President)
 - The Biology Masters Representative agreed that there is a need to review this. However, does this mean that there will be an adjustment of the BGSU calendar to accommodate this. For instance, resuming a day earlier or closing a day later than normal
- This would be determined by the group/team that creates the university's academic calendar
- The GA voted unanimously for the three voting items

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ None to Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Graduate Student Ambassador Applications – due Wednesday, February 22nd 2023

Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0181
Phone: (419) 372-2727
<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

- ❖ BGSU Latino/A/X Issues Conference – Wednesday, March 15th
- ❖ BGSU Ecofair – Wednesday, April 12th
- ❖ International Student Support Group

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: The Representative of Biology Masters and Media & Communication Doctoral motioned to adjourn the meeting

MEETING ENDED: 4:30 pm